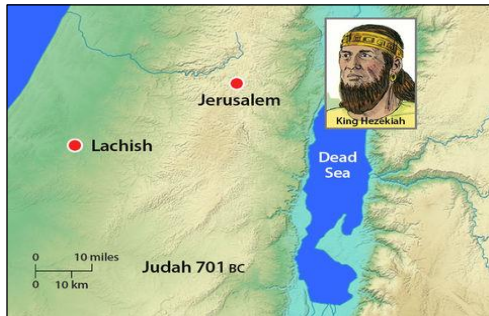


Lesson 5

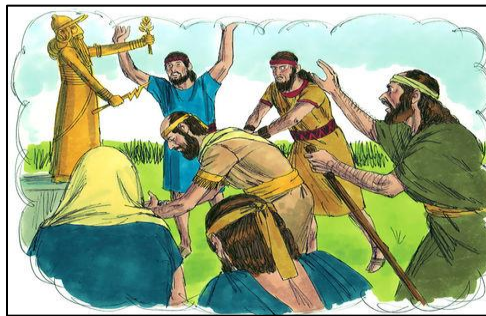
Hezekiah, The First King of Faith Since David

Lesson Text: 2 Kings 18 and 2 Chronicles 29



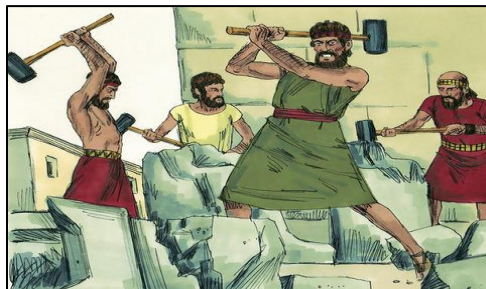
King Ahaz had died and his son, Hezekiah reigned over Judah. 2 Kings 18:3 says, “*And he did that which was right in the eyes of Jehovah, according to all that David his father had done*”.

King Hezekiah was the first King of Judah to put his faith in God since King David ruled the entire kingdom. This says a lot about his love of God as there were at least 12 kings that ruled in between Hezekiah and David.



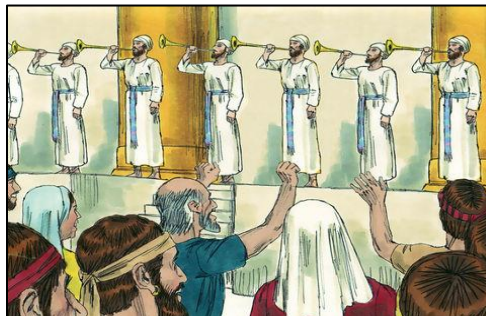
King Hezekiah knew about the golden statues and the other places the people worshiped idols and he was determined to remove these idols that the kings before him had brought in for the people to worship. He wanted to worship the one, true God.

Verse 7 says, “*And Jehovah was with him: whithersoever he went forth he prospered: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not*”.



He had his people remove the high places of worship, brake the pillars and cut down Asherah (a false goddess people worshiped) and he destroyed the brazen serpent that the people had been worshiping.

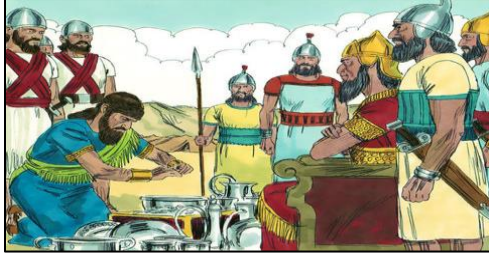
Moses had made the brazen serpent at God’s command in Numbers 21:8-9. This was made to cure the people of bites from fiery serpents when they gazed upon it.



King Ahaz had shut down the temple so the people could not worship God. Hezekiah reopened the doors and told the priests to carry out all the “filthiness” that had been brought in the temple. In 2 Chronicles 29:4-11, King Hezekiah tells the people the reason they had been attacked was because their fathers (the people who lived before them) had trespassed and done evil in the sight of the Lord.

