

LESSON 30
“Come to the House of the Lord”
2 Chronicles 29, 30, 32, 34

OVERVIEW:

Cleansing of the Temple. Repentance of the people. Finding of the book of Deuteronomy in the Temple. Some of Isaiah’s writings are about this time period. He may also have written these parts of 2 Chronicles.

SCRIPTURES:

THE SECOND BOOK OF THE
CHRONICLES
CHAPTER 29

Hezekiah reigns in righteousness and restores worship of Jehovah—Levites cleanse and sanctify the house of the Lord—Priests offer sacrifices and make reconciliation and atonement for the people—Hezekiah and all the people worship the Lord and praise his name.

1 HEZEKIAH (means God strengthens or Strength of Jehovah, or God is might.) began to ^areign (715-687 BC) *when he was five and twenty years old, and he reigned nine and twenty years in Jerusalem. And his mother’s name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah. (He was the father-in-law of Isaiah, which placed Isaiah in the royal family through marriage.)* 2 Kings 18:1-6. 1. NOW it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, *that* ^aHezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. 2 Twenty and five years old was he when he began to ^areign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name also *was* Abi, the daughter of Zachariah. 3 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did. 4 ¶ He removed the ^ahigh places, and brake the ^bimages, and ^ccut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen ^dserpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan. 5 He ^atrusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor *any* that were before him. 6 For he ^aclave to the LORD, *and* departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses. The Assyrians, under King Shalmaneser, in 721 BC were successful in defeating the northern kingdom of Israel and in carrying the ten tribes into captivity. It was 701 BC when Sennacherib laid siege against Jerusalem. 2 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done. 3 ¶ He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the LORD, and repaired them. 4 And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into the east street, 5 And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, ^asanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry forth the ^bfilthiness out of the holy *place*. 6 For our fathers have ^atrespassed, and done *that which was* evil in the eyes of the LORD our God, and have forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the LORD, and turned *their* backs. 7 Also they have shut up the doors of the porch, and put out the lamps, and have not burned incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy *place* unto the God of Israel. 8 Wherefore the wrath of the LORD was upon Judah and Jerusalem, and he hath delivered them to trouble, to astonishment, and to hissing, as ye see with your eyes.

9 For, lo, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives *are* in captivity for this.

10 Now *it is* in mine heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us.

11 My sons, be not now negligent: for the LORD hath ^achosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.

12 ¶ Then the Levites arose, Mahath the son of Amasai, and Joel the son of Azariah, of the sons of the Kohathites: and of the sons of Merari, Kish the son of Abdi, and Azariah the son of Jehalelel: and of the Gershonites; Joah the son of Zimmah, and Eden the son of Joah:

13 And of the sons of Elizaphan; Shimri, and Jeiel: and of the sons of Asaph; Zechariah, and Mattaniah:

14 And of the sons of Heman; Jehiel, and Shimei: and of the sons of Jeduthun; Shemaiah, and Uzziel.

15 And they gathered their brethren, and sanctified themselves, and came, according to the commandment of the king, by the words of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the LORD.

16 And the priests went into the inner part of the house of the LORD, to cleanse *it*, and brought out all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of the LORD into the court of the house of the LORD. And the Levites took *it*, to carry *it* out abroad into the brook Kidron.

17 Now they began on the first *day* of the first month to sanctify, and on the eighth day of the month came they to the porch of the LORD: so they sanctified the house of the LORD in eight days; and in the sixteenth day of the first month they made an end. (This normally would have been the Passover.)

18 Then they went in to Hezekiah the king, and said, We have cleansed all the house of the LORD, and the altar of burnt offering, with all the vessels thereof, and the shewbread table, with all the vessels thereof.

19 Moreover all the vessels, which king Ahaz in his reign did cast away in his transgression, have we prepared and sanctified, and, behold, they *are* before the altar of the LORD.

20 ¶ Then Hezekiah the king rose early, and gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the LORD.

21 And they brought seven bullocks, and seven rams, and seven lambs, and seven he goats, for a ^asin offering for the kingdom, and for the sanctuary, and for Judah. And he commanded the priests the sons of Aaron to offer *them* on the altar of the LORD.

22 So they killed the bullocks, and the priests received the blood, and ^asprinkled *it* on the altar: likewise, when they had killed the rams, they sprinkled the blood upon the altar: they killed also the lambs, and they sprinkled the blood upon the altar.

23 And they brought forth the he goats *for* the sin offering before the king and the congregation; and they laid their hands upon them:

24 And the priests killed them, and they made ^areconciliation with their blood upon the altar, to make an ^batonement for all Israel: for the king commanded *that* the burnt offering and the sin offering *should be made* for all Israel.

25 And he set the ^aLevites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king's ^bseer, and ^cNathan the prophet: for *so was* the commandment of the LORD by his prophets.

26 And the Levites stood with the ^ainstruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.

27 And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the LORD began *also* with the trumpets, and with the instruments *ordained* by David king of Israel. (Some of the Psalms have been written.)

28 And all the ^acongregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: *and all this continued* until the burnt offering was finished.

29 And when they had made an end of offering, the king and all that were present with him bowed themselves, and worshipped.

30 Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD

with the words of David, and of Asaph the ^aseer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped.

31 Then Hezekiah answered and said, Now ye have consecrated yourselves unto the LORD, come near and bring sacrifices and ^athank offerings into the house of the LORD. And the congregation brought in sacrifices and thank offerings; and as many as were of a ^bfree heart burnt offerings.

32 And the number of the burnt offerings, which the congregation brought, was three(-)score and ten bullocks, an hundred rams, and two hundred lambs(;) all these *were* for a burnt offering to the LORD.

33 And the consecrated things *were* six hundred oxen and three thousand sheep.

34 But the ^apriests were too few, so that they could not flay all the burnt offerings: wherefore their brethren the Levites did help them, till the work was ended, and until the *other* priests had ^bsanctified themselves: (the priests were not yet sanctified, so the Passover could not be done during the first month) for the Levites *were* more upright in heart to sanctify themselves than the priests.

35 And also the burnt offerings *were* in abundance, with the fat of the peace ^aofferings, and the drink ^bofferings for every burnt offering. So the service of the house of the LORD was set in ^corder.

36 And Hezekiah rejoiced, and all the people, that God had prepared the people: for the thing was *done* suddenly.

CHAPTER 30

Hezekiah invites all Israel to a solemn passover in Jerusalem—Some accept the call; others laugh him to scorn—Faithful portion of Israel worship the Lord in Jerusalem.

1 AND Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel.

2 For the king had taken counsel, and his princes, and all the congregation in Jerusalem, to keep the passover in the ^asecond month. (There was provision to be able to have the Passover during the second month when it was not possible to do it in the first month. Numbers 9:6-13 10 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or *be* in a journey afar off, yet he shall keep the passover unto the LORD. 11 The fourteenth day of the ^asecond month at even they shall keep it, and eat it with ^bunleavened bread and bitter *herbs*. Also, the Northern Kingdom celebrated the Passover during the second month.)

3 For they could not keep it at ^athat time, because the priests had not sanctified themselves sufficiently, neither had the people gathered themselves together to Jerusalem.

4 And the thing pleased the king and all the congregation.

5 So they established a decree to make proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beer-sheba even to Dan, that they should come to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem: for they had not done it ^aof a long time in such sort as it was written.

6 So the ^aposts went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah, and according to the commandment of the king, saying, Ye children of Israel, ^bturn again unto the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and he will return to the remnant of you, that are escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria. (This was just a few years before the final overthrow of Samaria. Israel's last chance to repent. Come to the Temple.)

7 And be not ye like your ^afathers, and like your brethren, which trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, *who* therefore gave them up to desolation, as ye see.

8 Now be ye not ^astiffnecked, as your fathers *were*, but ^byield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you.

9 For if ye ^aturn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children *shall find* compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God *is*

gracious and ^bmerciful, and will not turn away *his* face from you, if ye return unto him.

10 So the posts passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulun: but they laughed them to scorn, and ^amocked them. 2 Kings 18:9-12 9 ¶ And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Hezekiah, which *was* the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, *that* Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria, and besieged it. 10 And at the end of three years they took it: *even* in the sixth year of Hezekiah, that *is* the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken. 11 And the king of Assyria did carry away ^aIsrael unto Assyria, and put them in Halah and in Habor *by* the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes: 12 Because they ^aobeyed not the voice of the LORD their God, but transgressed his covenant, *and* all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded, and would not hear *them*, nor do *them*.

11 Nevertheless ^adivers of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem.

12 Also in Judah the hand of God was to give them ^aone heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes, by the word of the LORD.

13 ¶ And there assembled at Jerusalem much people to keep the feast of ^aunleavened bread in the second month, a very great congregation.

14 And they arose and took away the altars that *were* in Jerusalem, and all the altars for incense took they away, and cast *them* into the brook Kidron.

15 Then they killed the passover on the fourteenth *day* of the second month: and the priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought in the burnt offerings into the house of the LORD.

16 And they stood in their place(s) after their manner, according to the law of Moses the man of God(;): the priests sprinkled the ^ablood, *which they received* of the hand of the Levites.

17 For *there were* many in the congregation that were not sanctified: therefore the Levites had the charge of the killing of the passovers for every one *that was* not clean, to sanctify *them* unto the LORD.

18 For a multitude of the people, *even* many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not ^acleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one

19 *That* prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though *he be not cleansed* according to the purification of the sanctuary.

20 And the LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and ^ahealed the people.

21 And the children of Israel that were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with great gladness: and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, *singing* with loud instruments unto the LORD.

22 And Hezekiah spake ^acomfortably unto all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of the LORD: and they did eat throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings, and making ^bconfession to the LORD God of their fathers.

23 And the whole assembly took counsel to keep other seven days: and they kept *other* seven days with gladness.

24 For Hezekiah king of Judah did give to the congregation a thousand bullocks and seven thousand sheep; and the princes gave to the congregation a thousand bullocks and ten thousand sheep: and a great number of priests ^asanctified themselves.

25 And all the congregation of Judah, with the priests and the Levites, and all the congregation that came out of Israel, and the strangers that came out of the land of Israel, and that dwelt in Judah, rejoiced.

26 So there was great joy in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel *there was not the like* in Jerusalem.

27 ¶ Then the priests the Levites arose and ^ablessed the people: and their voice was heard, and their prayer came *up* to his holy dwelling place, *even* unto heaven.

CHAPTER 32

Sennacherib invades Judah and besieges her cities—He rails against the Lord—Isaiah and Hezekiah pray, and an angel destroys the leaders of Assyrian armies—Hezekiah reigns in righteousness despite some faults.

1 AFTER these things, and the establishment thereof, Sennacherib king of Assyria came, and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fenced cities, and thought to win them for himself. (He attacked and conquered all the other fortified cities of Judah, about 46 cities.)

2 And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem,

3 He took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which *were* without the city: and they did help him.

4 So there was gathered much people together, who stopped all the fountains, and the brook that ran through the midst of the land, saying, Why should the kings of Assyria come, and find much water? (Hezekiah caused that a tunnel be built from the spring Gihon into the city, a distance of about 1750 feet.)

5 Also he strengthened himself, and built up all the ^awall that was broken, and raised *it* up to the towers, and another wall without, and repaired ^bMillo *in* the city of David, and made ^cdarts and shields in abundance.

6 And he set captains of war over the people, and gathered them together to him in the street of the gate of the city, and spake comfortably to them, saying,

7 Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that *is* with him: for *there be* more with us than with him:

8 With him *is* an arm of ^aflesh; but with us *is* the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people ^brested^c themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah. (This theme is repeated throughout the Old Testament: Trust Jehovah.)

