

## Lesson 102

# God Answers Hezekiah

King Hezekiah trusted in the Lord to deliver him  
from the Assyrians.

# Studying God's Word

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

## Introduction

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. We have already learned what happened to the northern kingdom of Israel after the kingdom was divided. Point to #27 where the Israel path ends on the timeline. They turned away from the Lord and worshipped idols, and God eventually sent the Assyrians against them to besiege the capital city of Samaria and then take the survivors far from their homes. Then we went back and started learning about some of the kings of Judah, the southern kingdom. Point to the beginning of the Judah path.

Which king did we learn about last time?  
Joash.

### Slide #3

Refer to Lesson 101 Theme Poster. God protected Joash from his grandmother, Athaliah. She was an evil woman who wanted to kill all the princes so she could be the ruler of Judah. Athaliah almost succeeded in killing King David's royal line, but a brave woman named Jehosheba

rescued Joash and hid him in the temple, where her husband, Jehoiada, the high priest, taught Joash about the Lord. Jehoiada crowned Joash king when he was only seven years old! Joash was a good king as long as Jehoiada was alive. He obeyed God's laws and restored the temple. But what happened after Jehoiada's death? Joash turned from the Lord and worshipped idols.

Joash listened to the princes of Judah after Jehoiada was gone, and they led him to worship idols. When Jehoiada's son Zechariah stood up and told Joash and the people they were sinning, Joash ordered him to be killed!

Because of Joash's decision to turn from the Lord at the end of his life, would we say he was a good or an evil king? Allow discussion. He is remembered for the evil rather than the good he did.

Joash was the eighth king of Judah. Today we're going to skip several kings to the thirteenth king, named Hezekiah.

## **Hezekiah's Obedience**

Hezekiah became king when he was 25 years old, and his father's name was Ahaz. Ahaz did evil in the sight of the Lord and made treaties with the Assyrian kings. It was during Hezekiah's

reign that the Assyrians defeated Israel and took the people into captivity, and we'll see that the Assyrians caused trouble for Hezekiah in Judah, too.

Slide #4

Slide #5

2 Kings 18:3–5

Turn to 2 Kings 18 and follow along as I read verses 3–5. Read the verses.

Was Hezekiah a good king or a bad king according to this passage? Good king. Yes. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. What did he remove and destroy? High places, pillars, Asherah, and the bronze serpent.

The high places were sites the people set up to worship which were not where God commanded them to worship, so Hezekiah got rid of them. He also destroyed the idols in the land, including the bronze serpent Moses made during the Israelites' time in the wilderness.

What were the people doing with the bronze serpent? Making offerings to it; worshipping it.

The people had corrupted an item Moses made to point the people to God as their healer. Instead, the people started

worshipping the object, the bronze serpent, instead of the Lord.

What does verse 5 say about Hezekiah? He trusted in the Lord; there was none like him among all the kings of Judah.

### Slide #6

This is a great statement about Hezekiah! He trusted God so much that there was no other king like him. Hezekiah cleansed the temple, which had been defiled (made unclean) during the days of his father, Ahaz. He brought the priests and Levites back to minister in the temple and followed God's laws for worship.

Pass out the Class Notes.

Let's start the Class Notes. You will circle the correct bold word to complete each statement. Who will read #1? Choose a reader. Judah. Have students complete #1. Who will read #2 about what kind of king Hezekiah was? Choose a reader. Right. Complete #2.

## **The Rabshakeh's Message**

The Assyrians decided they wanted to take over the land of Judah just like they had conquered Israel. Sennacherib, the Assyrian king, was unhappy that Hezekiah refused to serve him the way his father, Ahaz, had done. So, Sennacherib sent his army commander and an ambassador, called the Rabshakeh, to bring a message to Jerusalem. The Rabshakeh had the army camp

around the city. He wanted King Hezekiah to surrender to his king.

Slide #7

Slide #8

2 Kings 18:28–31

Who will read what the Rabshakeh said in 2 Kings 18:28–31? Assign readers.

What language did the Rabshakeh speak in? Language of Judah.

The language of Judah was Hebrew. The Rabshakeh was clever, speaking in a language that all the people could understand inside the city. He was hoping the people would see his army, hear his message, and be too afraid to fight.

What threat did the Rabshakeh give the people in Jerusalem? Do not listen to Hezekiah or think that the Lord will deliver you.

He was telling the people that King Hezekiah would lie, or deceive, them. The Rabshakeh was trying to get the people to turn away from their king and from God, hoping to make them lose heart and give up without a fight. He even promised good things for those who would surrender to him. He told them not to believe Hezekiah when he said they could trust the Lord to save them from the Assyrian army.

