

## 22.4a Hezekiah<sup>13</sup> ☺ and Reform (2 Kings 18:1–8; 2 Chronicles 29:1–36; 30:1–27; 31:1–21; Micah 3)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud, and they show answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Leavened and unleavened bread
- Pictures of the Temple’s altar, laver, and tools
- Pictures of bulls, rams, lambs, goats
- Scroll made from printed page given at end of this lesson
- Picture of the bronze/brazen serpent

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *Temple priests and workers:* Way back in Moses’ time, God set up the way people were to worship Him. Only one of the twelve tribes of Israel was to be the priests and the Tabernacle and Temple workers. That tribe was Levi. None of the other eleven tribes could be priests and Temple helpers. The main families of the Levites were these: (1) Aaron, who were the priests; (2) Kohath; (3) Gershon; (4) Merari, and (5) Asaph, who were the full-time musicians.
- *psalms:* Hebrew poetry in praise to God, often sung. Many psalms were written by King David and Asaph, a skilled singer and poet appointed by David. [Students should find Psalms in their Bibles.]
- *to consecrate:* after cleansing oneself by confession of sin and sometimes by washing with water, to devote or set apart something or oneself to the worship or service of God
- *feasts:* Israel was supposed to come together at Jerusalem to worship in God at fasts and feasts
- *Passover:* One of most important feasts in Israel was Passover, reminding the people how God got them out of Egypt when He slew the firstborn of all the Egyptians but “passed over” the Israelite houses with blood sprinkled on the doorposts. Passover is also called the “feast of unleavened bread” because during its celebration no leavened bread was to be eaten or even kept in the house. This part of the feast lasted one week. Later, the word *Passover* came to describe the lamb that was slain at the feast. The New Testament Lamb that was slain was Jesus Christ. The Bible states, “Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed” (I Corinthians 5:7). Even though we don’t read of many actual celebrations of the Passover feast, it was important for it was a picture of Jesus’ dying on the cross for the sins of His people.
- *unleavened bread:* bread with no yeast in it. [Show unleavened and leavened bread.] The Bible uses yeast/leaven as a picture of sin. Leaven/yeast goes through all the bread and causes it to rise. Sin easily spreads and affects us and others. The week after Passover was called the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- *brazen (bronze) serpent:* When Israel complained against God in the wilderness before they entered the Promised Land, God sent snakes [serpents] that bit and killed some of the people. God told Moses to make a snake/serpent out of bronze [called *brass* in the KJV, which was written before the term *bronze* came into use] and to put it on a high pole so that, when they got bit, they could look to that bronze serpent and be healed of their snake bite. God tells us in the New Testament, “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man [Jesus] be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life’ (John 3:14, 15).
- *sojourners:* people temporarily living in a land

- *tithe*: one-tenth of income, whether money or crops

### **Scripture: (ESV)**

2 Kings 18:1 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.

2 Chronicles 29:3 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 [names are listed]. 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.

30:1 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.

31:1 Now when all this was finished, all Israel who were present went out to the cities of Judah and broke in pieces the pillars and cut down the Asherim and broke down the high places and the altars throughout all Judah and Benjamin, and in Ephraim and Manasseh, until they had destroyed them all. Then all the people of Israel returned to their cities, every man to his possession.

2 And Hezekiah appointed the divisions of the priests and of the Levites, division by division, each according to his service, the priests and the Levites, for burnt offerings and peace offerings, to minister in the gates of the camp of the Lord and to give thanks and praise. 3 The contribution of the king from his own possessions was for the burnt offerings: the burnt offerings of morning and evening, and the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths, the new moons, and the appointed feasts, as it is written in the Law of the Lord. 4 And he commanded the people who lived in Jerusalem to give the portion due to the priests and the Levites, that they might give themselves to the Law of the Lord. 5 As soon as the command was spread abroad, the people of Israel gave in abundance the firstfruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field. And they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything. 6 And the people of Israel and Judah who lived in the cities of Judah also brought in the tithe of cattle and sheep, and the tithe of the dedicated things that had been dedicated to the Lord their God, and laid them in heaps. 7 In the third month they began to pile up the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month. 8 When Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the Lord and his people Israel. 9 And Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites about the heaps. 10 Azariah the chief priest, who was of the house of Zadok, answered him, "Since they began to bring the contributions into the house of the Lord, we have eaten and had enough and have plenty left, for the Lord has blessed his people, so that we have this large amount left."

11 Then Hezekiah commanded them to prepare chambers in the house of the Lord, and they prepared them. 12 And they faithfully brought in the contributions, the tithes, and the dedicated things. [A list of officers and their duties in the distribution follows.]

20 Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and faithful before the Lord his God. 21 And every work that he undertook in the service of the house of God and in accordance with the law and the commandments, seeking his God, he did with all his heart, and prospered.

### **Introduction/Review:**

Last week we learned about Israel's [locate] last kings and Assyria's exiling the people to Assyria [locate] because God was finally judging their wickedness. That exile happened about six years after today's story took place in Judah [locate]. Judah's King Ahaz had been as bad as the kings of Israel. He had closed the temple doors, moved the Temple's bronze altar aside, and put his own altar in its place. He had cut up the stand on which the laver stood and had put the laver on a stone base. He had cut in pieces the tools used by the priests in the Temple. He had trashed the Temple while he worshiped false gods! Now, six years before Israel's exile, this king, Ahaz, was dead and his son, Hezekiah, became king.

### **Story:**

## *Hezekiah of Judah*

Every time we have a story about a new king in Judah, we ask you to wonder whether he will be good or bad. Before we learn the answer about Hezekiah, let me remind you that his father, Ahaz, was a very wicked king. Does that mean that his son, Hezekiah, would also be wicked? Not necessarily. King Ahaz, the wicked king, had a good father, Jotham.

I am excited and happy to report that Hezekiah was a good king. [Three cheers!] The Bible states, “He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done” (1 Chronicles 29:2). Wow! We hardly ever hear of a king as good as David, yet Hezekiah did as David had done. Let me tell you what he did.

### *Cleaning the Temple*

In the very first month after he became king, Hezekiah opened the doors of the Temple and repaired them. He gathered all the priests and Levites and said to them, “Get yourselves right with God. Clean up the house of the Lord, the God of your fathers. Carry out the filth from the holy place. For our fathers have been unfaithful and have done evil in the sight of our God. They have forsaken him and have turned their backs on Him. They also shut the doors of the Temple and put out the lamps, and have not burned incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy place to the God of Israel. Therefore, the wrath of the Lord came on Judah and Jerusalem. Some of our fathers have been killed by the sword. Some of our sons, daughters, and wives are in captivity for this.”

Hezekiah continued, “Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with the God of Israel so that his fierce anger may turn away from us. My sons, do not be lazy, for the Lord has chosen you Levites to minister to him.”

Those priests and Levites began immediately to do just as King Hezekiah had commanded. Remember, only the priests could enter the inner Temple. They went inside and brought out to the court all the trash that they found. Then the Levites took all this trash and carried it out to the brook Kidron. It took seven days for the priests to clean out the inside of the Temple and haul the trash away!

But the court of the Temple also had its own trash from the false worship that had gone on under King Ahaz. Cleaning the court took another eight days. Finally, on the sixteenth day of the first month they were done. “We have cleaned 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, and all the utensils which King Ahaz discarded when he was faithless,” they reported to King Hezekiah. “We have gotten everything ready and have set it apart for the Lord.”

### *Sacrificing to God*

✓ Soon after,<sup>1</sup> Hezekiah got up early in the morning, gathered the officials of the city, and went up to the Temple. With seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven he-goats these leaders offered a sin offering to the Lord because Israel had sinned so dreadfully under Ahaz.

