

Major Event: Decline of the Kingdom

Lesson 4: Hezekiah (715- 686)

Scriptures: 2 Kings 18:1-21; 2 Chronicles 29: 5-11

Central Text:

2 Kings 18:3-7; 19:6, 7; 19:15-19; 19:20-28; 19:32-35; 20:1-6; 20:13-17

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

1. God's overall evaluation of Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:1-7).
2. Attempted Assyrian intimidation of Judah (18:13-37)
3. Isaiah's instruction (2 Kings 19:6,7).
4. Hezekiah's prayer for deliverance (2 Kings 19:14-19).
5. Isaiah's response from the LORD (2 Kings 19:20-28).
6. The LORD'S deliverance (2 Kings 19:35-37).
7. Hezekiah's foolishness with Babylonians (2 Kings 20:12-19)

Suggested Attributes:

Of God: Immutability, Veracity- He remembers His promises to bless obedience (Deut. 28:1-14)

Of man: Hezekiah's faithful petition to the LORD at time of great crisis

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Deuteronomy 28- The blessings and the Curses.

Notes: This time in the nation's history perhaps most clearly validates God's promises in Deuteronomy 28-30 to bless obedience and curse idolatry. While Israel (North) is conquered and facing another deportation (2 Kings 17:6) Judah (South) prospered under a faithful king (2 Kings 18:7). Hezekiah, unlike most of the other kings of Israel and Judah tore down the idolatrous "high places" and even destroyed Moses' bronze serpent because the people had come to worship it instead of the LORD. Notice Hezekiah heeds the word of God's prophet Isaiah (2 Chron. 32:20) and prays to the LORD for deliverance (2 Kings 19:15) evoking Yahweh as the only true God. Note- Hezekiah was not flawless as (in his sickness) he naively showed the Babylonians Judah's immense treasure. Yet the LORD was gracious to him (2 Kings 20:17-19) by not allowing Babylon to seize Judah until after his days. However, God did warn of the coming Babylonian captivity for the people's lapse back into idolatry (2 Kings 20:17,18).