

GOOD KING, BAD KING

God's plan is bigger than our sin.



THE STORY: 2 CHRONICLES 30:1- 30

MONDAY

Hezekiah followed the Lord

Hezekiah followed the Lord – A quick review of the kings of the southern kingdom reveals a pattern of good and bad kings. The kings of the northern kingdom influenced the kings of Judah for the worse. This proved especially true of Hezekiah's predecessor, Ahaz (2 Chronicles 28:2). Not only were altars erected to worship idols like Baal, but Ahaz actually sacrificed his own children to them.

After Ahaz died, Hezekiah, his son, became king and transformed Jerusalem for the better. Hezekiah cleansed the Temple, restored temple worship, and then reinstated the Passover.

Later in life, however, Hezekiah grew proud of his achievements (2 Chronicles 32:24-31) and boasted of his treasures to some ambassadors from Babylon (Isaiah 39:1-8). Isaiah rebuked Hezekiah and warned him that the treasures about which he had foolishly boasted would be taken away after Hezekiah died.

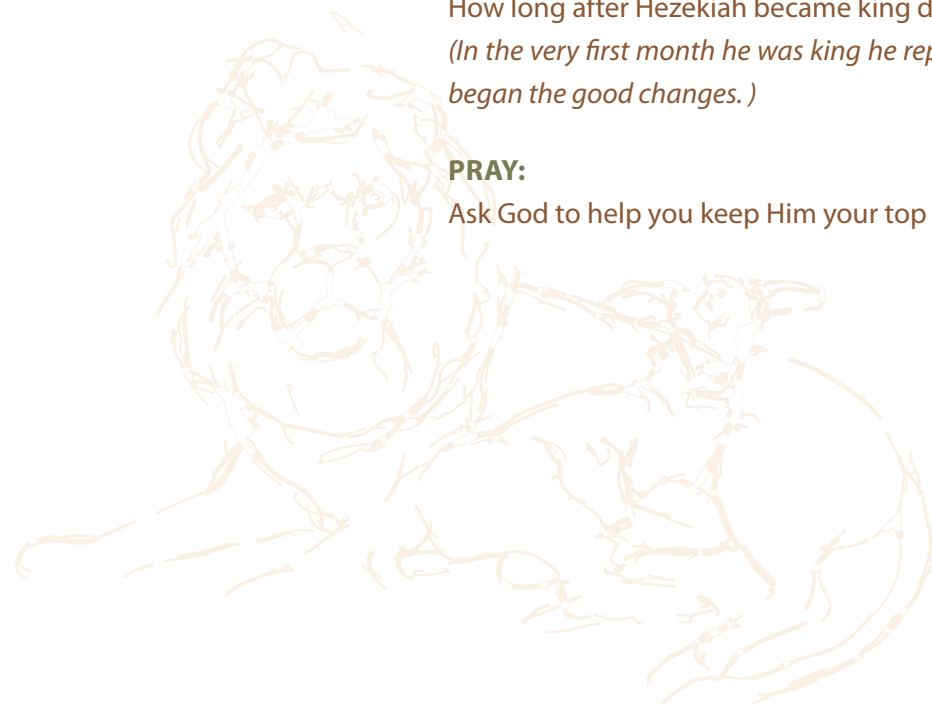
TALK ABOUT IT:

What was Hezekiah referring to when he said in verse 9 that, "our fathers have fallen to the sword?" (*The Northern Kingdom had been taken captive by force as a judgment from God against their sin. However, because of the grace of God working through Hezekiah, the southern kingdom was temporarily spared.*)

How long after Hezekiah became king did he begin to turn Judah back to the Lord? (*In the very first month he was king he repaired the doors to the house of the Lord and began the good changes.*)

PRAY:

Ask God to help you keep Him your top priority.





Manasseh rejected the Lord

Manasseh rejected the Lord – Manasseh was only twelve when he became king (2 Chronicles 33:1). It was only in Hezekiah’s late years that Manasseh witnessed firsthand his father’s reign, so he did not see Hezekiah’s earlier righteous leadership and behavior. There is no record that Hezekiah trained Manasseh in the ways of the Lord. As a result, Manasseh rejected the Lord and returned to the evil practices of his grandfather, Ahaz. He rebuilt the idolatrous high places – the altars to pagan gods – and grew proud like his father. Manasseh burned his own children in sacrifices to idols, demonstrating just how quickly and deeply sin spreads. Manasseh exalted himself saying, “In Jerusalem shall my name be forever” (2 Chronicles 33:4). Such a statement was an abomination to the Lord who, through David and Solomon, built the temple in Jerusalem for the glory of the “Name of the Lord” (1 Chronicles 22:7). Manasseh wanted his name to be exalted over the name of the Lord. God used the Assyrian army to discipline Manasseh’s great sin. Manasseh was captured with hooks, bound in chains, and taken to Babylon (2 Chronicles 33:11).