To accompany this sacrifice the way David had set it up, the Levites stood with cymbals, harps, and lyres, and the priests with trumpets. When the burnt offering began, the song to the Lord also began with all these instruments and with singers’ singing. All this continued until the burnt offering was burned up.<sup>2</sup>

Then the king and everyone else bowed down and worshiped. Hezekiah and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praises to the Lord again, singing the psalms of David and Asaph. So they gladly complied and bowed down and worshiped.

Hezekiah told the rest of the people, “You have now consecrated yourselves to the Lord; come near, bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the house of the Lord.” Those people who wanted to brought offerings. So many animals were sacrificed that there weren’t enough priests to do the work. So the Levites, who had consecrated themselves more than the priests, helped the priests until all those sacrifices were offered.

Now true worship at the Temple was restored. Hezekiah with all the people were very happy. God had caused all this to be done for the people in a very short time.

### ***Inviting Israel to worship***

✓Perhaps Hezekiah and his people thought, “This is so wonderful. We are so happy to be worshiping God in the way He commanded. Let’s not keep this joy of obedience to ourselves. Israel up north needs to turn to the Lord God too.” (This event took place about six years before Israel in the north was taken away captive.) “Let’s invite *all* of Israel to come to celebrate the Passover.”

Hezekiah wrote letters and sent them all over Israel and Judah, from Dan [locate] to Beersheba [locate]. This is what the letters said: [Teacher, read from the printed copy of this section made into a scroll.] “We urge you to come to the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover to the Lord the God of Israel. We will celebrate this Passover in the second month instead of the first so that the priests can properly cleanse and prepare themselves and so that you have time to come to Jerusalem. 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. Do not be like your fathers and your brethren, who were faithless to the Lord God of their fathers, so that he made them a desolation, as you see. Do not now be stiff-necked as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the Lord, and come to his sanctuary, which he has sanctified forever, and serve the Lord your God, that his fierce anger may turn away from you. For if you return to the Lord, your brethren 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.”

Oh, I would hope the people of Israel might happily receive the messengers. Sadly, many people in Israel just laughed at the messengers and mocked them. They might have said something like this: ✓“Ha, ha! The Lord God is no longer our God. We worship Baal and other gods. Get out of here, you goody, goody people. We are content with the way we are living. Stay out of our business! Let us worship as we please!”

Thankfully, however, a few men from Asher [locate], Manasseh [locate the western Manasseh], and Zebulun [locate] humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. In Judah *many* people came to Jerusalem to keep the Passover and the week-long feast of unleavened bread that followed Passover. Later, a *lot* more came from four more tribes of Israel—Ephraim [locate], Manasseh [locate], Issachar [locate], and Zebulun [locate].

### ***Preparing for Passover***

The first thing the people did when they came to Jerusalem was to set to work and remove the altars in Jerusalem and all the altars scattered around for burning incense to false gods. They took them down and threw them into the Kidron valley.

When the fourteenth day of the second month came, still not everyone was prepared for the Passover. Some had not properly cleansed themselves according to the law. Yet, they wanted to partake of the Passover in obedience to the Lord. Therefore, Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, “Please pardon everyone who sets his heart to seek the Lord, the God of his fathers, even though not cleansed according to the rules of cleanness.” The Lord heard Hezekiah’s prayer and forgave their sins.<sup>3</sup>

### ***Celebrating Passover***

All of the people at Jerusalem joyfully kept the feast of unleavened bread for the prescribed seven days. Day by day the Levites and priests sang with all their might in praise to the Lord. (I would have loved to have been there!)

✓“Good job, Levites!” Hezekiah commended. ✓“You really help me see the greatness of our God as you sing and play instruments. I am so happy to be worshiping God as He commanded us through Moses. I rejoice in God my Saviour.”