9 ¶ After this did Sennacherib king of Assyria ^asend his servants to Jerusalem, (but he *himself laid siege* against Lachish, and all his power with him,) unto Hezekiah king of Judah, and unto all Judah that *were* at Jerusalem, saying,

10 Thus saith Sennacherib king of Assyria, Whereon do ye trust, that ye abide in the siege in Jerusalem?

11 Doth not Hezekiah persuade you to give over yourselves to die by famine and by thirst, saying, The LORD our God shall deliver us out of the hand of the king of Assyria?

12 Hath not the same Hezekiah taken away his ^ahigh places and his altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall worship before one altar, and burn incense upon it?

13 Know ye not what I and my fathers have done unto all the people of *other* lands? were the gods of the nations of those lands any ways able to deliver their lands out of mine hand?

14 Who *was there* among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed, that could deliver his people out of mine hand, that your God should be able to deliver you out of mine hand?

15 Now therefore let not Hezekiah deceive you, nor persuade you on this manner, neither yet believe him: for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people out of mine hand, and out of the hand of my fathers: how much less shall your God deliver you out of mine hand?

16 And his servants spake yet *more* against the LORD God, and against his servant Hezekiah.

17 He wrote also letters to rail on the LORD God of Israel, and to speak against him, saying, As the gods of the nations of *other* lands have not delivered their people out of mine hand, so shall not the God of Hezekiah deliver his people out of mine hand.

18 Then they cried with a loud voice in the Jews' ^aspeech unto the people of Jerusalem that *were* on the wall, to affright them, and to trouble them; that they might take the city.

19 And they spake against the God of Jerusalem, as against the gods of the people of the earth, *which*

were the work of the hands of man.

20 And for this *cause* Hezekiah the king, and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven.

ISAIAH CHAPTER 37

Hezekiah seeks counsel from Isaiah to save Jerusalem—Isaiah prophesies defeat of Assyrians and death of Sennacherib—Hezekiah prays for deliverance—Sennacherib sends a blasphemous letter—Isaiah prophesies destruction of Assyrians, and that a remnant of Judah will flourish—An angel slays 185,000 Assyrians—Sennacherib slain by his sons.

1 AND it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard *it*, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD.

2 And he sent Eliakim, who *was* over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests covered with sackcloth, unto Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz.

3 And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day *is* a day of ^atrouble, and of rebuke, and of ^bblasphemy: for the children are come to ^cthe birth, and *there is* not strength to bring forth. (If a woman in labor lacks strength to bring forth her baby, both mother and child are in danger of death. The day of reckoning has arrived for Hezekiah and his armies, and he realizes they don't have strength in themselves to be victorious over their enemies.)

4 It may be the LORD thy God will hear the words of Rabshakeh (chief captain), whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God, and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up *thy* prayer for the remnant that is left.

5 So the servants of king Hezekiah came to Isaiah.

6 ¶ And ^aIsaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say unto your master, Thus saith the LORD, Be not afraid of the words that thou hast heard, wherewith the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.

7 Behold, I will ^asend a blast upon him (The Lord will cause Sennacherib's mind to be filled with confusion and fear, clouding his judgment and causing him to withdraw.), and he shall hear a ^brumour, and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land. (He is killed by his own sons.)

8 ¶ So Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah: for he had heard that he was departed from Lachish.

9 And he heard say concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, He is come forth to make war with thee. And when he heard *it*, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,

10 Thus shall ye speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying, Let not thy God, in whom thou trustest, deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.

11 Behold, thou hast heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by destroying them utterly; and shalt thou be delivered?

12 Have the gods of the nations delivered them which my fathers have destroyed, *as* Gozan, and Haran, and Rezeph, and the children of Eden which *were* in Telassar?

13 Where *is* the king of Hamath, and the king of Arphad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah? (The kings of these lands received no support from their gods and were removed from their thrones by Assyria's kings.)

14 ¶ And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up unto the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.

15 And Hezekiah prayed unto the LORD, saying,

16 O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest *between* the ^acherubims, (the ark of the covenant) thou *art* the God, *even* thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.

17 Incline thine ear, O LORD, and hear; open thine eyes, O LORD, and see^(;); and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which ^(he) hath sent to ^areproach the living God.