### Slide #9

Show the Assyrian Empire Map. This would have been a scary message for the people to hear. The Assyrians were a mighty nation who did not serve the true God. And they were known to be very cruel. They had conquered many lands all around Judah, including Israel to the north. They had defeated both Babylon and Egypt. Also, major portions of North Africa, Asia, and the Middle East were controlled by the Assyrians. Notice how small Judah looks in the middle of the huge Assyrian empire. How could Judah possibly stand up to such a mighty empire? Do you think King Hezekiah and the people surrendered after hearing the Rabshakeh's message? Allow guesses.

### Slide #10

2 Kings 19:1-2

Let's read what King Hezekiah did when he heard the news that the Assyrians would attack if they didn't surrender. Turn to 2 Kings 19. Who will read verses 1-2? Assign readers.

Why did Hezekiah tear his clothes and cover himself with sackcloth in verse 1? Does anyone know? Allow answers.

Hezekiah was showing great sorrow when he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth, which was a coarse, uncomfortable material

made from goat's hair and worn by people in mourning. Hezekiah was humbling himself before God. Doing these things was like saying, "I can't do this on my own. I need your help, God."

Where did Hezekiah go after he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth? The house of the Lord.

The house of the Lord is another name for the temple, the same temple Solomon built and Hezekiah cleansed after years of neglect.

Who did Hezekiah send his servants to? The prophet Isaiah.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. This is the Isaiah who served during the reign of four kings of Judah. He wrote the book of Isaiah, and he recorded the events of Hezekiah's reign similar to what we'll read in 2 Kings.

Why was it a good idea for Hezekiah to send for Isaiah? Who gave prophets their messages? Prophets spoke for God, so Hezekiah was seeking God's direction for what he should do.

### Slide #11

2 Kings 19:6–7

Who will read what Isaiah said in verses 6–7 of chapter 19? Assign readers.



Who was Isaiah speaking for? The Lord.  
What did God tell Hezekiah in verse 6? Do not be afraid; he heard what the servants of the king of Assyria said.

God said the servants of Assyria had reviled, or spoken against, him. The Rabshakeh attacked the power and character of God when he said that the Lord could not be trusted to deliver his people in Judah.

What did God say he would do to the king of Assyria in verse 7? God would make the king hear a rumor, return to his own land, and fall by the sword.

God promised to control events so Sennacherib would return to Assyria and die there. God's words from Isaiah must have been a comfort to Hezekiah. Isaiah said he did not need to be afraid of the king or Assyria.

Slide #12

Slide #13

Let's complete some more Class Notes. Who will read #3 about the Rabshakeh's threatening message? Choose a reader. Jerusalem. Have students complete #3. Who will read #4 about what the Rabshakeh was trying to do? Choose a reader. Deliverance. Complete #4. And #5, who will read that one about the Assyrians? Choose a reader. Many.

Complete #5.

Where did Hezekiah go after he heard the Rabshakeh's message? That's #6. Choose a reader. The temple. Complete #6.

And #7? Which prophet did Hezekiah send his servants to? Choose a reader. Isaiah. Complete #7.

## God's Deliverance

After delivering his message, the Rabshakeh left Jerusalem to report to King Sennacherib, who was fighting against a nearby Judean city. But the Assyrian army stayed camped around Jerusalem. King Sennacherib wanted Hezekiah to surrender quickly, so he sent another message. This time it was a letter telling Hezekiah not to trust God for deliverance. The letter said Judah would be destroyed. King Sennacherib boasted about all the other nations and kings he had conquered so that Hezekiah would think there was no hope for Judah to be saved. How will Hezekiah respond to this latest threat? Will he surrender to the army outside the city?

Slide #14

Slide #15

Slide #16

2 Kings 19:14–19

Look in 2 Kings 19. Who will read verses 14–19? Choose readers.

What did Hezekiah do when he received the letter? He took it into the house of the Lord

and prayed to God.

### Slide #17

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. Hezekiah went to the house of the Lord and placed the letter down before the Lord.

How did he begin his prayer? Whom did he focus on? He started his prayer focused on God.

And what did he say about God? You are the God of Israel. You alone are the God of all kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

Hezekiah started his prayer by praising God and giving him honor and glory for being the one true God and Creator of all things.

What did Hezekiah pray next in verse 16? For God to hear the words of Sennacherib.

Sennacherib had repeatedly mocked God by saying he was not strong enough to deliver Hezekiah and his people.

