



WHEN THE WORLD IS BROKEN...

What do you do?

**“Now therefore, O Lord our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the Lord God, even thou only.”
(II Kings 19:19)**

Written By:
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Scriptural Basis: “Now therefore, O Lord our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the Lord God, even thou only.”
(II Kings 19:19)

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Related Quotes and Thoughts

“I have seen the future and I’ve decided to live there.” – Pastor Rene Terra Nova

Seeing is what you do with the natural eyes. Perceiving is to recognize and understand what you are seeing. For correct perception we need our spiritual eyesight.

If you are tempted to get discouraged, change the picture in your mind to a picture of what you want...coupled with God’s Word. That’s faith in action.

I. Introduction

Following the death of King Solomon, the land the Israelites occupied was divided into two kingdoms—Israel on the north and Judah in the south, with the city of Jerusalem being part of Judah. Each kingdom had its own monarchy, each had its own line of kings.

The Reputation of The 12th King. Now, there was a king who reigned in Judah about whom the Holy Scriptures records this statement: *It was said that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, neither was there any like him among all the eleven kings that reigned before him* (see: II Kings 18:1-2, 5). This was the reputation of **King Hezekiah**, a man who sat on the throne for 29 years, a man known by his people to be a godly ruler. He was known by his people to be a wise ruler. He was known by his enemies as a person who looked to *one God*.

Who Is Hezekiah. Today, when we think of Hezekiah there is a tendency to only remember him as the man for whom God turned back time (II Kings 20:9)—*yes, God did that, our God can do anything*. We remember Hezekiah as a man facing terminal illness, a man who was at death's door and should have died; and yet, God in all His graciousness—at Hezekiah's request-- allowed Hezekiah to live 15 more years. The miracles God worked for Hezekiah's benefit are very, very impressive; they show the majesty and unlimited power of our God. The miracles worked on Hezekiah's behalf, however, are not the only reason Hezekiah's story is included in the holy annals of history.

Look closely at the story of Hezekiah's long reign as king. There you will find significant reason to be *impressed* by the many good things he accomplished on behalf of his people, and you will understand why his people thought well of him. The scriptures say he was successful in everything he did. *"And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law; and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered."* (II Chronicles 31:21) Having a leader whose agenda is to accomplish things as an act of service to the majority doesn't happen that often —not back then, and certainly not today.

Look closer at Hezekiah's story and you will come to realize accomplishing anything at all could not have been an easy feat for Hezekiah given the very difficult

times during which he reigned. You see, Hezekiah reigned during what was a severely “broken time period” in the history of God’s people. *A broken time period... a broken world.* ---Knowing that accomplishment is possible, even in a broken world, should *inspire you.*

II. The World Is Broken

Broken-ness is local and national. If there is one thing I know you understand, it is what it’s like to live in a broken world. Just two weeks ago, when the City Council held its monthly community relations meeting, a couple of hundred Detroiters lined-up to take their turn registering complaints about the city, about its brokenness, about their broken world. Just this past Monday, on Martin Luther King Day, as the news reporters covered the Second Inauguration of President Obama, their coverage contained more complaints and negative speculation than commentary about what they were observing. Both in our nation’s capital and on the streets of where we live—Detroit—the comments and complaints can be heard. They seem to suggest that all of the troubles came about within recent years, and they sometimes credit one or two people for the troubles. Few people seem to understand that both Detroit and our nation was broken long before this current administration took office. Few people seem to know who to credit for society’s broken-ness. The same mindset was true during the time in which Hezekiah reigned.

Hezekiah Inherited a Broken World. You see, when King Hezekiah came to the throne he inherited his father's disasters, his father’s mess. There were problems that had been around for a long time, problems left unattended *that morphed into other kinds of “bad” situations.* Ahaz, Hezekiah’s father, was a weak king who purchased support from the King of Assyria in order to keep his enemies in Syria from taking Jerusalem. With Assyria’s protection came an idolatrous lifestyle. The beautiful temple of worship King David had planned and King Solomon had built was closed by Ahaz, and left standing in need of repair. Ahaz had even stopped the Passover celebration. And there was war with the Philistines, and smaller battles that caused Judah’s enemies to capture the country’s smaller cities, and there was impending war with the Assyrians—well, things were *just a mess.* Hezekiah worked diligently to restore the *broken down* kingdom back to what it was during the time of Solomon.