He tells them it is in his heart to make a covenant with the Lord and that they would stand before Him and serve Him.

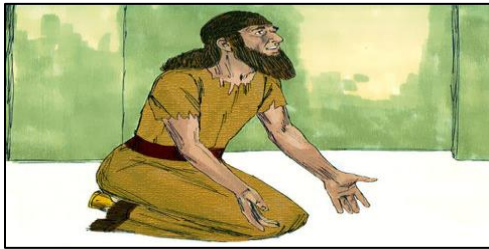
He then celebrated the Passover and the people rejoice!



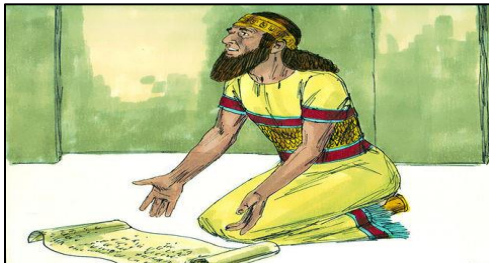
King Hezekiah suffered an invasion by Assyria in the fourteenth year of his reign. The Assyrians had already taken the people of Israel captive. Hezekiah asked the king of Assyria (Sennacherib) what could be done to end this attack. Sennacherib demanded a large sum of silver and gold, so Hezekiah gave him all the silver and gold he had.



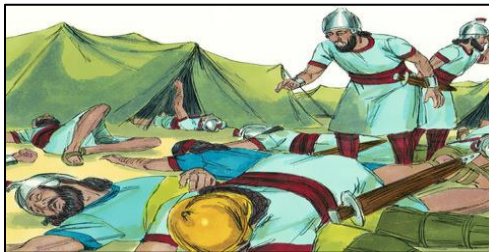
Sennacherib did not keep his word. He sent a great army with three men to deliver a speech. A man named Rabshakeh stands outside the wall and yells at the people of Judah. He tells them they could not trust in Jehovah and they should not let Hezekiah deceive them and he even says Jehovah could not deliver them. He lumped God in with the gods of other nations.



Hezekiah rents (tears off) his clothes and puts sackcloth on to display a spirit of humility and grief and he went in the house of Jehovah. He sends for the prophet Isaiah and asks for prayer to be lifted up.

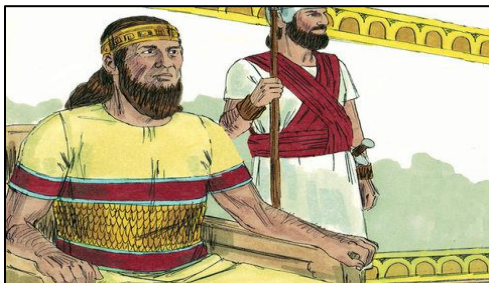


Isaiah sends word to Hezekiah and tells him Jehovah said not to fear the Assyrians, that king Sennacherib would return to his own land and fall by the sword there.



In 2 Kings 19:10-11, the Assyrians send a letter to Hezekiah saying, *“Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria. Behold, thou hast heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, by destroying them utterly: and shalt thou be delivered?”*

King Hezekiah spreads this letter out in the temple and prays to God to save them.



Isaiah sends word that God had heard his prayer and would respond. That same night the angel of Jehovah went forth to the camp of the Assyrians and smote 185,000 men. The king of Assyria woke up the next morning and saw all his army was dead. He quickly returns home. We are told that his two sons killed him with a sword.

What a great example King Hezekiah was to his people then, and to us today. He worshiped God, even when it would have been easier to continue idol worship. He put his faith in God and led his people back to Him and away from idols. He showed great faith when the Assyrian army was attacking.

Today, we can be like Hezekiah. We can worship God and put Him first even when the world turns away and sin is all we see and hear from many people. Let’s stand for God!

Thought Questions

We see the example of Hezekiah when he stood for God and led the people away from idol worship. He did what was hard instead of taking the easy way out. He went to God in prayer during times of distress and fear. He trusted that God was there for him and his people and that God would take care of them.