18 Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations, and their ^acountries,

19 And have cast their gods into the fire: for they *were* no ^agods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them.

20 Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou *art* the LORD, *even* thou only.

(The answer to the prayer) 21 ¶ Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent unto Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Whereas thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria:

22 This *is* the word which the LORD hath spoken concerning him; ^aThe virgin, the daughter of Zion, hath despised thee, *and* laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee.

23 Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted *thy* voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? *even* against the Holy One of Israel.

24 By thy servants hast thou reproached the Lord, and hast said, By the multitude of my chariots am I come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon; and I will cut down the tall ^acedars thereof, *and* the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the height of his border, *and* the forest of his Carmel. (The cedars, fir trees, and forest represent the peoples of these lands.)

25 I have digged, and drunk water; and with the sole of my feet have I dried up all the rivers of the besieged places. (This shows the confidence of the king to conquer.)

26 Hast thou not heard long ago, *how* ^aI have done it; *and* of ancient times, that I have formed it? now have I brought ^{it} to pass, that thou shouldst be to lay waste defenced cities *into* ruinous heaps.

27 Therefore their inhabitants *were* of small power, they were dismayed and confounded: they were *as* the grass of the field, and *as* the green herb, *as* the grass on the housetops, and *as* corn blasted before it be grown up.

28 But I know thy abode, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against me.

29 Because thy rage against me, and thy tumult, is come up into mine ears, therefore will I put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.

30 And this *shall be* a sign unto ^athee, Ye shall eat *this* year such as groweth of itself; and the second year that which springeth of the same: and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruit thereof.

31 And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward:

32 For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a ^aremnant^(;); and they that escape out of (Jerusalem shall come upon) mount Zion (temple of Jerusalem): the ^bzeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.

33 Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a ^abank against it.

34 By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD.

35 For I will ^adefend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

JST 2 Kings 19:35 – At night an “angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand and when they who were left arose early in the morning” they found the bodies of those who were smitten.) 36 Then the ^aangel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the ^bAssyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when ^cthey arose early in the morning, behold, they *were* all dead corpses. 37 ¶ So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. 38 And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Armenia: and Esar-haddon his son reigned in his stead. (Years passed, but this was put here to show the fulfillment of the prophecy.)

21 ¶ And the LORD sent an ^aangel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword.

22 Thus the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all *other*, and guided them on every side.

23 And many brought gifts unto the LORD to Jerusalem, and presents to Hezekiah king of Judah: so that he was magnified in the sight of all nations from thenceforth.

24 ¶ In those days Hezekiah was sick to the death, and prayed unto the LORD: and he spake unto him, and he gave him a ^asign. (Do we have a set time to live? President Kimball said: “Just as Ecclesiastes (3:2) says, I am confident that there is a time to die, but I believe also that many people die before their time because they are careless, abuse their bodies, take unnecessary chances, or expose themselves to hazards, accidents, and sickness. [He also quoted Job 22:15-16 and Ecclesiastes 7:17 and said] I believe we may die prematurely but seldom exceed our time very much. One exception was Hezekiah, 25 year-old king of Judah who was far more godly than his successors or predecessors.” Faith Precedes the Miracle, p. 103-105)

2 Kings 20:

1 IN those days was ^aHezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt ^bdie, and not live.

2 Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying,

3 I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done *that which is* good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

4 And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

5 Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will ^aheal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD.

6 And I will add unto thy ^adays fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

7 And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid *it* on the boil, and he recovered. (He may have suffered from carbuncles, or clusters of boils, a condition arising from unclean skin.)

8 ¶ And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What *shall be* the ^asign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the LORD the third day?

9 And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the ^ashadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?

10 And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the ^ashadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees.

