

As we start our new study, we want to remember that it is still about 715 years before the birth of Jesus. We just finished studying how the northern kingdom was captured by the Assyrians. The Southern kingdom of Judah was only a very small part of God's people. They were all that was left. King Ahaz was the king of Judah. He was a very wicked king. King Ahaz had closed the temple of the Lord. The people were worshipping idols.

Even though King Ahaz did not love God, he had a son that was a very good man. His name was Hezekiah. After King Ahaz died, Hezekiah became king. King Hezekiah was one of the best kings Judah ever had. King Hezekiah loved God. He was very faithful to God. (2 Kings 18:6)

When Hezekiah became king, he started to change things. He opened the temple that his father, King Ahaz, had closed. He put the priests and Levites back to their work in the Temple. (2 Chron. 29:4)

King Hezekiah destroyed all of the high places where the people worshipped idols. He even destroyed the bronze serpent Moses had made when they were in the wilderness. (2 Kings 18:4) Remember that the children of Israel were commanded to look on the bronze serpent to be healed from snakebites when they were in the wilderness. (Numbers 21:8-9) Some people had started to worship the bronze serpent. They had even named it Nehushtan. It was an idol and King Hezekiah destroyed it.

King Hezekiah prepared a great Passover to worship God. The Passover was a great religious gathering of the people who wanted to continue to follow God. The Passover was to re-establish the worship of God. People came from all over for the Passover because they were still faithful to God.

The nation of Assyria was very strong and powerful. They had already taken the Northern Kingdom. They wanted to take over the Southern Kingdom of Judah. When Ahaz was king, he became a servant to the king of Assyria. He even gave the Assyrians silver and gold from the temple. (2 Kings 16:7-8)

King Sennacherib was the king of Assyria. King Hezekiah rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him. (2 Kings 18:7) King Sennacherib and the Assyrians invaded the cities of Judah. King Hezekiah did just like his father. He gave them silver and gold. He even stripped the gold from the temple and gave to them. (2 Kings 18:14-16)

King Hezekiah knew the Assyrians would not give up. He started getting the city of Jerusalem ready for when the Assyrians would come and try to take over.

King Hezekiah organized an army and tried to make the city stronger to stand up to the Assyrians. He made a tunnel for a water supply to Jerusalem to get ready for the time when the Assyrians would come and fight. The tunnel went through solid rock from the spring of Gihon to the pool of Siloam.

King Sennacherib was not satisfied with the gifts King Hezekiah had given him. He wanted to take over Jerusalem. King Sennacherib sent the Rabshakeh to talk to King Hezekiah. He also sent the Tartan and the Rabsaris. (2 Kings 18:17) These men were Assyrian officers or leaders. They wanted to take over Jerusalem. Three officers of King Hezekiah went out to meet them. These officers were Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah. (2 Kings 18:18)

The Assyrian men laughed at King Hezekiah. Their message to King Hezekiah was for him to give up. They told them not to trust the Egyptians for help. (2 Kings 18:21) Then, they started to talk against God. They blasphemed against God. They were telling them not to trust in the Lord. They said God had no power over the Assyrians. The Rabshakeh shouted to the people. He told them to follow the king of Assyria and not to trust King Hezekiah. (2 Kings 18:30) He told King Hezekiah to surrender because they were going to take over Jerusalem.

When Hezekiah heard the message, he sent his officers and elders to Isaiah for help. Isaiah was a prophet of God. Isaiah sent the men back with a message from God. The message was “Do not be afraid”. (2 Kings 19:6) Hezekiah prayed for help from the Lord.

King Hezekiah asked God to save Judah from King Sennacherib. God answered Hezekiah’s prayer through Isaiah. (2 Kings 20-34) God told King Hezekiah he would take care of him and the city of Jerusalem. The Assyrians were camped outside the city of Jerusalem. Late one night, an angel of the Lord went to the Assyrian camp. The angel killed 185,000 people. God helped King Hezekiah like he told him He would.

King Hezekiah became very sick. God spoke to Isaiah the words he should tell Hezekiah. Isaiah went to King Hezekiah and told him to get his house in order. Isaiah told King Hezekiah he was about to die. (2 Kings 20:1)

King Hezekiah prayed to God. He told God he had been true and loyal and was good in God’s sight. (2 Kings 20:3-4) Then King Hezekiah cried.

Isaiah had left King Hezekiah. But before Isaiah got to the middle of the court to leave, God spoke to him again. (2 Kings 20:4) God told Isaiah to return to King Hezekiah and tell him these words, “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you.” God said He would let King Hezekiah live for 15 more years. God said He would keep Jerusalem safe from the king of Assyria. (2 Kings 20:6)

King Hezekiah asked Isaiah for a sign from the Lord to show his prayers were answered. Isaiah cried out to the Lord. The Lord caused the shadow of the sun to go backwards ten degrees to show Hezekiah his prayers were answered.

King Hezekiah lived for 15 more years just as God had promised. Then King Hezekiah died. (2 Kings 20:21)