1. We don't have to face an army like Assyria today, but we do face our own armies who come against us. What should we do when things get hard?
2. When should we pray to God?
3. What kind of example should we set to others?
4. How can we set that example?
5. Read Psalm 28:7. How does this verse apply to you?

Multiple Choice

1. Hezekiah was the first king of _____ to put his faith in God.
a. Israel b. Rome c. Jordan d. Judah
2. King Hezekiah had his people _____ the idols people worshipped.
a. remove b. keep c. paint d. update
3. King _____ had previously closed the temple of God.
a. Ahaz b. Pekah c. Araz d. Oded
4. _____ invaded and tried to capture the people of Judah.
a. Assyria b. Rome c. Syria d. Mesopotamia

True/False

1. King Hezekiah decided he did not want to reinstate the Passover. _____
2. The prophet Isaiah assured Hezekiah that God would be with them. _____
3. Rabshakeh stood outside the wall and told the people of Judah they could not trust in Jehovah and they should not let Hezekiah deceive them. _____
4. The angel of God smote 185,000 Assyrians in their camp. _____

Hezekiah

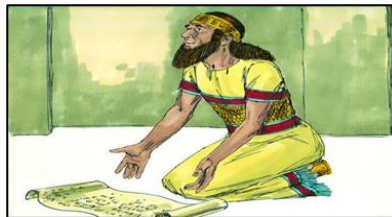
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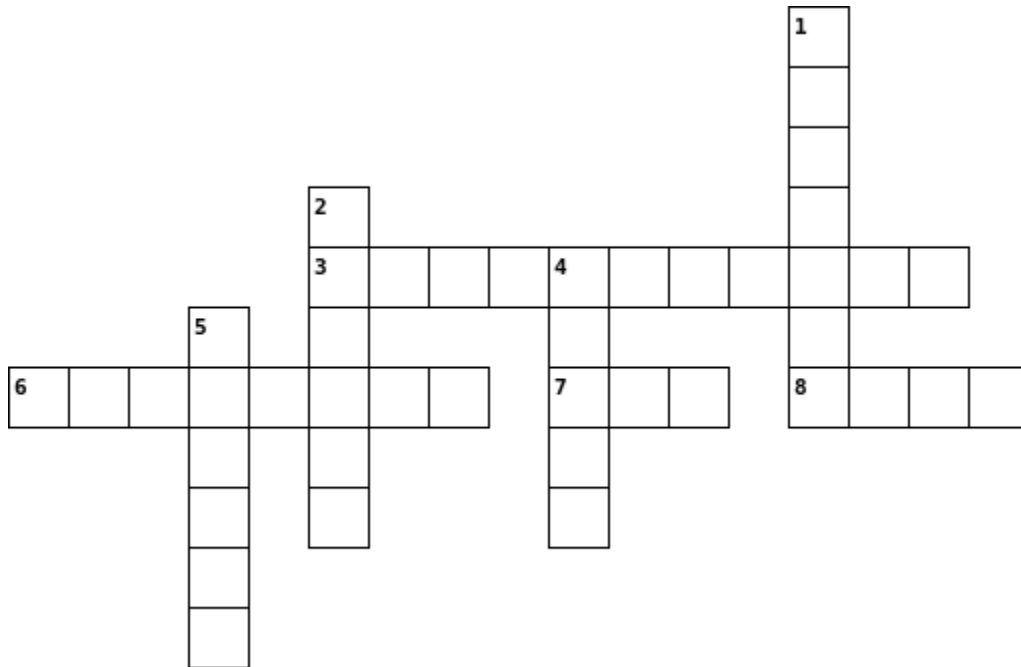
GOLD
INVASION
PASSOVER
SILVER

GRIEF
ISAIAH
PROPHET
TEMPLE



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Hezekiah



Across

3. The king of Assyria
6. The first king of Judah to put his faith in God
7. Our faith should be in
8. He shut down the temple so the people could not worship Jehovah God

Down

1. Invaded Judah the 14th year of Hezekiah's reign
2. The prophet of God that Hezekiah contacted
4. Smote 185,000 men in the Assyrian camp
5. Hezekiah took the letter from Sennacherib here to pray to God

