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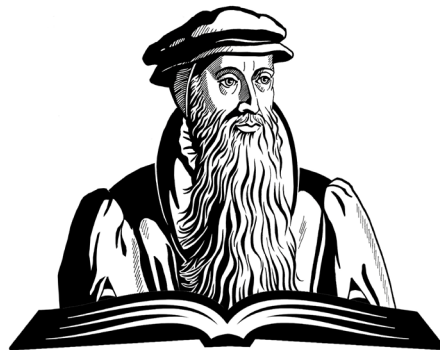
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 76:

Ahaz and Hezekiah

Lecture Presenter: Mr. Daniel Van Brugge



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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Mr. Daniel Van Brugge is a teacher at Timothy Christian School in Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada.

www.timothychristian.ca

Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

113 LESSONS

77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman

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|--|---|
| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 30. Let My People God |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 31. Deliverance |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People |
| 10. Abram: Called by God | 35. A Priest for the People |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
| 12. Melchizadek | 37. Worshiping God Rightly |
| 13. Righteous by Faith | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 14. Two Sons | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah | 43. Cities of Refuge |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | 44. A New Generation |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver | 45. Moses' Last Days |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | 47. A Promise to Rahab |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | 48. The Rise of Judges |
| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
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66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
- 76. Ahaz and Hezekiah**
77. The Captivity of Judah
78. Introduction to the Prophets
79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lions' Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

Lesson 76

Ahaz and Hezekiah

The Second Book of the Kings, chapters 16 thru 20,
and the Second Book of Chronicles, chapter 28 thru 32

Memory Verse

“O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou are the LORD God, even thou only.”

2 Kings 19:19

Historical Summary

When Ahaz became king over Judah, he did not obey God. Instead he was wicked like the kings of Israel. He burned his children as sacrifices, he burnt incense in the high places, and sacrificed to heathen gods. God punished Ahaz by sending armies from Syria and Israel to fight against him. The army of the king of Israel killed 120,000 men in Judah in one day. They also carried away captive 200,000 men, women, and children of Judah. But God sent a prophet to warn them to send them back. The princes in Israel repented and let them go. They clothed the naked ones, put shoes on their feet, gave them food and drink, and anointed them. They put the weak ones to ride on asses, and brought all of them to Jericho.



Instead of repenting, Ahaz called for help from the king of Assyria. Then he told Urijah the priest he should make an altar like the one in Assyria. This shows he had more respect for their king and their gods than he did for the Lord God. God sent prophets to warn Ahaz about his ways, but he hardened his heart. As a result, the king of Assyria turned against Ahaz, and attacked Judah. This same king also invaded Israel and carried many people away captive. In the place of the captives, he brought people in from foreign lands to dwell in Israel.

When Ahaz died, his son Hezekiah reigned in his stead. Hezekiah was a god-fearing king who wanted to restore the true worship of God in Judah. He reopened the house of God, cut down the heathen groves, strengthened the city walls, and encouraged the people to trust in the Lord. When this reforming work was done, Hezekiah proclaimed a feast to all Israel and Judah, calling them to come to the house of the Lord at Jerusalem to keep the passover, for they had not celebrated

the passover for a long time. Hezekiah's letter called all of Israel to return to the Lord God. Some mocked, but many came, and they removed all the pagan altars in Jerusalem. Thousands of animals were sacrificed in confessing and purging of sins. The participants feasted with their friends, offered up prayers, listened to God's word taught by the Levites, and sang Psalms. So glad were the people to keep this feast, that at the end, they extended it to last another seven days. Finally, the congregation was dismissed, and a blessing was pronounced upon the people.

Then Sennacharib, king of Assyria sent his army to conquer Judah, and encamped against all cities of Judah. Hezekiah built up the walls for protection, and he encouraged the people to be brave, for God would help them. He tried to stop the invasion by giving to the Assyrian king silver and gold from the temple, but it didn't work. Sennacharib's armies surrounded the city of Jerusalem. Sennacharib wrote a terrible letter to the people of Jerusalem, mocking Hezekiah for his confidence in Jehovah. He had his general Rabshakeh read it out loud in the language of the Jews to make the people surrender. The letter mocked God and said that soon Judah would be just like all the other captured nations who trusted in their gods.