✓“We, too, are so delighted to be celebrating the Passover as God commanded. This is a wonderful time. I wish it could last longer,” answered the Levites.

✓“Well, now, that’s an idea,” said Hezekiah. “Why not celebrate our great God and His deliverance another week. Listen, all of you who want to stay in Jerusalem. The Feast of Unleavened Bread will continue another week! Let us bless the Lord and sacrifice to Him, for He is good!”

All of Judah, the priests and Levites, the people from the seven tribes that came down from Israel, sojourners from Israel, and sojourners in Judah—all of these were exceedingly joyful. Since the time of Solomon there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. The priests blessed the people, and God was pleased.

When the two weeks of fervent worship of the Lord were over, the ✓people must have realized anew how abominable it was to worship false gods. They went outside of Jerusalem to the cities of Judah and broke in pieces the pillars that had been used in false worship. They smashed the idols, broke down the high places and the altars, not just throughout Judah and Benjamin, but also in Ephraim and Manasseh until they had destroyed them all.

Remember how Moses had made a bronze serpent so that people bitten with snakes could look to it and be healed of their snake bites. That bronze serpent was still in Israel 700 years later. As people tend to do with signs and visual aids, the false worshipers had included this snake in their worship items. Hezekiah broke that thing up and called it, not “the serpent god,” but “that bronze thing.”

### ***Distributing to the Levites***

When everyone had gone home, Hezekiah, he organized the priests and Levites as David had so that they could continually serve the Lord with thanks and praise. He supplied his own money and animals for the offerings God had established. He commanded the people who lived in Jerusalem to give their tithes so that the priests and the Levites might be cared for and be able to give themselves to the Lord.

As soon as this command was spread abroad, the people of Israel gave lots and lots—first fruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field. They brought abundantly, tithing everything—cattle and sheep and everything. So much was given that items had to be laid the in piles. This continued four months.

When Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the Lord and his people Israel. The chief priest said, “Since they began to bring the contributions into the house of the Lord we have eaten and had enough and have plenty left; for the Lord has blessed his people, so that we have this great store left.”

Hezekiah commanded, “Instead of leaving all of this food and supply in piles, see to it that the rooms of the Temple are cleaned out so that we may store it all.”

I am so glad that Hezekiah served the Lord with all his heart, aren’t you? The Bible says, “He did what was good and right and faithful before the Lord his God. And every work that he undertook in the service of the house of God and in accordance with the law and the commandments, seeking his God, he did with all his heart, and prospered.”

I hope that what was said of Hezekiah will be said of you and me—that we served the Lord with all our heart.

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<sup>1</sup>We might assume Hezekiah offered sacrifices the very next day but the text states merely, “Then Hezekiah the king rose early.”

<sup>2</sup>This might have taken several hours.

<sup>3</sup>According to John Gill ([2 Chronicles 30:20 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)](https://www.biblestudytools.com/2-chronicles/30/20-meaning-and-commentary-on-bible-verse.html)).

### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- We see Jesus:

The people of Israel “thought it not enough to lament and forsake those sins, but they brought a sin-offering. Even our repentance and reformation will not obtain pardon but in and through Christ, who

was made sin (that is, a sin-offering) for us. No peace but through his blood, no, not [even] for penitents” ([2 Chronicles 29 Commentary - Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible \(Complete\) \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

- God blesses obedience that comes from the heart.
- God gives great joy to those who worship Him in spirit and in truth. Recite John 4:24—“God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”
- Beware of worshiping things that represent God rather than worshiping *God* in spirit and in truth.
- The lights of the Temple being lit can remind us of the spiritual light we can get from reading God’s Word, and the incense of the Temple being burned can remind us of the prayers of believers reaching God [Matthew Henry].