III. The Circumstances of A Broken World

Recognizing Broken-ness. You will notice that I didn't say anything about the people of Judah having to endure poverty or joblessness or political division or lack of services—the kind of hardships Detroiters are currently facing. That's because the people of Judah had plenty. They had the spoils of all the wars they had won in recent years against the Philistines, and the treasures that were left over from Solomon's days of splendor... days of plenty. Remember, Solomon's dynasty was one of the richest the world has ever known. There was so much until there was no lack several generations later. When you have plenty it's hard to see "where" the world has been broken. It's hard to even know the world is breaking until it has broken.

When you have enough to eat, a home to live in, a source of livelihood, family and friends to interact with...well, you don't have to worry so much about the things that seem out of focus. But--there are always clues that things are moving out of focus, breaking down. We, as human beings, use the excuse of having to concentrate on the basics of surviving, and we leave the complex details of society to *the folks in the palace*. It's easy to miss that the broken-ness has occurred at "the core" if you are not willing to see it...too busy to see it, too complacent with what you have to see it, and for some, too discouraged to see it.

The Beginning of Broken-ness. There were centers of idol worship that popped up everywhere in Judah because Hezekiah's father, King Ahaz, allowed it. It was part of the protection agreement Ahaz made with Assyria. The people of Judah had to have noticed, they had to have noticed new structures built in their midst, structures dedicated to strange and unknown Gods. They had to have noticed the new people coming to live amongst them. They had to have noticed the influence that the new people had on their one-God society...no doubt the complacent among them felt after all, the new people had rights, too. When Ahaz cancelled their yearly Passover Celebration, the people had to notice how at loose-ends they felt not being able to communicate with each other and share in the commonality of thought. One has to wonder how did people pass on the stories of the wonderful works of God if they were not in communication with each other. What the people of Judah failed to see, what they turned a blind eye to...because basically the new people weren't bothering

them...is that their leader had left out God. God had been pretty much “removed from the equation”—so to speak. Leaving God out of things is always the beginning of the end, the beginning of the broken-ness.

IV. The Impact of Plenty On Broken-ness

Economics is not the true determinant. What is true today, and apparently was true in Hezekiah’s day, is that the people don’t tend to notice the “other kinds of hardships” if the economics are in place. We were told about the increase in the divorce rate when mom left the kitchen and got her own job. We didn’t notice the increase juvenile delinquency and the increase in domestic violence that followed mom’s independence—hardships. When the push for the separation of the State (government) from the Church (the rule of God) began, it started as the “do not say the Lord’s prayer in *public school*” because it is singularly a Christian prayer. It morphed into “don’t say the name of Jesus at the end of public prayer” *anywhere* and that morphed into “let’s have a motivational speaker instead of local clergy, as everybody doesn’t go to church”—a hardship for bible-believing Christians. The absence of God in all public venues became the thing to do because it was decreed by the “non-church attending” members of our communities, that *diversity must be respected*...that inclusion of everybody is the American way, or so they sometimes say.

And diversity began to include more than a person’s race or ethnicity. Diversity now includes the differences of religion or the atheistic belief, trends in appearance, sexual orientation, where and how a person lives, and most of all—a person’s socio-economic status (how much money a person has or has not. Ironically, the recognition of an individual’s diversity is not a promise that they will be respected. And, ironically, the influence and demands of diverse cultures on our society has created a whole new set of problems for American society—problems which otherwise would simply be called hardships. Instead of the United States being the melting pot of the world, it has become a place that draws people from all over the world with the intent of achieving the American Dream...with that dream being to to make enough money to buy what they want.

Whether we will willingly see it or not, America's God has become the almighty dollar. The entire nation, inclusive of Detroit, is presently being governed by how much money is at stake. You've heard the expression "keep your eye on the prize." Today, we are talking about money. When we tell our kids that we want them to succeed in life, the issue of how much money they will earn becomes the next point in the discussion. When our children find that person they want to take as a mate-for-life, we ask "How much money does he or she earn?" We miss the many ways our world can become broken (the "other hardships in life") because we have our eyes fastened on the economy. When the lay-offs are over, we relax. When the strike has ended, we relax. When the trade agreements pass in Congress, we relax. When the 2010 census results come out and the report was that the medium income in Wayne County is \$56,000, which is pretty okay money, we relaxed. We began to think again that everything was okay or soon would be. All is "still basically okay," if our economics are in place. And if that is your priority, please know that is an idol you are worshipping.

God As Jehovah Jireh. A few weeks ago, when the media reported there was a possibility that "we would fall off the cliff on January 1st...and taxes would go up for everyone," guess what? They did. But—tell me...for which of you has life changed as a result. Sure you could use the money that has been taken out of your paychecks. In a society that has taught us that everything depends on how much money we have, any decrease in capital is felt. But, you are still here and you are still living in a style that is better than three-fourths of the world. For you see, God's economy is not dependent upon employment, pay raises and minimum wages, and trade agreements, and His economy does not have recessions. He is "Jehovah Jireh," the Lord Who Provides! It is God who is providing for you, and none other.

Please do not think for one moment that you are doing it in your own strength! Don't think because you've got the right training or education that landed you a "good job," the effects of the downturned economy is not that bad—and that it's nothing you can't handle if you tighten your purse strings. Don't think that you're making it because you are working two to three jobs and not giving into extravagant spending. Don't think that living an obedient lifestyle, tithing and praying –doing all the things you are suppose to do—is the reason why you are surviving the economy. Don't think it's because you

know somebody has a lot of money or political clout...Don't think its because you voted for the right person...Don't think the economy will straighten itself out if we simply ride this whole thing out. Nothing has changed. The rules are the same. You are here, alive and sustained, because *God is good*. He is alone is "Jehovah Jireh."

Hezekiah understood what it means to know that God is Jehovah Jireh. As he went about the business of righting the wrongs his father had made, he did so as in performing a "service to God," with relationship with God as the priority for the people of Judah. He took a path to restoration that is very much different from what our leaders of today pursue. Like our leaders of today, Hezekiah understood the needs of his people. He knew what the problems were. He even anticipated what the problems could become. While he built up the country agriculturally, he also built up it up its military—in anticipation of the day when they might have to fight their enemies. But the most important thing Hezekiah did, the thing that earned his reputation as a wise and godly king, is that he put practices in place that built up the confidence his people had in their God.

VI. That Which Determines a Broken World

The "Other Hardships." In their zest to make a name for themselves, and in honor of that which is politically correct, Detroit's leaders have sought protection and advice from other mere mortals. . .people just like themselves. The commandments and instruction of God is left out of all the planning and development practices. But, you know, the effect of these practices--began a long time ago-- are now so deeply embedded in our government systems and our psyches that no person—no mere man—can correct or resolve them.

And yet, there is still a deeper truth. More important than the loss of jobs, more important than leaving empty buildings and gutted out houses where homes and places of business use to stand, more important than the greedy and corrupt government and corporation leaders who are busy raping the economy, is the implementation of the a *new world order*.

The New World Order. You know the world is broken when the order and practices of the most fundamental aspects of our society have been changed—and

changed in a way that the most of us do not agree with. We have heard talk of the new world order for years. Based on the movies we've seen, we've expected it to be a militarily controlled society monitored electronically by "Big Brother." But— isn't it? The police that monitor our communities are a para-military organization. Our government monitors us through our cell phones, our requests for government assistance and credit reporting agencies. Our basic needs for food/shelter and medical care have been planned for and placed within what they call "entitlement programs" (food stamps, social security and medicare) and although we pay for them in advance through a government process called "withholding taxes," those programs will soon be overhauled because we who use those programs (which is almost everyone) are being labeled as a burden on the government. This happens in a world in which profit is king, and the practice of earning profit is called "free enterprise" or capitalism. In this new world order, major corporations and elected officials from all over the world openly take the stand that they will do whatever it takes to maintain their profits. They say the global economy depends on it.

We watched while in this new world order, the majority of people (also known as the 99%) are left to look out for themselves. There is an absence of charitable services and an absence of jobs in a society that is rapidly becoming automated---requiring regular folk to have to have three part-time jobs in order to survive—if they can find the jobs and if they can get to them, as most are in outlying areas. And, there are those people who are angry because of this new world order—angry because it is a world in which there is no place for them, no place to go and no means of and no hope of ever achieving the American dream. So many of the angry people have resorted to crime, to taking what is not theirs and justifying it by saying "I have to survive by any means necessary." We, who are God's people, are living amidst all of this—we are not part of it, we are not the cause of this calamity, but we feel its effects and live each day with its outcomes. Please hear what I said...this is how it is, this is what we live with each day. But realize this—we do live. We are still here. We have not been overcome.

I could go on with this dismal description of the new world order, but you know what its like...especially those of us who have lived long enough to remember when the world we live in was truly a much different place. We may not have achieved it, but

there was a sincere attempt to live with *freedom, justice and equality for all* as society's chief goal. With the absence of God in the daily activities and practices of our lives, our children and their children watch what is a ungodly way of living. Our children and their children are being socialized to believe the greed and corruption they witness on a daily basis is the way life really is. What then is Detroit's hope? Even if the City's financial woes are straightened out, the effect of the decline in our morals and values, and the decrease in our assets will have a far-reaching destructive impact on our children—on our tomorrow. What is the hope for those of us who desire to follow Christ?

What must God's people do in a world wherein the city of Detroit, the state of Michigan and many federal government officials have "leaned to their own understanding" and left God out of the equation. They did not stop at leaving out those activities we practice as God-fearing people. They have left God out entirely. We all know this to be true because the effects of the world they broke are all around us.

VI. The Sacred Lesson In Hezekiah's Story

Broken Worlds Resemble. Again—let me remind you. The broken world we live in very much resembles the broken-ness of Judah when Hezekiah became king. The country of Judah experienced the kind of hardships we can identify with as God-fearing believers living amongst people who have abandoned the LORD.

The major difference between the two eras in time, however, is Hezekiah's response to what had been fundamentally broken. Hezekiah knew that living in desperate times only *feels like* the world is spinning out of control, it only feels broken and beyond repair. Hezekiah didn't allow himself to be emotionally-driven...he got busy restoring his country to what it was when it lived with the blessings of God as its greatest treasure. He knew God was with the people of Judah and would accomplish His purpose in it all. Hezekiah saw his chief responsibility in the matter of restoration as having to "change the confession of his people".

His first act was to repair the damage caused to the Temple by his father. He rooted out the fertility cults and other pagan contaminations, took down the centers of idol worship, and inspired his people to seek and serve the Lord. He reinstated the

celebration of the **Passover**, something that hadn't been done in generations; and by doing so, brought the people together again. They were able to share their memories of God's goodness and power, to teach again the sacred Law of Moses...and you know what, it brought peace (for a time) to the people. Hezekiah restored those things that he knew would restore the hearts of his people and repair their relationship with God. The purpose of his reform was to fortify the moral and spiritual defenses of his country. He knew without any doubt that God would take care of the rest.

Hezekiah was not afraid of difficulty, hardships or pain, as he knew those things only draw man closer to God. He understood what those of us living in today's broken world must come to know and understand: *it is the lens we look through that will determine what we see*. If you look at the world through fear, you will see frightening things. If you look at the world through scarcity, you will see lack and need. If all you see is what's wrong, you will see broken-ness. If you look at the world through faith, all things will have a purpose that works for good and all good outcomes are possible. Faith and fear, however, cannot occupy the same heart.

Standing on the purposes of God. In all that he did, Hezekiah sought God's purpose first. Yet, despite this, Israel was still attacked by the fierce Assyrian army which had just defeated the northern kingdom (Israel) and carried it off into captivity. But unlike so many kings before him, Hezekiah did not panic when his country was under siege by making a treaty with a pagan nation. Instead, Hezekiah humbly sought the Lord first and solely:

"Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his (Assyria's) hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only" (II Kings 19:19).