When Hezekiah heard this mockery, he took that letter to the house of God, and laid it before the Lord in prayer. He knew that the army of the Assyrians was too strong for Judah, but not too strong for the Lord of Hosts. In humble dependence, he cried out unto God, and the Lord heard him. The Lord sent the prophet Isaiah to assure him that God would defend them. That night an angel of the Lord went through the camp of the Assyrians and killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. The king of Assyria returned to Assyria in shame, and there he was murdered by his own sons. Clearly, it was the Lord's hand that had saved Judah and helped King Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem.

After these things, Hezekiah became very sick, and the prophet Isaiah came and told him he would die. Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, and prayed to the Lord once again. The Lord heard the cry of his faithful servant, and Isaiah the prophet came to tell him that God would add fifteen years to his life. To assure Hezekiah of this, the Lord caused the sundial of Ahaz to go back ten degrees. So, Hezekiah was assured that he would live and that it was the Lord's sparing hand that helped him. Some time after this, he received a visit from the king of Babylon. Sadly, Hezekiah had become proud of all his possessions, and he showed the foreign king all the treasures of his house. Then God sent Isaiah to Hezekiah to tell him that because of his pride, he would lose all these treasures, and his sons would become humiliated slaves in a foreign land, but this would not happen until after his death.

The Gospel in the Old Testament

The mercy of the Lord is great. Time after time, Judah and Israel sinned against God. Yet the Lord did not immediately destroy them. Instead, he sent them prophets to call them back, and warnings to tell them they should repent and ask for mercy. When they did repent, God did show mercy. Often, he delivered them from what seemed like impossible circumstances. How is it possible that a holy God could show such mercy to guilty sinners? That was only possible because he would one day send his Son to suffer and die to be a sacrifice for sinners. That sacrifice

was pictured in the lambs that were often sacrificed at the temple before the eyes of a watching sinner. Forgiveness and reconciliation could only be found by faith in the coming Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. Which of the following are examples that show that Ahaz was a wicked king?
 - a. He fought against the king of Egypt about a claim to a certain piece of land.
 - b. He killed all the Lord's prophets in Jerusalem and Samaria.
 - c. He paid taxes to the wicked king of Egypt.
 - d. He burnt incense and sacrificed to the heathen gods.

2. Why were the children of Israel carried away captive by the king of Assyria?
 - a. The Assyrian king wanted revenge for the killing of his son.
 - b. Assyria was much stronger than Israel and had a bigger army.
 - c. Assyria was God-fearing nation and had a God-fearing king.
 - d. Israel refused to bow to God and obey His commandments.

3. What did Hezekiah do to try to appease Sennacherib when he assaulted Judah?
 - a. He offered him gold and silver.
 - b. He called on his large army to help drive out the wicked enemy.
 - c. He fled from Jerusalem and lived for some time in a cave with some friends.
 - d. He made a league with Egypt and together they defeated Sennacherib.

4. How was the large army of Sennacherib defeated?
 - a. Hezekiah set up an ambush and divided his army into three bands.
 - b. The armies of Judah and Egypt fought together and defeated Assyria.
 - c. An angel of the Lord went through and killed the 185,000 soldiers of Assyria.
 - d. A large thunderstorm made the enemy confused and they killed each other.

5. What sign did the Lord give to Hezekiah to show that he would recover from his sickness?
 - a. The fleece remained dry when the ground was covered with dew.
 - b. The fleece was covered with dew while the ground remained dry.
 - c. The sun dial went forward by ten degrees.
 - d. The sun dial went backward by ten degrees.

Essay Questions

1. Why did Ahaz want Urijah the priest to make an altar like the one he saw in Assyria? What lesson is there in this event for us?

2. What effect did the placing of foreigners in Israel have on the purity of religion there?

3. When Rabshekah stood and cried with a loud voice, he made all the men of Judah to fear. What lesson can be learn from this?

4. When Hezekiah received the letter from Sennacharib which mocked the Lord God, what did he do? What can we learn from his example?

5. Show from the later life of Hezekiah that even God's children have a sinful corrupt nature that Satan always tries to stir up to make them to sin.

6. Looking at the lives of Ahaz and Hezekiah, what can we learn about the way that God deals with sinners?
