

HEZEKIAH: IN GOD WE TRUST

I. 2 Kings 18:1-12

A. The last two Sundays we looked at the life of Josiah, the last good king of Judah. He became king at age eight, started seeking the Lord at sixteen, and began purging the land of idolatry at age twenty. He restored the broken down temple and re-instituted the Passover. 2 Kings 23:25 (ESV) summarizes Josiah's reign: *25 Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him.*

B. Today, and the next two Sunday, we will be exploring the life of Josiah's great-grandpa, King Hezekiah. Hezekiah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Josiah's father and grandfather were evil kings. When Josiah became king as a child, I wonder if he was inspired when told the stories of his great-grandfather?

C. 2 Kings 18:1-4 (ESV) begins the story of Hezekiah...

1) **V1-4: 1** *In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, (The last king of the northern 10 tribes of Israel.) Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. 2* *He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi (a.k.a. Abijah) the daughter of Zechariah. 3* *And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done. 4* *He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. (Too bad his son and grandson would turn back to idol worship. But Josiah would demolish them again! Some of the good kings did not remove the high places of idol worship--in other words they compromised.) (Canine Brownies) And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan). (What was Nehushtan? The Hebrew word, Nehushtan combines the words, bronze with snake and/or unclean thing. Did Moses institute idol worship? Why'd they worship this 750 year old bronze snake?)*

2) **When Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt into the wilderness, they were not happy campers. They complained all the time. Nothing was good enough. So God sent poisonous snakes to bite them and many of them died. Numbers 21:4-9** (NIV) **4** *They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; 5* *they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? (Forget the fact they'd been miserable slaves in Egypt.) There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" 6* *Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7* *The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8* *The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." 9* *So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.*

D. Let's be clear, God did not instruct Moses to make this bronze snake to be worshiped. It was a symbol of God's mercy to those poisoned by serpents which He sent to bite them for their constant complaining. They turned the symbol into an idol and they worshiped it! (Story: "No Magic in the Faucets!")

E. Do you know what separated the good kings from the bad kings? Idolatry! Idolatry is when God's people commit spiritual adultery. Most idolatry included salacious acts of immorality. Idolatry and immorality are two sides of the same coin. Listen to a few quotes on idolatry:

1) **Unknown Author:** "When you take a good thing and make it the ultimate thing--that's idolatry."

2) **Tim Keller in Counterfeit Gods:** "If anything becomes more fundamental than God to your happiness, meaning in life, and identity, then it is an idol."

3) **Os Guinness in No God But God:** "Idolatry may not involve explicit denials of God's existence or character. It may well come in the form of an over-attachment to something that is in itself perfectly good... An idol can be a physical object, a property, a person, an activity, a role, an institution, a hope, an image, an idea, a pleasure, a hero, anything that can substitute for God."

4) **Ken Sande in, The Peacemaker:** "Most of us think of an idol as a statue of wood, stone, or metal worshiped by pagan people. But the concept of idolatry is much broader and far more personal than that. An idol is anything apart from God that we depend on to be happy, fulfilled, or secure. In biblical terms, it is something other than God that we set our heart on that motivates us, that masters and rules us, or that we trust, fear, or serve. In short, it is something we love and pursue more than God."

F. So what if the Buckeyes played on Sunday mornings at 10? What if your girlfriend says, "It's either me or your Jesus?" What if your grown children allow the grandkids to visit on Sunday but you can't take them to church or they forbid you read them the Bible? Could the following be idols? Patriotism? Politics? Career? Home? Recreation? Shopping? Entertainment? Ministry? The person you see in the mirror?

G. 2 Kings 18:5-12 (ESV) summarize Hezekiah's trust in God...

1) **V5-7: 5** He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him. **(No king turned to the Lord like Josiah but no king trusted in the Lord like Hezekiah. We will see Hezekiah's trust put to the test the next two Sundays.) 6** For he held fast to the Lord. **(That defines trust!)** He did not depart from following Him, but kept the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses. **7** And the Lord was with him; wherever he went out, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him. **(Assyria was the evil empire of that day and those that did not pay homage to them or enjoined themselves to counter allegiances, would face Assyria's wrath.)**

2) **V8-12: 8** He struck down the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city. **(The next few verses involve the sad end to Israel, the ten northern tribes that broke off after Solomon died.) 9** In the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it, **10** and at the end of three years he took it. In the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken. **11** The king of Assyria carried the Israelites away to Assyria and put them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes, **12** because they did not obey the voice of the Lord their God but transgressed His covenant, even all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded. They neither listened nor obeyed. **(Now let's leap to the NT, to John 3.)**

H. Jesus meets a ruling Pharisee named Nicodemus. They meet at night and their encounter is eyeopening. Unlike the other Pharisees, Nicodemus seems sincere--a genuine seeker. Jesus reveals much, talks of being born again, and even brings up that bronze snake. John 3:10-18 (ESV) 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? **11** Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. **(Nicodemus, I'm the Son of God.) (But listen closely to this next verse:)** **14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. **(Nehushtan revisited! So what's Jesus' take on this bronze snake? He Himself will become the snake on the pole when they nail Him to the cross! Our sin will be imputed to Him. By faith in Him, His righteousness will be imputed to us.) 16** "For God so loved the world, **(You!)** that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. **(Jesus became the snake on the pole because the venom of sin is in us all!)** **18** Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

I. Here's how the cross can save you and how it can't: You've all been bitten and poisoned by sin and are facing eternal death but if you look to the Righteous One who died on that cross for your sins and mine, He will save you. But if you look at that cross, or wear a cross around your neck, or plant a cross in your yard and superstitiously place your faith in it or venerate it, or some object or relic or ritual, you're merely worshiping idols. The cross can't save you but the One who shed His blood upon it most certainly can! There is liberating power in the precious blood of the Lamb and His name is Jesus!

J. Hezekiah trusted in the Lord. He held fast to Him and would not let go. With respect to your life, who are you trusting? With regards to all your life's circumstances, where have you placed your trust? To whom are you holding fast? Jesus bids you to come and place your trust in Him. Most surrenders are in defeat; surrendering your life to Christ will prove to be your life's greatest victory! I urge you to surrender to Him with all of your heart, soul, strength, and mind...

* Close with Prayer...

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[2 Kings 18:1-12](#) (ESV)

1 In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. **2** He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. **3** And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done. **4** He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan). **5** He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him. **6** For he held fast to the Lord. He did not depart from following Him, but kept the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses. **7** And the Lord was with him; wherever he went out, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him. **8** He struck down the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city. **9** In the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up

against Samaria and besieged it, **10** and at the end of three years he took it. In the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken. **11** The king of Assyria carried the Israelites away to Assyria and put them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes, **12** because they did not obey the voice of the Lord their God but transgressed His covenant, even all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded. They neither listened nor obeyed.

Numbers 21:4-9 (NIV)

4 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; **5** they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" **6** Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. **7** The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. **8** The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." **9** So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

John 3:10-18 (ESV)

10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? **11** Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. **14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. **16** "For God so loved the world, (**You!**) that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. **18** Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Unknown Author on Idolatry:

"When you take a good thing and make it the ultimate thing--that's idolatry."

Quote by Tim Keller

"If anything becomes more fundamental than God to your happiness, meaning in life, and identity, then it is an idol."

Quote by Os Guinness

"Idolatry may not involve explicit denials of God's existence or character. It may well come in the form of an over-attachment to something that is in itself perfectly good... An idol can be a physical object, a property, a person, an activity, a role, an institution, a hope, an image, an idea, a pleasure, a hero, anything that can substitute for God."

- Os Guinness and John Seel, *No God but God*, pp. 32-33.

Quote by Ken Sande

"Most of us think of an idol as a statue of wood, stone, or metal worshiped by pagan people. But the concept of idolatry is much broader and far more personal than that. An idol is anything apart from God that we depend on to be happy, fulfilled, or secure. In biblical terms, it is something other than God that we set our heart on that motivates us, that masters and rules us, or that we trust, fear, or serve. In short, it is something we love and pursue more than God."

- Ken Sande, *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*, p. 104.

Lawrence Of Arabia-Faucets

Author Unknown

When Lawrence of Arabia was in Paris with some of his Arab friends after World War I, he took them to see the sights of the city. His friends showed little interest in the Arch of Triumph or Napoleon's tomb. The thing that really interested them was the faucet in their bathtub. They spent much time turning it on and off; they thought it was wonderful. All they had to do was turn the handle and they could get all the water they wanted. When they were leaving Paris, Lawrence found them in the bathroom with wrenches, trying to get the faucet off so they could take it with them. "You see," they said, "it is very dry in Arabia. What we need are faucets. If we have them, we will have all the water we want." Lawrence had to explain to them that the effectiveness of the faucet depended on the water system to which it was attached.