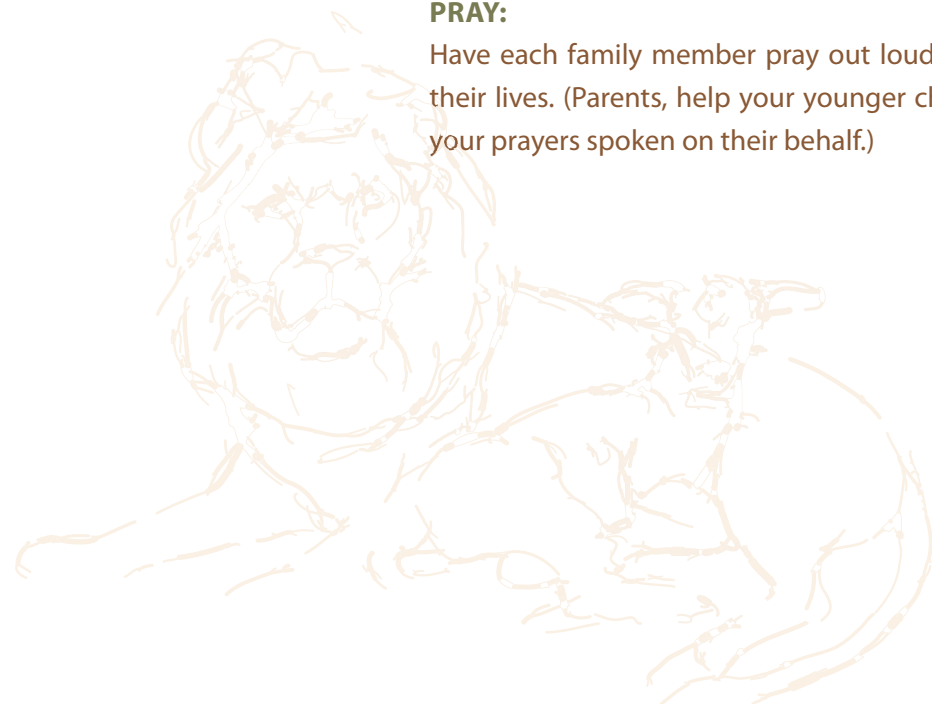
TALK ABOUT IT:

How was Manasseh different from his father? (*Manasseh did not follow the Lord at all. He rebelled against his father. More importantly, he rebelled against God and served idols.*)

Will we follow God just because our parents did? (*No. We all must follow the Lord and worship Him ourselves. Our parent’s faith cannot save us. We must all, as individuals, cry out to God and receive His mercy for our own individual salvation.*)

PRAY:

Have each family member pray out loud asking God to pour out His grace upon their lives. (Parents, help your younger children here. It is fine for them to repeat your prayers spoken on their behalf.)





Where is Jesus?

During the reign of Ahaz, Hezekiah, and Manasseh when the people wavered between their worship of God and the worship of idols, Isaiah was bringing the word of the Lord to the people. Isaiah spoke to them of another king who was to come (Isaiah 32:1-5). This king would come and reign in righteousness. In those days, it would be like streams in the desert and the cool of shade in a thirsty land. They eyes of the blind would be opened, the deaf would hear. No longer would fools be called noble nor scoundrels be respected. Of course, Isaiah was prophesying of the coming of the King of Kings - Jesus.

Hezekiah reinstated the Passover which reminded the people of God's salvation in Egypt from the angel of death. In response to this celebration, God healed the people (verse 20). Once again, this celebration points to Christ through whom we are saved from eternal death. Remembering our salvation brings healing to us as well.

TALK ABOUT IT:

In verse 15 we read that the people slaughtered the Passover Lamb. Who should this lamb remind us of? (*The Passover Lamb points to Christ, read 1 Corinthians 5:7.*)

What did the sacrifice of Jesus, our Passover Lamb, do for us? (*The wrath of God for our sin was poured out on Jesus. As a result, we are freed from judgment and our sins are forgiven.*)

PRAY:

Thank God for Jesus, our Passover Lamb, who takes away our sin.





Manasseh repented

Manasseh repented – While in prison, Manasseh humbled himself and prayed (2 Chronicles 33:12-13). God heard his prayer and made him king of Jerusalem again. Manasseh strengthened the city with walls and then removed both the idols and their pagan altars. He restored God’s altar – a special place of worship – and offered sacrifices on it. Unfortunately, the people still sacrificed at the pagan altars instead of the temple, and Manasseh’s son Amon did not follow the Lord. In just under fifty years, during the reigns of Manasseh and his son Amon, the Book of the Law was lost and the good works of Hezekiah were forgotten. God would eventually use Amon’s son, the eight-year-old Josiah, to preserve the word of the Lord and restore the Passover celebration once again.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did God demonstrate His mercy to Manasseh? (*The Lord heard the cries of Manasseh and restored Him to the throne in Jerusalem.*)

Did Amon, Manasseh’s son, follow the Lord? (*No. Amon worshipped false idols and did not serve the Lord.*)

PRAY:

Pray that the Lord will keep you, your children, and your children’s children, faithful to the Lord.





On the road to Emmaus.

Isaiah prophesied against the King of Assyria. In his prophetic declaration, he mentioned that God would protect a remnant of Israel. In Romans 11:5, we learn that God spared this remnant out of grace and not because of anything they had done. God spared a portion of his people because it was part of his plan to bring salvation to all peoples through Israel. One day, Jesus would be born into that remnant.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What is a remnant? *(A remnant is a portion that is left over. When you carpet your house the extra carpet that is left over is called a remnant. Even though God judged Israel He always preserved a remnant of people.)*

Why was it important that God preserve a remnant of Israel? *(God had promised that the Savior would come from Israel. Jesus came from Israel. God preserved a remnant of Israel in keeping with His Word. When God promised to bless the all the nations of the world through Abraham's offspring, His word was totally true. God always keeps His word.)*

PRAY:

Thank God that He is faithful even when we are faithless. Thank God for preserving a remnant of Israel to bring us salvation through Christ.

