

The Temple Restored to Service

2 Kings 18:1-8

2 Chronicles 29 – 31

Proverbs 25 - 29

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Hezekiah became king of Judah. He turned from the evil ways of his father Ahaz and followed the Lord. He reopened the Temple and summoned the priests and Levites. He told them to purify themselves and the Temple so that God's people might once again offer sacrifices to the Lord. He destroyed the idols, the altars, and all the other items of pagan worship in Judah. He even broke up the bronze snake Moses had made, because the people had begun to worship it.

The Temple of the Lord was restored to service. The people came to offer sacrifices. The priests and Levites were very busy. And the people of God filled the Temple with songs of praise.

Hezekiah sent messengers throughout Judah and to the people remaining in Israel who had survived the Assyrian conquest and deportation. The king invited everyone to Jerusalem for the Feast of Unleavened Bread – that is Passover. Most of those in Israel laughed at the idea, but some humbled themselves and went to Jerusalem. They hadn't had time to purify themselves, but Hezekiah prayed for them, and they were allowed to participate in the Passover celebration. Everyone – those from Judah, those from Israel, and even those from foreign lands – joined together in a celebration unlike anything that had been seen since the days of King Solomon.

Hezekiah went on to reestablish all the practices prescribed in the Law of the Lord. He asked the people to provide a tithe in support of the priests and Levites. They responded with generous gifts.

Hezekiah cultivated wisdom through the Proverbs of Solomon. He sought the Lord wholeheartedly. As a result, he was very successful.