



Lesson 143

Hezekiah Brings Revival

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 2 Kings 18:1-12 • Setting: circa 715-709 BC, in Jerusalem • Main Characters: God and Hezekiah • Plot: Hezekiah brings much needed reform to Judah. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key word(s): “ _____ ” • Climax: <i>2 Kings 18:7 And the LORD was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not.</i> |
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Background

1. The different kings of Judah, following Joash, and the approximate dates of their reigns:
 - a) Amaziah (796-792 BC)
 - b) Uzziah, *aka* Azariah (792-742 BC)
 - c) Jotham (742-735 BC)
 - d) Ahaz (735-715 BC)

2. (2 Ki. 16:1-4) Ahaz was a wicked king who embraced all the sinful practices of the pagan nations around him.
 - a) His wickedness knew no bounds – he even practiced _____ sacrifice.
 - b) (2 Ki. 16:5-20) Ahaz plundered the temple of the LORD to _____ help from the Assyrians against the Syrians.
 - c) Later, he copied their pagan worship style, syncretising the worship of the LORD with a Damascus-styled _____. Ahaz died, leaving Judah in spiritual darkness.

Revival in the Land

3. (vv 1-5) But the LORD had mercy on his people, and after the darkness of Ahaz came the dawn of Hezekiah. Hezekiah was a godly king who went further in cleansing the kingdom Judah of _____ than any of his predecessors:
 - a) He removed the high places, something the previous kings had tolerated. The high places were pagan _____ spots that the children of Israel were forbidden to use (Deu. 12:2-7).
 - b) He smashed all the idols, including an ancient relic of great sentimental value to the Hebrews: the brasen serpent that Moses had made in the wilderness (Nu. 21:8-9) called _____. This symbol of God's mercy and the means of a miracle had become an idol to the Hebrews.

4. (v 6) Other than David, Hezekiah was the godliest king of all kings of Judah.
 - a) Hezekiah's reforms were energized from a heart that “_____ to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses.”
 - b) (vv 7-8) Because Hezekiah followed God, the LORD blessed his endeavors: he successfully cast off the yoke of the Assyrian king and also pushed back the encroaching _____.