11 And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees ^abackward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz. (Ahaz was Hezekiah's father. The dial was an invention to tell time. Each mark was a quarter of an hour. Moving back ten degrees was 2 ½ hours. This may have only been a local instance. Scholars have suggested that this may have been an extraordinary refraction of the sun's rays which has been recorded to have produced similar phenomena in other places. In Metz, France it was recorded on March 27th, 1703 a similar retrogression on the sun-dial of about an hour and a half due to a refraction of the sun's rays by a vapor cloud.) ISAIAH 38: 1 IN those days was ^aHezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live. 2 Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, 3 And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how

I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done *that which is good* in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore. (Why was he so upset? We all must die someday. He thought that his death must have been punishment for his sins.) 4 ¶ Then came the word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying, 5 Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will ^aadd unto thy days fifteen years. (This is an encouragement for us to always pray for that which we desire most.) 6 And I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria: and I will ^adefend this city. 7 And this *shall be* a sign unto thee from the LORD, that the LORD will do this thing that he hath spoken; 8 Behold, I will bring again the ^ashadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the ^bsun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down.

2 Chronicles 32

25 But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit *done* unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem. (He was ungrateful for his blessings, but repented.)

26 Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, *both* he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

27 ¶ And Hezekiah had exceeding much riches and honour: and he made himself treasuries for silver, and for gold, and for precious stones, and for spices, and for shields, and for all manner of ^apleasant jewels;

28 Storehouses also for the increase of ^acorn, and wine, and oil; and stalls for all manner of beasts, and cotes for flocks.

29 Moreover he provided him cities, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance: for God had given him substance very much.

30 This same Hezekiah also stopped the upper ^awatercourse of ^bGihon, and brought it straight down to the west side of the city of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all his works.

31 ¶ Howbeit in *the business of* the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to enquire of the wonder that was *done* in the land, God left him, to ^atry him, that he might know all *that was* in his heart.

32 ¶ Now the rest of the acts of ^aHezekiah, and his goodness, behold, they *are* written in the vision of Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, *and* in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

33 And Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the chiefest of the sepulchres of the sons of David: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem did him honour at his death. And Manasseh his son reigned in his stead.

Even with weaknesses, Hezekiah clearly was one of the greatest, perhaps the greatest, as our historian suggested (2 Kings 18:50) of all the kings who ever presided over Israel and Judah, including David and Solomon. He was great because he trusted in the Lord and governed his kingdom in harmony with the divine will, following the guidance of the prophet whom the Lord sent to assist him. Here was a king on the throne of his father David who exemplified righteous kingship. In that way, he foreshadowed to a degree the greatest of all rulers, his future descendant Jesus Christ, who one day would come as King of kings. Studies in Scripture, Vol. 4, 1 Kings to Malachi, p. 79. Another metaphor of the Savior is that Hezekiah brought to the people of Jerusalem the living waters as well as the scriptures. Hezekiah encouraged the writings of Isaiah, especially 1-33 which were written while Hezekiah lived. He restored true temple worship.)

CHAPTER 34

Josiah destroys idolatry in Judah—They repair the house of the Lord—Hilkiah finds a book of the law—Huldah, the prophetess, reveals the desolations to come upon the people—Josiah and the people covenant to serve the Lord. (Manasseh, son of Hezekiah, reigned in wickedness. Amon also.)

1 ^aJOSIAH began to reign, (641-610 B.C.) and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. (Josiah was the great grandson of Hezekiah and younger contemporary with Jeremiah and Lehi. Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign as king. 2 Kings 22:1)

2 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined *neither* to the right hand, nor to the left. (He abolished idolatry, he repaired the temple, discovered the Book of the Law, and the national observance of the Passover.)

3 ¶ For in the eighth year of his reign, (age 16, when he could personally administer the government) while he was yet young, he began to ^aseek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to ^bpurge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.

4 And they brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence; and the ^aimages, that *were* on high above them, he cut down; and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust *of them*, and strowed *it* upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them.

5 And he ^aburnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.

6 And *so did he* in the cities of Manasseh, and Ephraim, and Simeon, even unto Naphtali, with their mattocks round about.

7 And when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.

8 ¶ Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land, and the house, he sent ^aShaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to **repair the house of the LORD his God.**

9 And when they came to Hilkiah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Levites that kept the doors had gathered of the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, and of all the remnant of Israel, and of all Judah and Benjamin; and they returned to Jerusalem.