Hezekiah's prayer is a beautiful prayer. Even more important, it is an amazing prayer. When most of us pray out of distress, we seek only deliverance. However, Hezekiah sought deliverance on the basis that God would be glorified. Even in the most dire circumstance of his life, Hezekiah still sought God's glory first. He knew there was

no problem, no situation too great for God. Never has been. More than deliverance, Hezekiah wanted his enemies to know how great a God he served.

Hezekiah not only had confidence in God, he was wise enough to know that what he was praying for was God's problem. Rather than trying to solve it himself, he brought the problem to God's attention. The principle behind Hezekiah's prayer is simply this: *The battle is the Lord's*. This was not an excuse to do nothing, not an excuse to give up and stand back...but rather the realization that the time sometimes comes when the best thing to do is to look to the Lord. God responded mightily to Hezekiah's prayer. God slayed 180,000 Assyrian troops that very night.

Hezekiah acknowledged God's sovereignty in the midst of calamity, so must we. Just as Hezekiah had enough confidence in God to stand up to his enemy and say God would deliver them all, so must we. Just as Hezekiah prayed to God with a motive, so must we.

VII. Conclusion.

We are living in a time of great change. Personal, corporate, national change. What appears to be broken is not, not really. You cannot define the status of this world by what you see with the natural eye. God is still on the throne, still large and still in charge.

The matters of the whole world are in the process of being changed. Changed to fit God's purposes. Remember, God ways are not our ways. With change often comes chaos. In Chinese, they tell me, the words "change" and "chaos" are the same. Nevertheless, we must remember God's ways are not our ways. How He works the change is to be endured, not questioned. How He works the change is to be trusted, there is no need to request evidence that He can successfully work the change. We know that God is able to do all things. We only have to look at what He has already done.

We are His followers, we are following our God who has a purpose for all that He allows and does. Sometimes, many times, what He allows is difficult and challenging and painful. New birth is always painful. But, every time the outcome is worth it. Hardships endured makes us better, stronger and wiser...for the purpose of instilling in

us the Mind of Christ, a mindset we must have if we are to reign with Him in the kingdom. . .the price we are paying for the chaos today will determine our forever.

We must not be influenced by what we see with our eyes—like those centers of idol worship that were erected all around Judah, they were torn down. The broken-ness you see now will be repaired. There will be a new world. We must keep our eyes on the assurance that He will work all for good for those of us who believe on Him and trust Him. It is through the eyes of faith that we are able to see this assurance happening today in many small ways, not just in the undetermined distance future.

The task before you, as His people, is to try to see all that is happening in your lives as part of His purpose. It is time to believe in God’s purpose. You know His purpose—that all people will come to have a saving faith. Have confidence in his purpose. And, when you pray—and pray you must for it is the only way to overcome the illusion of broken-ness—pray in the manner that Hezekiah did. Pray for solutions and outcomes that demonstrate how great our God is! For He is great and worthy of praise.

About the Author



Pastor Peggy's Life Testimony is this:

“Eyes have not seen, nor ears heard, the things that God has prepared for those who love Him” (II Cor 2:9)

Rev. G. “Peggy” McIntosh accepted the call into ministry in 1981. In 2003, God called her to pastor the congregation of **The Remnant Worshipers Ministry** in Detroit, Michigan, a congregation of devoted worshippers whose membership base Pastor Peggy has grown to over 100 laborers for the Lord. Through Pastor Peggy’s loving guidance, the efforts of The Remnant Worshipers outreaches the Metro Detroit area.

Her life has been a difficult road to travel, but God has been with her all the way. Her blessings have been as plentiful as her challenges, as she is both a minister and an independent entrepreneur, both a wife and a mother, and a leader of a congregation so committed to the Lord’s work they have taken on the issue of Detroit’s homeless population. When Pastor Peggy received the call to minister God told her to bring His remnant out of the ashes—and so she takes on projects that comply. She frequently writes about those exploits and currently is the author of several books, including *A Difficult Road Traveled*, *What Every Believer Needs to Know About Increase*, and the

Congregation’s Favorite Sermons.

Pastor Peggy McIntosh (01/2013)
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