

- b) List any decisions you are currently facing that have both near-term and long-term consequences.
- c) What near-term solutions are likely to eventually cause you grief and how could you apply Isaiah's advice (found in Isaiah 7:4-9 and 8:17)?

King Hezekiah of Judah: After reading the questions below, skim 2 Kings 18-20 with 2 Chronicles 29-32 and Isaiah 36-39 (there is much overlap between the books).

- 4) In 2 Kings 18:3-7 and 2 Chronicles 29-31, Hezekiah modeled tremendous spiritual leadership.
 - a) According to 2 Chronicles 29, what did Hezekiah do to demonstrate his top priority?
 - b) Can you think of reasons why the Passover celebration that was initiated by Hezekiah would have brought such great joy in Jerusalem (see 2 Chronicles 30:21, 23, 26 and Exodus 12:24-28, 13:10)?
 - c) List ways Hezekiah's spiritual leadership influenced others, according to 2 Chronicles 29-31, and record anything these events reveal about the nature of spiritual revival.
- 5) Regarding Sennacherib's invasion of Judah and his threat to Hezekiah and Jerusalem:
 - a) What was the prophet Isaiah's involvement, according to 2 Kings 19:1-7 and 2 Chronicles 32:20?
 - b) What practical steps did Hezekiah take when threatened, according to 2 Chronicles 32:3-8?
 - c) According to Isaiah 37:26, from where did the Assyrian king's success come?

d) What example does Hezekiah give in his prayer in Isaiah 37:14-20 that you need to begin using or emphasizing in your prayer life?

6) Compare 2 Kings 20:12-21 with 2 Kings 25:1, 11, 13-15. What seemingly innocent action of Hezekiah's played a part in an event of great significance many years later?

Kings Manasseh and Amon of Judah: Read 2 Kings 21, scanning its parallel in 2 Chronicles 33 for any additional information.

7) What do the passages above record about the evil Manasseh committed and the Lord's response?

8) Compare the length of Manasseh's reign to that of the other kings of Judah by referring to the chart you are maintaining. What evidence do you find in 2 Kings 21, 23:25-26, 24:2-4, and 2 Chronicles 33 that the length of Manasseh's reign and the degree to which he influenced the culture were related (see also 2 Kings 24:3-4)?

9) *Specifically*, what can you personally do to influence your culture away from evil and toward the Lord?

King Josiah of Judah: Read 2 Kings 22:1-23:30, scanning the parallel in 2 Chronicles 34-35 for additional information.

10) What event caused the spiritually sensitive Josiah to turn to God with all his heart?

11) Read 2 Timothy 3:16 and Hebrews 4:12. What testimony can you give about how the discipline of reading God's living and active word has influenced your life over the past weeks?

- 12)** Josiah was zealous for the Lord at a time when the tide of his culture had long been moving away from the Lord. Read 2 Kings 23:16-18 with 1 Kings 13:1-2, noting that God knew Josiah by name long before his birth. God also knew your name and the details of your life long before your birth. How does this knowledge comfort you regarding a specific event, work, or circumstance in your life?

Read the following questions and then search through Nahum and Zephaniah for the needed information.

- 13)** The Assyrian Empire existed for several centuries. Nahum prophesied against Nineveh many years after Jonah had preached there, and presumably, not too long before its fall (probably sometime between the latter years of Manasseh's reign and the beginning of Josiah's reform). Skim the book, if time allows, or at least read Nahum 1:1-3, 7-8, 14; 2:1, 13; 3:7, 13, 18-19. From this reading and from your study in previous lessons, how was Assyria both God's instrument and God's enemy?
- 14)** Zephaniah prophesied during Josiah's reign (1:1), proclaiming the day of the Lord's judgment against Judah. In the following verses, what warning or consolation is given that applies to people of all time?
- a) Zephaniah 1:12
 - b) Zephaniah 2:1-3
 - c) Zephaniah 3:5
 - d) Zephaniah 3:12-13, 17
- 15)** While Judah and its capital, Jerusalem, were on the verge of facing God's judgment, God was already promising to restore a remnant and offer salvation to people of all nations (Zephaniah 3:9, 12). What do you learn about God from Zephaniah 3:9-20?