

- Recap of last week: God tells them that the days of punishment have come and that He will “remember their iniquities and punish their sins.” (Hosea 9:5-9) Under Christ, God will not remember our iniquities or punish our sins. (Hebrews 8:12) God tells Israel that the idols they have built will be overgrown with weeds and that there is still time to repent. (Hosea 10) God is still patient and wants to give everyone time to repent. (II Peter 3:11) God says most of Israel will be devoured and suffer great and horrible punishment. But God does promise to save those who believe. He even notes that death and hell have no sting. (Hosea 13:9-16) Those who believe in Christ now have that power as well. (I Corinthians 15:55) God uses a different prophet named Amos to give the message that Israel will be destroyed but that eventually He will return them to their land never to be uprooted again. (Amos 8-9)
- Hezekiah was a king in the Southern Kingdom of Judea. He became King at 25 and reigned as King for 29 years before he died. (2 Chronicles 29:1 and 2 Kings 18:1-2)
- He was a good King, referenced by the fact that he “walked in the ways of his father David (of course not his actual father but a directly Kingly ancestor). (2 Chronicles 29:2 and 2 Kings 18:3)
- As one of his very first acts, Hezekiah repairs the temple doors. Then he gets the priestly tribe of Levite together and tells them to get their act together and purify the temple. So they do and it takes weeks. (2 Chronicles 29:3-19 and 2 Kings 18:4-7)
- Remember that no matter how long it takes; we need to get right with God. We studied last week that God is patient with us (II Peter 3:11). Also we sing a song called “The Lilly of the Valley” that contains a line in it “...and all my idols torn from my heart and now He keeps me by His power.” We don’t have the same kind of kind of physical idols like they did back then, but remember our body is our temple today. Just like it may take a long time to take down physical idols, it may take us a long time to tear the idols out of our lives (be it money, popularity, cars, phones, whatever we are attached to).
- After the purification, Hezekiah opened the temple to worship again. There were so many animals sacrificed (into the thousands) that the priests could not keep up and had to get help from other non-priests from their own tribe to help them. (2 Chronicles 29:20-32)
- For the Feast of the Passover (instituted in Egypt by God so the death angel would “pass over” the houses of the Israelites see Exodus 12) Hezekiah sent couriers throughout the land. Many scoffed but still a lot of people came. (2 Chronicles 30:1-14)
- Our equivalent feast today is the Lord’s supper. That is the way we remember Christ and how he saved us, just as the feast the Israelites observed to remember God and how he saved them. In the same way Hezekiah invited everyone to attend the feast, Christ’s invitation is open to all, but many will not accept it.
- People had fallen out of the practice of observing this feast, so they weren’t always doing it right. Hezekiah prayed to God to have mercy on them since their heart was in the right place and they will still learning, so God did. (2 Chronicles 30:15-28)

- If we have fallen out of the practice of worshipping today, God will have mercy on us if our heart is right and He will expect us (like the Israelites) to improve over time. God must be worshipped in spirit and in truth! (John 4:23-4)
- Next, Hezekiah organizes the priests for different tasks. He is very thorough and everything he does in this task pleases God. (2 Chronicles 31)
- The Assyrian army under Sennacherib is a major threat to Judah and they invade and lay siege to Jerusalem. Hezekiah cuts off their water supply and tries to pay them off. He also organizes and encourages the people, telling them to “be strong and courageous” since God is on their side. (2 Chronicles 32:1-8)
- Hezekiah privately is more concerned. He goes into mourning, prays, and summons the great prophet Isaiah who prophesizes that God will deliver them and Sennacherib’s own sons to kill him. That comes true when an angel of the Lord by night kills a lot of the Assyrian leaders and the army flees. Sennacherib’s sons kill him. (2 Chronicles 32:20-23) (2 Kings 19:1-7)
- The Assyrian army is a great threat because they have already taken the Northern Kingdom of Israel (that happened in the sixth year of Hezekiah’s reign). They taunt the people at Jerusalem in the Jewish language, telling them not to believe Hezekiah when he says God will protect them since they have already taken many lands who had their own Gods. (2 Kings 18:19-36) (2 Chronicles 32:9-19) (2 Kings 19:14-37)
- Hezekiah gets sick and is dying. He summons Isaiah again who tell him that God has said he would die. Hezekiah prays for God to extend his life and he gets 15 more years. The only time we read anything negative about Hezekiah was that he momentarily forgot to give God credit, but then he humbled himself again. (2 Kings 20: 1-11) (2 Chronicles 32:24-26).
- Hezekiah accumulated great wealth as King. He shows it off to some Babylonian envoys and prophet Isaiah predicts that will be the downfall of the Kingdom of Judea, presumably because they got a look at his great wealth and report back. (2 Kings 20: 12-19) (2 Chronicles 32:27-31).
- Hezekiah dies, and his son Manasseh reigns in his place. (2 Kings 20: 20-21) (2 Chronicles 32:32-33).

Questions

1. How long did Hezekiah reign? How old was he when he died?
2. Was he a good King or bad King? How do we know that?
3. What is one of Hezekiah’s first acts?
4. What does Hezekiah tell the Levites to do? How long does this take them?
5. What is the equivalent of tearing down idols today? How long will God give us to do that?
6. After purifying the temple, what does Hezekiah do?
7. What problem do the Priests run into when the temple is finally reopened for worship?
8. What feast does Hezekiah invite everyone to observe? What is the significance of that feast?
9. How does Hezekiah invite people to the feast?
10. What is Hezekiah’s invitation equivalent to?

11. Why were people out of practice in observing the feast? Who intervened with God for them and how?
12. What is being out of practice with the ritual observance of the feast analogous to and why?
13. In what way are we to worship God?
14. Why is the Assyrian army such a threat to Judah?
15. How does Hezekiah react when faced with the Assyrian army?
16. What great prophet does Hezekiah consult about the Assyrian army threat?
17. What does the prophet tell Hezekiah will happen? How does it actually happen?
18. How many extra years did God give Hezekiah when he prayed?
19. What is the only negative thing we ever read about Hezekiah?
20. What did Hezekiah end up doing that Isaiah said would lead to the downfall of Judah?
21. Who reigns when Hezekiah dies?