### Activities:

- Play dough: harps with strings from the “fun factory” small hole “worms”; cymbals; trumpets; crown
- Snack: A sheep made from bananas and grapes. Photo is at [\(836\) Pinterest](#).
- Sing praises (psalms) to the Lord as the Levites did. Use toy cymbals or saucepan lids.
- Recite Psalm 23.
- Review questions: (Game: Print and cut out 3 copies of the sacrificial animals found below. For each correct answer, a student may choose an animal to place in a pocket chart or on a flannel board.)
  1. Who became king in Judah when Ahaz died? [His son, Hezekiah.]
  2. What did Hezekiah do in the first month of his reign that showed he would be a good king? [Had the priests and Levites clean out the Temple.]
  3. When the Temple had been cleaned up, what did the people do in worship? [Sacrificed bulls, rams, lambs, and goats as a sin offering.]
  4. Name one of the musical instruments played during the sacrifice of the animals. [Cymbals, harps, lyres, trumpets.]
  5. Who did Hezekiah invite to the Passover celebration? [Israel.]
  6. How did Israel respond to the invitation? [Some laughed; some from seven tribes eventually came.]
  7. What was the attitude of the people who celebrated Passover? [They were very joyful.]
  8. Since the people were enjoying the feast of unleavened bread so much, what did Hezekiah do? [Extended the feast another week.]
  9. What was done to the remaining altars, pillars and high places that had been used for worship of the false gods? [The people destroyed them.]

### Memory Verses:

- Psalm 139:1–18, 23, 24 (NKJV) A very nice song book with black-and-white visuals (I water colored mine) and a CD is available as a learning tool at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](#). Learning this psalm may take six months or more. Some teachers think saying/singing the whole psalm every week is a good way to learn it. However, this Psalm 139 song book breaks the passage after verse 13; therefore, a suggestion is to work on verses 1–13 for thirteen weeks and then the rest of the psalm for an additional eight weeks or more. Take one or two lessons to say/sing the whole psalm.

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

<sup>2</sup>You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

<sup>3</sup>You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

<sup>5</sup>You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>*Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot *attain* it.



<sup>7</sup>Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

<sup>8</sup>If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

<sup>9</sup>*If* I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

<sup>10</sup>Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

<sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;

<sup>12</sup>Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.

<sup>13</sup>For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup>I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

<sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

<sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.

<sup>17</sup>How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup>*If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. . . .

<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

<sup>24</sup>And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- Alternative verse: Jesus said unto him, "You shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37).

#### **Handwork:**

- Print and have children color a picture from [CURR113.PDF \(calvarycurriculum.com\)](#). Glue a jewel on the crown.
- Older students might do another activity from the above site.

