

Overthrow of Israel & King Hezekiah

2 Kings 17-20; 2 Chronicles 29-32

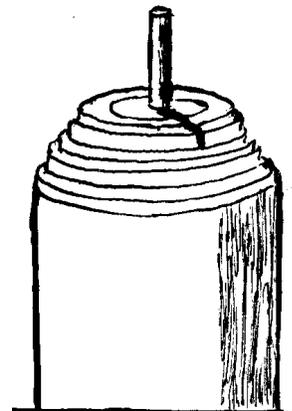
Do you know what the picture shows?

It is a sundial. These were used to tell time like a clock of today.

The shadow of the sun would move around like the hands of our clock.

What would you think if our clock would run backwards for 10 hours?

That is what happened in the lesson of King Hezekiah.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help me to listen and learn today's lesson about prayer. Help me to also learn how important it is to keep You, O Lord, as the only way of salvation. Be with our teacher so that the lesson taught to us is Your true message. Hear our prayer. Amen.

The Story

While Ahaz was king of Judah, Hoshea became king of Israel and he reigned nine years. Hoshea did evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel who were before him.

Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against him; and King Hoshea and all Israel were under Shalmaneser and paid him tribute money. But King Hoshea did not pay tribute after awhile and he was bound and put into prison.

The king of Assyria, Shalmaneser, then took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria. For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and they had worshiped other false gods and made for themselves idols to serve which the LORD had said to them, "You shall not do this thing." They would not hear and they rejected the LORD's statutes and covenant that He had made with their fathers. Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them

from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah.

So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria and they never returned. Then the king of Assyria brought people from foreign countries and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel. They took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities. They did not fear the LORD either, and the LORD sent lions among them, which killed some of them.

Then the king of Assyria commanded, "Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there. Let him go and live there and teach them the rituals of the God of the land."

Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD. They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods; according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away. Also their children and their children's children continued doing as their fathers did.



During this time Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done. He trusted in the LORD and removed the false gods that were in Judah. The LORD was with him and he prospered wherever he went.

King Hezekiah rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him even though Shalmaneser king of Assyria captured Israel and carried it away.

After King Hezekiah had been king in Judah 14 years a new king, Sennacherib, became king of Assyria. Sennacherib came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. Now Hezekiah had to pay the king of Assyria very much silver and gold. They even stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

After awhile the king of Assyria sent a great army against Jerusalem. King Hezekiah heard it and he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD. Then he sent servants to Isaiah the prophet. Isaiah said to them, "Thus you shall say to your master, 'Thus says the LORD: "Do not be afraid. I will cause the king of Assyria to fall by the sword in his own land.'" "

Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD God of Israel, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from Sennacherib's hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God, You alone."

Then Isaiah sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard. Sennacherib shall not come into this city. For I will defend this city, to save it For My own sake and for My servant David's sake.'"

And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed

in the camp of the Assyrians 185,000 and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses; all dead. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home. Two of his sons later killed him and another of his sons became king of Assyria.

In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet went to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.'"

Then Hezekiah prayed to the LORD, saying, "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD. And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David.'" "

Then Isaiah said, "Take a lump of figs." So they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered.

Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "What is the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up to the house of the LORD the third day?"

Then Isaiah said, "This is the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing which He has spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees or go backward ten degrees?"

Hezekiah answered, "It is an easy thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; no, but let the shadow go backward ten degrees."

So Isaiah the prophet cried out to the LORD, and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward.

At that time Berodach-Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick. Hezekiah was attentive to them, and showed them all the house of his treasures;

the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory; all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah, and said to him, "What did these men say, and from where did they come to you?" So Hezekiah said, "They came from a far country, from Babylon."

Isaiah said, "What have they seen in your house?"

Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them."

Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the

word of the LORD: 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD. And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."

So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good!" Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah; all his might, and how he made a pool and a tunnel and brought water into the city; are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah. So Hezekiah died and Manasseh his son reigned in his place.

Outer Aim - The LORD made the sundial shadow move backwards and added 15 years to King Hezekiah's life in answer to his prayer.

What God's Word Tells Us - Use the Bible to answer the following.

1. Judah could not have defeated the stronger Assyrians without the help of God. Look up the following Bible references to see who else overcame mightier enemies with God's help.

Exodus 14:26-28 - _____

Joshua 6:20-21 - _____

Judges 7 - _____

1 Samuel 17 - _____

1 Kings 18:16-40 - _____

2. Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." King Hezekiah proudly showed off all his wealth to the messengers from Babylon. Later that led to Babylon taking all that treasure and capturing the land of Judah. Can you think of a time when your pride made a problem for you?

What the Story Tells Us - Write the correct answer in the blank from the story and then find the words in the WORD SEARCH.

PRAYED HEZEKIAH ISAIAH ISRAEL YEARS ASSYRIA SUNDIAL JUDAH

1. King Hoshea and the kingdom of _____ worshiped idols and not the true God.
2. King Shalmaneser of _____ captured Israel and took them away never to return.
3. The kingdom of _____ remained and was not captured.
4. King _____ of Judah was a believer in the true God.
5. He _____ to the LORD when he was in trouble.
6. The LORD sent the prophet _____ to the king.
7. The LORD made the shadow on the _____ move backwards.
8. This showed the king he would not die but live 15 more _____.



Inner Aim - The LORD has promised to answer the prayers of those who believe in Him.

Passages

Psalms 37:5 - Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.

1 Thessalonians 4:7 - For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

Psalms 1:1-2 - Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

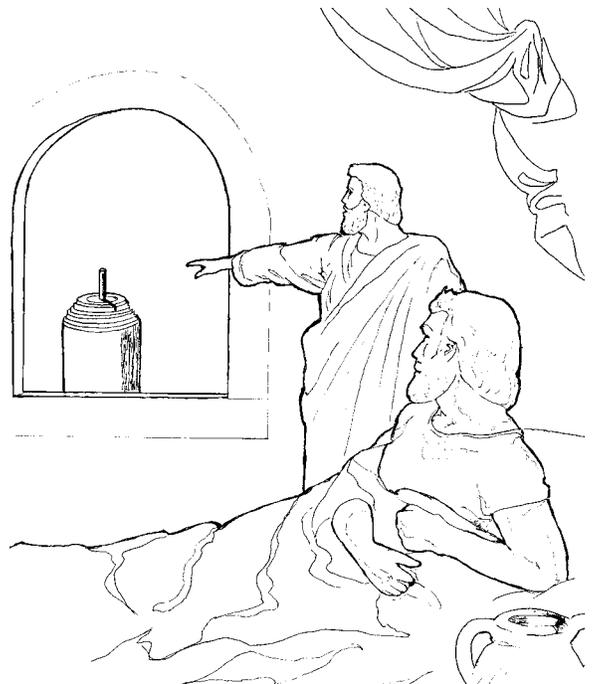
Hymn

 - TLH #326 v. 1, 3, 4

Lord, to Thee I make confession;
I have sinned and gone astray,
I have multiplied transgression,
Chosen for myself my way.
Led by Thee to see my errors,
Lord, I tremble at Thy terrors.

For Thy Son did suffer for me,
Gave Himself to rescue me,
Died to heal me and restore me,
Reconciled me unto Thee.
'Tis alone His cross can vanquish
These dark fears and soothe this anguish.

Then on Him I cast my burden,
Sink it in the depths below.
Let me know Thy gracious pardon,
Wash me, make me white as snow.
Let Thy Spirit leave me never;
Make me only Thine forever.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

You have told us to pray to You and You will hear our prayer. Please help us to love and serve You all our lives. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts to make us love and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Amen.