10 And they put *it* in the hand of the workmen that had the oversight of the house of the LORD, and they gave it to the workmen that wrought in the house of the LORD, to repair and amend the house:

11 Even to the artificers and builders gave they *it*, to buy hewn stone, and timber for couplings, and to floor the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed.

12 And the men did the work faithfully: and the overseers of them *were* Jahath and Obadiah, the Levites, of the sons of Merari; and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to set *it* forward; and *other of* the Levites, all that could skill of instruments of musick.

13 Also *they were* over the bearers of burdens, and *were* overseers of all that wrought the work in any manner of service: and of the Levites *there were* ^ascribes, and officers, and porters.

14 ¶ And when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, **Hilkiah the priest found a book of the law of the LORD given by Moses.**

15 And Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the ^abook of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiah delivered the book to Shaphan.

16 And Shaphan carried the book to the king, and brought **(the word of)** the king ~~worð~~ back again, saying, All that was committed to thy servants, they do **it**.

17 And they have gathered together the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers, and to the hand of the workmen.

18 Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath given me a book. (The book of Deuteronomy, and perhaps others of the books of Moses, were found and read. Moses commanded that

the book be in the innermost part of the sanctuary. Deut 31:25-26 24 ¶ And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, 25 That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, 26 Take this ^abook of the ^blaw, and put it in the side of the ^cark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a ^dwitness against thee.) And Shaphan read it before the king.

19 And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes. (Why did he tear his clothes? He realized that they had strayed from the Law of Moses. The importance of scriptures: Mosiah 1: 5 5 I say unto you, my sons, ^awere it not for these things, which have been kept and ^bpreserved by the hand of God, that we might ^cread and understand of his ^dmysteries, and have his ^ecommandments always before our eyes, that even our fathers would have dwindled in unbelief, and we should have been like unto our brethren, the Lamanites, who know nothing concerning these things, or even do not believe them when they are taught them, because of the ^ftraditions of their fathers, which are not correct.)

20 And the king commanded Hilkiah, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Abdon the son of Micah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king's, saying,

21 Go, enquire of the LORD for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found: for great *is* the wrath of the LORD that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this ^abook.

22 And Hilkiah, and *they* that the king *had appointed*, went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the ^acollege:) and they spake to her to that *effect*.

23 ¶ And she answered them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell ye the man that sent you to me, 24 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, *even* all the ^acurse that are written in the ^bbook which they have read before the king of Judah:

25 Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be poured out upon this place, and shall not be quenched.

26 And as for the king of Judah, who sent you to enquire of the LORD, so shall ye say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel *concerning* the words which thou hast heard;

27 Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard *thee* also, saith the LORD.

28 Behold, I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place, and upon the inhabitants of the same. So they brought the king word again.

29 ¶ Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.

30 And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he ^aread in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the LORD. (It's estimated that it may have taken about ten hours to read the book.)

31 And the king stood in his place, and made a ^acovenant before the LORD, to ^bwalk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book.

32 And he caused all that were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand *to it*. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.

33 And Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that *pertained* to the children of Israel, and made all that were present in Israel to serve, *even* to serve the LORD their God. *And* all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers. (Although Josiah was

personally righteous, the people were righteous out of fear. They were not wholly converted to the Lord. Jeremiah 1-10 attests to this condition.)

Conclusion:

Just as Hezekiah stood for restoration and purification, so should each of us commit to the cleansing principles of righteousness and honor in our homes and individual lives. Trust in the Lord to deliver us from our enemies.

23 years after the death of Josiah, Judah was carried away to Babylon. 2 Nephi 1:4 4 For, behold, said he, I have ^aseen a ^bvision, in which I know that ^cJerusalem is ^ddestroyed; (2 Kings 25 – sometime after 588 BC.) and had we remained in Jerusalem we should also have ^eperished. (Lehi knows he has obtained a land of promise.)

Those who make and keep their covenants will be blessed of the Lord. We need to be temple attenders, and we need to renew our covenants each Sunday when we partake of the Sacrament.

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