Film Clips & Other Links

Nehushtan - [ScienceWiz.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPo6YZ28Ddl)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPo6YZ28Ddl>

The Brazen Serpent - Chuck Missler
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOPptyawy4Y>

Pagan Gods and Goddesses - Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology
<http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/bakers-evangelical-dictionary/gods-and-goddesses-pagan.html>

"Trust in You" - Lauren Daigle
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_aVFVveJNs

Animated Explanation of God's Holiness - The Bible Project
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9vn5UvsHvM&feature=youtu.be>

Bonus Stuff

Exodus 20:3-6 (NASB)

3 "You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Quote by Martin Luther:

"Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your God, your functional savior."

Quote by Tim Keller

"An idolatrous attachment can lead you to break any promise, rationalize any indiscretion, or betray any other allegiance, in order to hold on to it. It may drive you to violate all good and proper boundaries. To practice idolatry is to be a slave."

Quote by J.D. Greear:

"When something becomes so important to you that it drives your behavior and commands your emotions, you are worshipping it."

Quote by Tim Keller

"The only way to free ourselves from the destructive influence of counterfeit gods is to turn back to the true One. The living God, who revealed Himself both at Mount Sinai and on the Cross, is the only Lord who, if you find Him, can truly fulfill you, and, if you fail Him, can truly forgive you."

The Good and Bad Kings of Judah and Israel

By S. Michael Houdmann
<https://www.gotquestions.org/kings-Israel-Judah.html>

Question: "*Who were the kings of Israel and Judah?*"

Answer: In the period that preceded the monarchy, Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit ([Judges 21:25](#)). God raised up Samuel to lead the people ([1 Samuel 3:4](#)). All of Israel knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord ([1 Samuel 3:20](#)). Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life, and when he was old he made his sons judges over Israel ([1 Samuel 8:1](#)). Israel rejected the sons, refused to obey Samuel and demanded a king ([1 Samuel 8:19–20](#)). When Samuel reported their request to God, the Lord answered, "Listen to them and give them a king" ([1 Samuel 8:22](#)).

Saul was the first king. He was of the tribe of Benjamin, which, in the days of the judges, had almost been annihilated. Tall, handsome and humble, Saul began his reign with a brilliant victory over the Ammonites. Any misgivings about the new "kingdom" disappeared. But success rapidly went to his head, and humility gave place to pride. He offered sacrifice, which was the exclusive function of priests, showing his presumed self-importance. He deliberately disobeyed God, causing God to tell Samuel, "I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions" ([1 Samuel 15:10](#)). Saul reigned unsuccessfully from 1049 BC to 1009 BC, then he "took his own sword and fell on it" ([1 Samuel 31:4](#)).

David, although anointed as king when just a boy, did not “take the throne” until after Saul’s death (2 Samuel 2:4). David was short of stature, ruddy, of beautiful countenance, handsome, of immense physical strength and great personal attractiveness. He was a man of war, prudent in speech, very brave, very musical and very religious. His most recognized “claim to fame” was God’s promise that David’s family should reign forever. “A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse [David’s father] and from his roots a Branch [Jesus] will bear fruit” (Isaiah 11:1). After Saul’s death, David was made king over Judah, and seven years later he was made king over all Israel. He was 30 years old when he became king and reigned from 1009 BC to 969 BC.

Solomon became king in 971 BC, possibly two years before his father David died, and reigned until 931 BC. Solomon was born of Bathsheba, and, though not in line for the succession, he was chosen by David and approved by God to be David’s successor (1 Chronicles 23:1). Solomon had inherited the throne of the most powerful kingdom then existing. It was an era of peace and prosperity with vast business enterprises and literary attainments. God told Solomon to ask what he would, and Solomon asked for wisdom to govern his people. That pleased God, who richly rewarded him with wealth, wisdom, power and the important task of building the temple (1 Chronicles 28:2–6).

After the death of Solomon, the kingdom was divided. Ten tribes formed the Northern Kingdom, called Israel; Judah and Benjamin formed the Southern Kingdom, called Judah. The date of the division of the kingdom is approximately 931 BC. The following dates are approximate, due to overlapping reigns, associated sovereignty, intervals of anarchy, and parts of years referred to as full years. Some of the reigns were, in part, concurrent. All the kings of Israel practiced idolatry; the worst served Baal. Many of the kings of Judah served idols; few served the Lord faithfully. Some bad kings were partly good; some good kings partly bad. The kings, the approximate dates of their reigns and their dispositions are listed below:

KINGS OF ISRAEL:

[Jeroboam I](#), bad, 931—910 BC
Nadab, bad, 910—909 BC
Baasha, bad, 909—886 BC
Elah, bad, 886—885 BC
Zimri, bad, 885 BC
Tibni, bad, 885—880 BC
Omri (overlap), extra bad, 885—874 BC
[Ahab](#), the worst, 874—853 BC
Ahaziah, bad, 853—852 BC
Joram/Jehoram, bad mostly, 852—841 BC
[Jehu](#), not good but better than the rest, 841—814 BC
Jehoahaz, bad, 814—798 BC
Joash, bad, 798—782 BC
Jeroboam II (overlap), bad, 793—753 BC
Zechariah, bad, 753 BC
Shallum, bad, 752 BC
Menahem, bad, 752—742 BC
Pekahiah, bad, 742—740 BC
Pekah (overlap), bad, 752—732 BC
Hoshea, bad, 732—722 BC

KINGS OF JUDAH:

Rehoboam, bad mostly, 931—913 BC
Abijah, bad mostly, 913—911 BC
[Asa](#), GOOD, 911—870 BC
Jehoshaphat (overlap), GOOD, 873—848 BC
Jehoram/Joram (overlap), bad, 853—841 BC
Ahaziah, bad, 841 BC
Athaliah (queen), devilish, 841—835 BC
[Joash/Jehoash](#), good mostly, 835—796 BC
Amaziah, good mostly, 796—767 BC
[Uzziah/Azariah](#) (overlap), GOOD mostly, 790—739 BC
Jotham (overlap), GOOD, 750—731 BC
Ahaz, wicked, 735—715 BC
[Hezekiah](#), THE BEST, 715—686 BC
Manasseh, the worst, 695—642 BC
Amon, the worst, 642—640 BC

[Josiah](#), THE BEST, 640—609 BC
Jehoahaz, bad, 609 BC
[Jehoiakim](#), wicked, 609—597 BC
Jehoiachin, bad, 597 BC
Zedekiah, bad, 597—586 BC

Recommended Resource: [Bible Answers for Almost all Your Questions by Elmer Towns](#)

- While he is not the author of every article on [GotQuestions.org](#), for citation purposes, you may reference our CEO, S. Michael Houdmann

2 Chronicles 29:1-36 (ESV) Hezekiah Restores the Temple

1 Hezekiah began to reign when he was twenty-five years old, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abijah the daughter of Zechariah. **2** And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done. **3** In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the Lord and repaired them. **4** He brought in the priests and the Levites and assembled them in the square on the east **5** and said to them, "Hear me, Levites! Now consecrate yourselves, and consecrate the house of the Lord, the God of your fathers, and carry out the filth from the Holy Place. **6** For our fathers have been unfaithful and have done what was evil in the sight of the Lord our God. They have forsaken Him and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the Lord and turned their backs. **7** They also shut the doors of the vestibule and put out the lamps and have not burned incense or offered burnt offerings in the Holy Place to the God of Israel. **8** Therefore the wrath of the Lord came on Judah and Jerusalem, and He has made them an object of horror, of astonishment, and of hissing, as you see with your own eyes. **9** For behold, 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 my heart to make a covenant with the Lord, the God of Israel, in order that His fierce anger may turn away from us. **11** My sons, do not now be negligent, for the Lord has chosen you to stand in His presence, to minister to Him and to be His ministers and make offerings to Him." **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 Jehallelel; and of the Gershonites, Joah the son of Zimmah, and Eden the son of Joah; **13** and of the sons of Elizaphan, Shimri and Jeuel; and of the sons of Asaph, Zechariah and Mattaniah; **14** and of the sons of Heman, Jehuel and Shimei; and of the sons of Jeduthun, Shemaiah and Uzziel. **15** They gathered their brothers and consecrated themselves and went in as the king had commanded, by the words of the Lord, to cleanse the house of the Lord. **16** The priests went into the inner part of the house of the Lord to cleanse it, and they 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 and carried it out to the brook Kidron. **17** They began to consecrate on the first day of the first month, and on the eighth day of the month they came to the vestibule of the Lord. Then for eight days they consecrated the house of the Lord, and on the sixteenth day of the first month they finished. **18** Then they went in to Hezekiah the king and said, "We have cleansed all the house of the Lord, the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the table for the showbread and all its utensils. **19** All the utensils that King Ahaz discarded in his reign when he was faithless, we have made ready and consecrated, and behold, they are before the altar of the Lord." **20** Then Hezekiah the king rose early and gathered the officials of the city and went up to the house of the Lord. **21** And they brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven male goats for a sin 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 slaughtered the bulls, and the priests received the blood and threw it against the altar. And they slaughtered the rams, and their blood was thrown against the altar. And they slaughtered the lambs, and their blood was thrown against the altar. **23** Then the goats for the sin offering were brought to the king and the assembly, and they laid their hands on them, **24** and the priests slaughtered them and made a sin offering with their blood on the altar, to make atonement for all Israel. For the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering should be made for all Israel. **25** And he stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, harps, and lyres, according to the commandment of David and of Gad the king's seer and of Nathan the prophet, for the commandment was from the Lord through His prophets. **26** The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. **27** Then Hezekiah commanded that the burnt offering be offered on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song to the Lord began also, and the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David king of Israel. **28** The whole assembly worshiped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded. All this continued until the burnt offering was finished. **29** When the offering was finished, the king and all who were present with him bowed themselves and worshiped. **30** And Hezekiah the king and the officials commanded the Levites to sing praises to the Lord with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshiped. **31** Then Hezekiah said, "You have now consecrated yourselves to the Lord. Come near; bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the house of the Lord." And the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all who were of a willing heart brought burnt offerings. **32** The number of the burnt offerings that the assembly brought was 70 bulls, 100 rams, and 200 lambs; all these were for a burnt offering to the Lord. **33** And the consecrated offerings were 600 bulls and 3,000 sheep. **34** But the priests were too few and could not flay all the burnt offerings, so until other priests had consecrated themselves, their brothers the Levites helped them, until the work was finished--for the Levites were more upright in heart than the priests in consecrating themselves. **35** Besides the

