

King Hezekiah

Objectives

- Study of the life and acts of Hezekiah the righteous king
- God surely fights for His people who ask for His leadership

References

- The Holy Bible: 2 Chronicles 29-32; 2 Kings 18-20; Isaiah 36-3
[http://st-takla.org/pub Bible-Interpretations](http://st-takla.org/pub_Bible-Interpretations)
- Interpretation of the Old Testament by father Antonius Fekry
- Interpretation of the Old Testament by Father Tadros Malaty

Scriptural Verse

- “Be strong and courageous; for there are more with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles”
(2 Chronicles 32:7-8)

Lesson Guidelines

Life of King Hezekiah

- Hezekiah, the son of Ahaz, reigned at 25 years old over Judea in Jerusalem at the time of Hosea, the king of Israel and Isaiah the prophet
- His father was an evil man but his wickedness did not influence his son. He was righteous in front of God as David his father and was obedient to Isaiah the prophet
- He trusted in the Lord God of Israel, and did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments given to Moses so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him (2 Kings 18:5).
- The Lord was with him and he prospered wherever he went (2 Kings 18:7).
- Sennacherib, the king of Assyria sent messengers to Jerusalem, to say: “make peace with the king of Assyria and do not listen to Hezekiah, lest he persuade you, saying, “The Lord will deliver us.” Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?
- The messengers reported to Hezekiah who tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord and prayed a deep prayer. He then sent messengers to Isaiah the prophet to lift up prayers.
- Isaiah said: “Thus says the Lord: Do not be afraid of the Sennacherib’ blasphemy; he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.” (Actually his sons killed him in the temple of his god) (Isaiah 37:26-28).
- Hezekiah was sick and near death. God sent him Isaiah saying: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die. He prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. God sent back Isaiah to say: “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; I will heal you and I will add to your days fifteen years” the shadow went ten degrees backward as a sign for him’ (2 Kings 20:11)

- King of Babylon, sent letters and a present with envoys to congratulate Hezekiah because he was healed.
- Hezekiah was attentive to them, and showed them all the house of his treasures; there was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that he did not show them.
- His heart was lifted up; then he humbled himself along with the people of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the Lord did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah.
- (2 Chronicles 32:25-26).
- Isaiah the prophet was sent to him saying: “The days are coming when all that is in your house, shall be carried to Babylon; and they shall take away some of your sons to be eunuchs in their king’s palace.” Hezekiah was happy that this would not happen in his days.
- Note that the righteous king did not rejoice because his people will be enslaved, but he humbly accepted the will of God (St. Ambrosias).
- Hezekiah rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the upper tombs of the sons of David; and all Judah and the people of Jerusalem honored him at his death. (2 Chronicles 32: 33).

Acts of Hezekiah

- In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he repaired the doors of the house of the Lord and urged the priests and the Levites to be sanctified and to sanctify the Lord’s house and to carry out the rubbish from the holy place.
- He made a covenant with the Lord to let the Priests and the Levites to stand before Him, to serve Him, minister to Him and burn incense. And they obeyed.
- He gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the Lord’s house and commanded the priests to offer sacrifices for the kingdom, the sanctuary, and for Judah.
- He restored the songs and David’s instrument during the burnt offerings of the sins of all Israel. Then they worshipped (2 Chronicles 29:25).
- He urged the people to bring sacrifices to the Lord for burnt offerings. They brought in abundance so that the Levites had to help the priests and the work was joyfully done.
- He urged all of Israel and Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh to come to Jerusalem to keep the Passover of the Lord. So there was great joy for since the time of Solomon the son of David, there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 30:26).
- He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, and cut down the wooden image to prevent his people from worshipping idols and to direct them to the Lord
- He broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it.

Discussion

- Discuss the Verse: Hezekiah did what was good and right before the Lord his God. And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, in the law and in the commandment, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart. So he prospered (2 Chronicles 30:20- 21).

Activities

- Give examples of prosperous people who put their hearts in their work or in their struggle against sins (Joseph, Joshua,...St. Paul and all the saints of the New Testament).

Conclusion

Hezekiah did great religious and civil reforms. He had a great and growing relationship with God. He was a man of fervent prayer and was considered a hero (Proverbs 25:1). He had also a weakness as he did not plan to preserve the spiritual heritage for the future of his people and fell in pride when he exposed all his treasures in front of the Babylonian Envoys but he humbled himself to God so He postponed the punishment to after his days.