

21 – HEZEKIAH – PART 1 (2 KINGS 18:1-12; 2 CHRONICLES 29:1-31:21)

I. Hezekiah, King of Judah (2 Kings 18:1-12; 2 Chronicles 29:1-2)

- In the 3rd year of Hoshea's reign as king of Israel, Hezekiah became king over Judah.
- Hezekiah was 25 years old when he became King and ruled over Judah for 29 years.
- He did what was right in the sight of the Lord and walked according to the ways of David.
- He removed the high places, broke down wooden images and destroyed the Bronze Serpent.

SCRIPTURE Numbers 21:4-9

⁴Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For *there is* no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." ⁶So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. ⁷Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery *serpent*, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

- The Bronze Serpent had become an idol to Israel because they offered incense to it.
- He trusted in the Lord so that there was no king like him before and after his reign.
- Hezekiah held fast to the Lord and kept the commandments which the Lord gave Moses.
- The Lord prospered Hezekiah and he rebelled against serving the Assyrian king.
- Hezekiah subdued the Philistines and took Gaza with its territory.
- In the 4th year of Hezekiah, Shalmaneser, King of Assyria, laid siege to Samaria.
- In the 6th year of Hezekiah, the Assyrian king captured Samaria and took Israel into exile.

II. Cleansing of the Temple (2 Chronicles 29:3-36)

- In the 1st year of Hezekiah's reign, he opened the doors of the Temple and repaired them.
- The priests and Levites were called to sanctify themselves and clean out the Temple.
- Hezekiah confessed the sins of their fathers in rejecting the Lord and neglecting the Temple.

Israel's Kings & Prophets: A Survey of 1 & 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles

- Hezekiah wanted to make a covenant with the Lord so that his wrath would be turned from Judah.
- The priests and Levites responded to the king by sanctifying themselves and cleaning the Temple.
- Hezekiah then made sacrifices to the Lord and called the people to offer their sacrifices as well.
- The Chronicler records that the king and people rejoiced because the Lord prepared the people.

III. Celebration of Passover (2 Chronicles 30:1-31:1)

- Hezekiah sent letters throughout Israel and Judah calling them to Jerusalem.
- They were to come to the Temple in order to observe the Passover.
- Because the priests needed for the Passover were not consecrated yet, it was scheduled later.
- The King called the people to not be like their fathers and that they should come to celebrate.
- The runners ran through the land where the people laughed at them and mocked them.
- However, some from Asher, Manasseh and Zebulun humbled themselves and came.
- The Lord moved all of Judah to obey the king in the celebration of the Passover.
- A very great assembly of people gathered at Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- They took away all of the altars in Jerusalem and cast them into the Brook Kidron.
- Some of the people from the northern tribes had not prepared themselves for the Passover.
- But Hezekiah prayed that the Lord would provide atonement for the people.
- The Lord listened to the king and healed the people.
- The people kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread and agreed to keep the feast another seven days.
- There was great joy in Jerusalem that was not seen since the time of Solomon and David.
- Those who were present for the feast, returned home and destroyed the places of idol worship.

IV. Reestablishment of Temple Worship (2 Chronicles 31:2-21)

- Hezekiah appoints divisions of the priests to serve in the Temple.
- The king also appointed a portion of his possessions for the daily sacrifices.
- The king commanded that the people contribute for the support of the priests.

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- The people responded and gave abundantly to the Temple.
- Hezekiah did what was good and right before the Lord and he prospered.