great number of burnt offerings, there was the fat of the peace offerings, and there were the drink offerings for the burnt offerings. Thus the service of the house of the Lord was restored. **36** And Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced because God had provided for the people, for the thing came about suddenly.

2 Chronicles 30:1-27 (ESV) Hezekiah Celebrates The Passover

1 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 to the Lord, the God of Israel. **2** For the king and his princes and all the assembly in Jerusalem had taken counsel to keep the Passover in the second month-- **3** for they could not keep it at that time because the priests had not consecrated themselves in sufficient number, nor had the people assembled in Jerusalem-- **4** and the plan seemed right to the king and all the assembly. **5** So they decreed to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that the people should come and keep the Passover to the Lord, the God of Israel, at Jerusalem, for they had not kept it as often as prescribed. **6** So couriers went throughout all Israel and Judah with letters from the king and his princes, as the king had commanded, saying, "*O people of Israel, return to the Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, that he may turn again to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. 7 Do not be like your fathers and your brothers, who were faithless to the Lord God of their fathers, so that He made them a desolation, as you see. 8 Do not now be stiff-necked as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the Lord and come to His sanctuary, which He has consecrated forever, and serve the Lord your God, that His fierce anger may turn away from you. 9 For if you return to the Lord, your brothers and your children will find compassion with their captors and return to this land. For the Lord your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away His face from you, if you return to Him.*" **10** So the couriers went from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, and as far as Zebulun, but they laughed them to scorn and mocked them. **11** However, some men of Asher, of Manasseh, and of Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. **12** The hand of God was also on Judah to give them one heart to do what the king and the princes commanded by the word of the Lord. **13** And many people came together in Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month, a very great assembly. **14** They set to work and removed the altars that were in Jerusalem, and all the altars for burning incense they took away and threw into the brook Kidron. **15** And they slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. And the priests and the Levites were ashamed, so that they consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings into the house of the Lord. **16** They took their accustomed posts according to the Law of Moses the man of God. The priests threw the blood that they received from the hand of the Levites. **17** For there were many in the assembly who had not consecrated themselves. Therefore the Levites had to slaughter the Passover lamb for everyone who was not clean, to consecrate it to the Lord. **18** For a majority of the people, many of them from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the Passover otherwise than as prescribed. For Hezekiah had prayed for them, saying, "May the good Lord pardon everyone **19** who sets his heart to seek God, the Lord, the God of his fathers, even though not according to the sanctuary's rules of cleanness." **20** And the Lord heard Hezekiah and healed the people. **21** And the people of Israel who 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 all their might to the Lord. **22** And Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites who showed good skill in the service of the Lord. So they ate the food of the festival for seven days, sacrificing peace offerings and giving thanks to the Lord, the God of their fathers. **23** Then the whole assembly agreed together to keep the feast for another seven days. So they kept it for another seven days with gladness. **24** For Hezekiah king of Judah gave the assembly 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep for offerings, and the princes gave the assembly 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep. And the priests consecrated themselves in great numbers. **25** The whole assembly of Judah, and the priests and the Levites, and the whole assembly that came out of Israel, and the sojourners who came out of the land of Israel, and the sojourners who lived 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 had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. **27** Then the priests and the Levites arose and blessed the people, and their voice was heard, and their prayer came to His holy habitation in heaven.