Temple priests and workers

psalms

to consecrate

feasts

Passover

unleavened bread

brazen (bronze) serpent

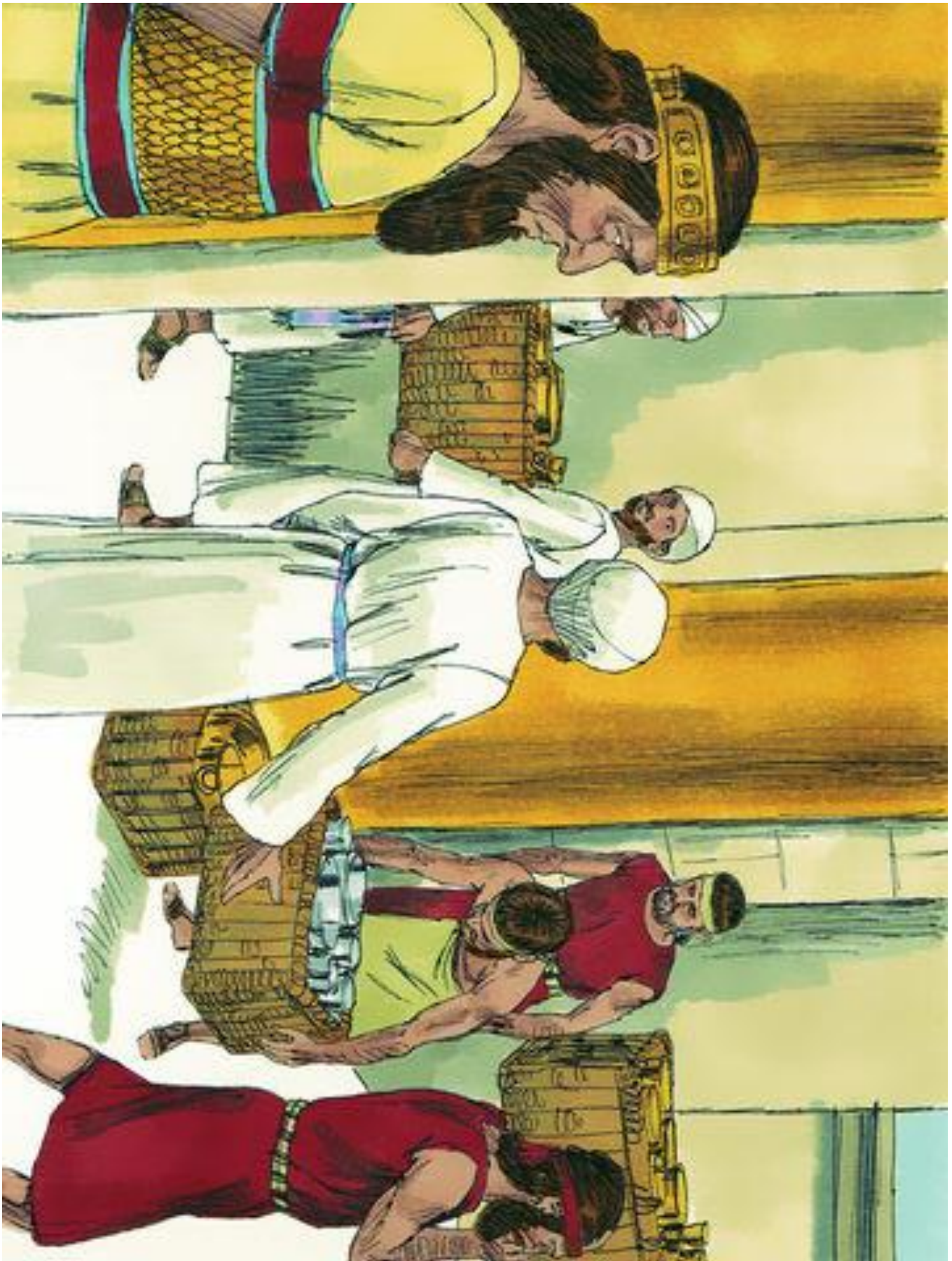
sojourners

tithe

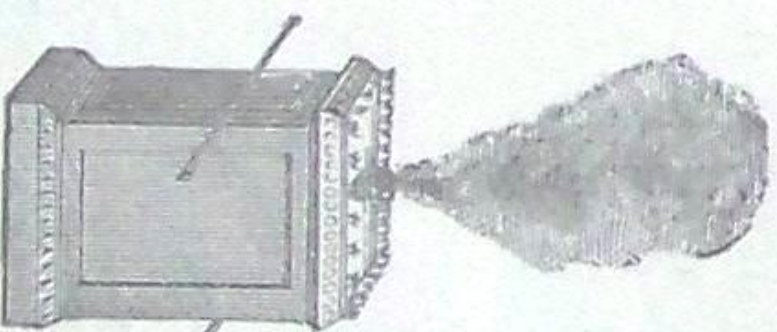
# The Divided Kingdom



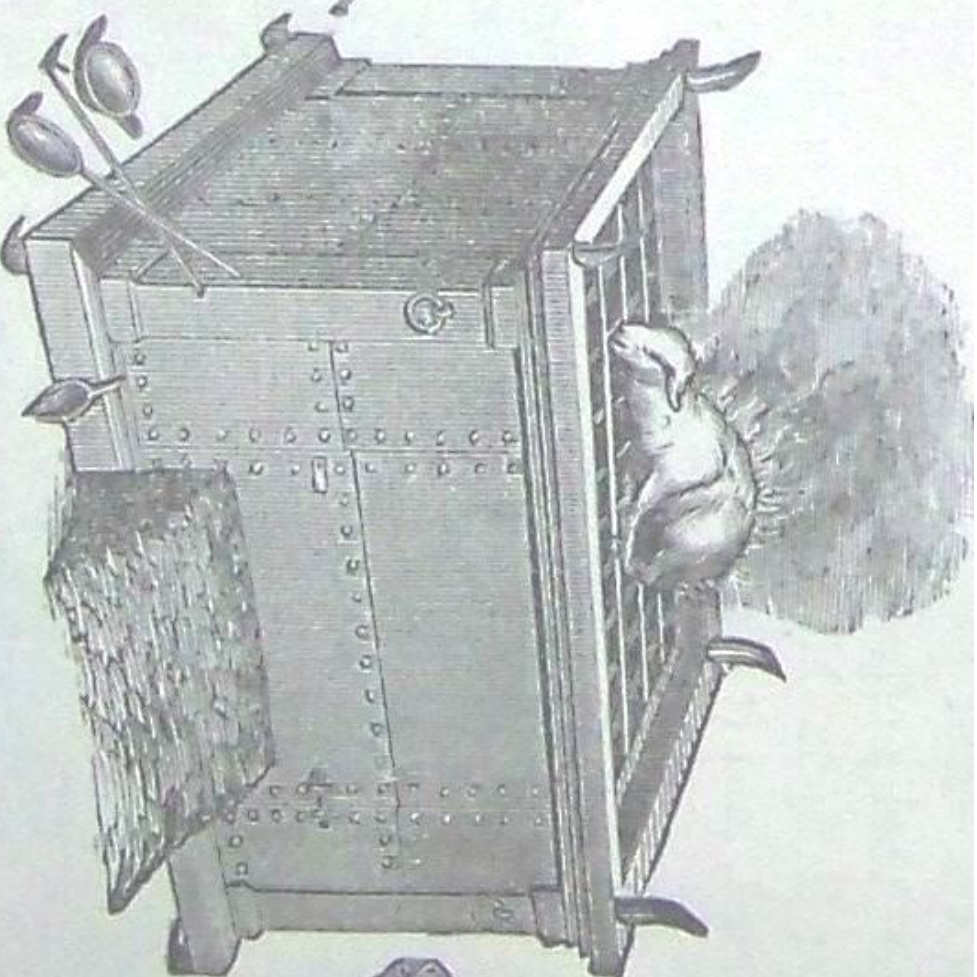




[FreeBibleimages :: King Hezekiah and the Assyrian invasion :: King Hezekiah turns people back to God and prays for deliverance when the Assyrians invade \(2 Kings 18-19, 2 Chronicles 29 - 32:23, Isaiah 36 - 37\)](#)



ALTAR OF INCENSE.



ALTAR OF BURNT-OFFERING.



LAVER.





The Kidron Valley, east of Jerusalem



"They brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence."  
—2 Chron. xxxiv. 4.









“We urge you to come to the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover to the Lord the God of Israel. We will celebrate this Passover in the second month instead of the first so that the priests can properly cleanse and prepare themselves and so that you have time to come to Jerusalem.

“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. Do not be like your fathers and your brethren, who were faithless to the Lord God of their fathers, so that he made them a desolation, as you see. Do not now be stiff-necked as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the Lord, and come to his sanctuary, which he has sanctified forever, and serve the Lord your God, that his fierce anger may turn away from you. For if you return to the Lord, your brethren 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.”

—2 Chronicles 30:6–9







"Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the people."  
—2 Chron. xxx. 27.



