

LIFE
IS
HARD

GOD
IS
GOOD

When God Breaks The Rules

"Jerusalem's preservation from attack by Sennacherib's army shaped the subsequent history of the world far more profoundly than any other military action I know of... In all probability, the people of Judah would have met the same fate if the Assyrian army had attacked and captured Jerusalem in 701 B.C. and treated its inhabitants as they had treated those of Samaria and other conquered places before. If so, Judaism would have disappeared from the face of the earth and the two daughter religions of Christianity and Islam could not possibly have come into existence. In short, our world would be profoundly different in ways we cannot really imagine." William H. McNeill

2 Kings 18:3-5: "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father David had done. He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles... Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him."

Hezekiah tore down the many altars to foreign gods

Hezekiah reopens the doors of the Temple

Hezekiah covers the Temple doors with gold

Hezekiah fixes, repairs, and restores what is broken in the Temple

Hezekiah relights the Menorah

Hezekiah gathers the religious and political leaders to repent

Hezekiah leads the city in songs of praise to God

Hezekiah makes the name of God a priority again

Hezekiah invites the Kingdom of Judah's fierce and hated enemies from the Kingdom of Israel to a Passover celebration

Hezekiah leads the Kingdoms of Judah and Israel in a genuine spiritual awakening

2 Chronicles 30:18-20 (ESV): "For a majority of the people, many of them from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the Passover otherwise than as prescribed. For Hezekiah had prayed for them, saying, 'May the good Lord pardon everyone who sets his heart to seek God, the Lord, the God of his fathers, even though not according to the sanctuary's rules of cleanness.' And the Lord heard Hezekiah and healed the people."

1 Corinthians 11:27,28: "So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup."