



**King Hezekiah – Right Worshiper
2 Chronicles 28-31**

King Ahaz – The Lessons of Self-Focus and Influence (2 Chronicles 28)

Jotham ruled for 16 years in which he was prosperous because he did what was right in the Lord's sight. However, he didn't bring religious reform to Judah. Was it Jotham's lack of concern for the righteousness of his subjects that led to his son's wicked rule? During Ahaz's 16-year rule he worshiped idols, sacrificed his children in the fire, closed the temple, and set up high places and altars to idols. The priest Uriah followed him in idolatry by building an altar for Ahaz modeled after one Ahaz saw in Damascus (2 Kings 16:10-18). Yet when Ahaz's son, Hezekiah became King, he brought religious reform and the people followed.

King Hezekiah – The Religious Reformer (2 Chronicles 29-31)

King Hezekiah was 25 years old when he began ruling and he reigned 29 years. Immediately he restored the worship of God and removed the stench of the 16 years of idolatry under his father, Ahaz's rule. The Scripture says of him, "not one of the kings of Judah was like him, either before him or after him." The steps in his religious reform were: (1) *Eliminated tradition that had become idolatry* – The Jews still had the bronze snake that Moses had put on a pole for the people to look at to be healed from snake bites (Numbers 21:4-9). They had kept it for nearly 800 years! Hezekiah destroyed it because the people were worshiping it (2 Kings 18:4).

(2) *Consecrated the temple* – Ahaz had setup idols in the temple and had closed its doors. Hezekiah commissioned the priests to remove everything offensive and return into its proper place the utensils and furniture needed to properly worship God. It took them 16 days to accomplish this task. (3) *Consecrated the priests* – The priests presented offerings to God to consecrate themselves and the Levites. (4) *Restored temple music* – Hezekiah had the divisions of instruments and singers restored that had been set up by David. (5) *Worship* - the people worshiped God by bringing offerings to the temple and celebrating the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. The even celebrated another seven days because they were filled with so much joy! (6) *Obedience* – After the festival, people returned home and tore down all the high places and altars throughout all Judah. They also gave generously to support the priests and Levites as commanded in the Law.

A Christian's Right Worship

Jesus said God seeks worshipers who worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23). Spirit – sincere with our whole heart. Truth – informed about God and how to worship him. (1) *Prepare* – confess and repent of sin (2) *Bring* – We primarily bring the offering of ourselves (Romans 12:1,2). Peter speaks of spiritual sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5) which includes praise (Heb 13:15), prayer (1 Tim 2:8), bodies (Rom 6:12-13; 1 Cor 6:18-20), words and deeds (Col 3:17) (3) *Commune with God* – In worship we meet God as we pray and hear him speak through His word. (4) *Obey* – When we meet with God, God wants to change us and calls us to action in some way. We respond by obeying Him.