What did Hezekiah say about the false gods of the other lands the Assyrians had conquered? They were not gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone, easily destroyed.

Hezekiah knew that the false gods of other nations could offer no protection to the people who worshipped them. Those gods were just wood and stone with no power.

Simply throwing them in the fire would destroy them.

What did Hezekiah ask in verse 19? For God to save them from the king of Assyria.

And what would all the kingdoms of the earth know when God saved them? That he, the Lord, is God alone.

Hezekiah wanted God to show his power by saving them because then he would get the glory. The small nation of Judah could never defeat the Assyrian army in their own power. If they were saved, all the surrounding nations would know it was because of their God.

Things weren't looking good for Judah, but God responded to Hezekiah by sending Isaiah with another message. Isaiah said God had heard his prayer, and he was about to do something great!

Slide #18

Slide #19

Slide #20

2 Kings 19:32–37

Follow along as I read 2 Kings 19 starting in verse 32. Read 2 Kings 19:32–37.

What did God say he would do for the city of Jerusalem? He would defend the city to save it.

God promised that the king of Assyria would not attack or besiege the city.

What did God say the king of Assyria would do? Not come into the city but return the way he came.

For whose sake did God say he would defend the city? For his own sake and for the sake of his servant David.

God was saving Jerusalem for his own honor and glory and also because of his promise to King David.

Then what happened to the Assyrian army in the night? Look in verse 35. The angel of the Lord went out and killed 185,000 soldiers.

Wow! In one night, without anyone hearing, God destroyed over one hundred thousand soldiers, including the commanders! When the other soldiers woke up, they found the dead all through their camp.

What did Sennacherib do when he heard he'd lost so many men? He left Judah and returned to Assyria.

Sennacherib lost so many of his commanders and soldiers that he stopped his campaign to take over Judah. Another passage in the Bible of this account, found in 2 Chronicles 32, says that Sennacherib returned to his country with shame for failing to conquer Judah. The Assyrians

were proud of their victories over so many nations, yet Sennacherib was defeated by the tiny nation of Judah because the Lord fought for them.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. What attribute of God describes his power to wipe out so many soldiers in one night? Omnipotent.

If Sennacherib had known the power and character of God, he wouldn't have spoken against him so proudly and foolishly.

What happened to Sennacherib when he returned to Nineveh, the city in Assyria? Two of his sons killed him when he was worshipping in the house of his false god.

God told Hezekiah through Isaiah that Sennacherib would return to his own land and fall by the sword, and that's exactly what happened. God always keeps his promises because he is faithful.

God is great and powerful, and he will answer the prayers of those who trust in him. This victory belonged completely to God—the people of Judah didn't even have to fight! Hezekiah was trusting in God alone and not in his own strength or power. Hezekiah was not interested in his own glory; he wanted all the nations to see how powerful the God he served really was!

Slide #21

Slide #22Slide #23

Let's finish the Class Notes. Who will read #8? Choose a reader. God. Complete #8. Who will read #9 about Hezekiah's prayer? Choose a reader. To praise God and ask for help. Complete #9.

And #10? How many men did the angel of the Lord destroy? Choose a reader.

185,000. Complete #10.

Who will read #11 about Sennacherib?

Choose a reader. Sons. Complete #11.

And the last one, #12. What attribute did God show when he saved Jerusalem?

Choose a reader. Omnipotence. Complete #12.

## Application

Slide #24

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. The account of King Hezekiah's reign in Judah told about the Assyrians, a very powerful nation at the time. This nation wanted to overthrow Judah and its capital, Jerusalem. Hezekiah was a good king who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. He knew that God was powerful enough to protect his people. He went to the Lord in prayer when his nation was threatened. And God answered in a mighty way! The angel of the Lord destroyed much of the Assyrian army, and Sennacherib returned to his country where he was killed as God said would happen.

Hezekiah trusted in God during a scary time when a powerful and cruel enemy was threatening his people. Yet, when things looked hopeless, Hezekiah didn't lose hope in God. He knew what to do. He turned to the Lord in prayer to help him.

Hezekiah's prayer is a good example for us. He didn't start his prayer by focusing on himself and his problems. Instead, he took time to praise God for who he is. Then when Hezekiah gave his request for help, he wanted God to get all the glory when he answered.

We can do the same. When you pray, remember to praise and thank God for who he is and the things he has done for you. And when God answers your prayers, tell your friends and family about it. Tell them that God is the one working in your life and helping you with everyday problems. When you tell others about God's goodness, you may be helping them know and understand better who God is.

## Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.



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