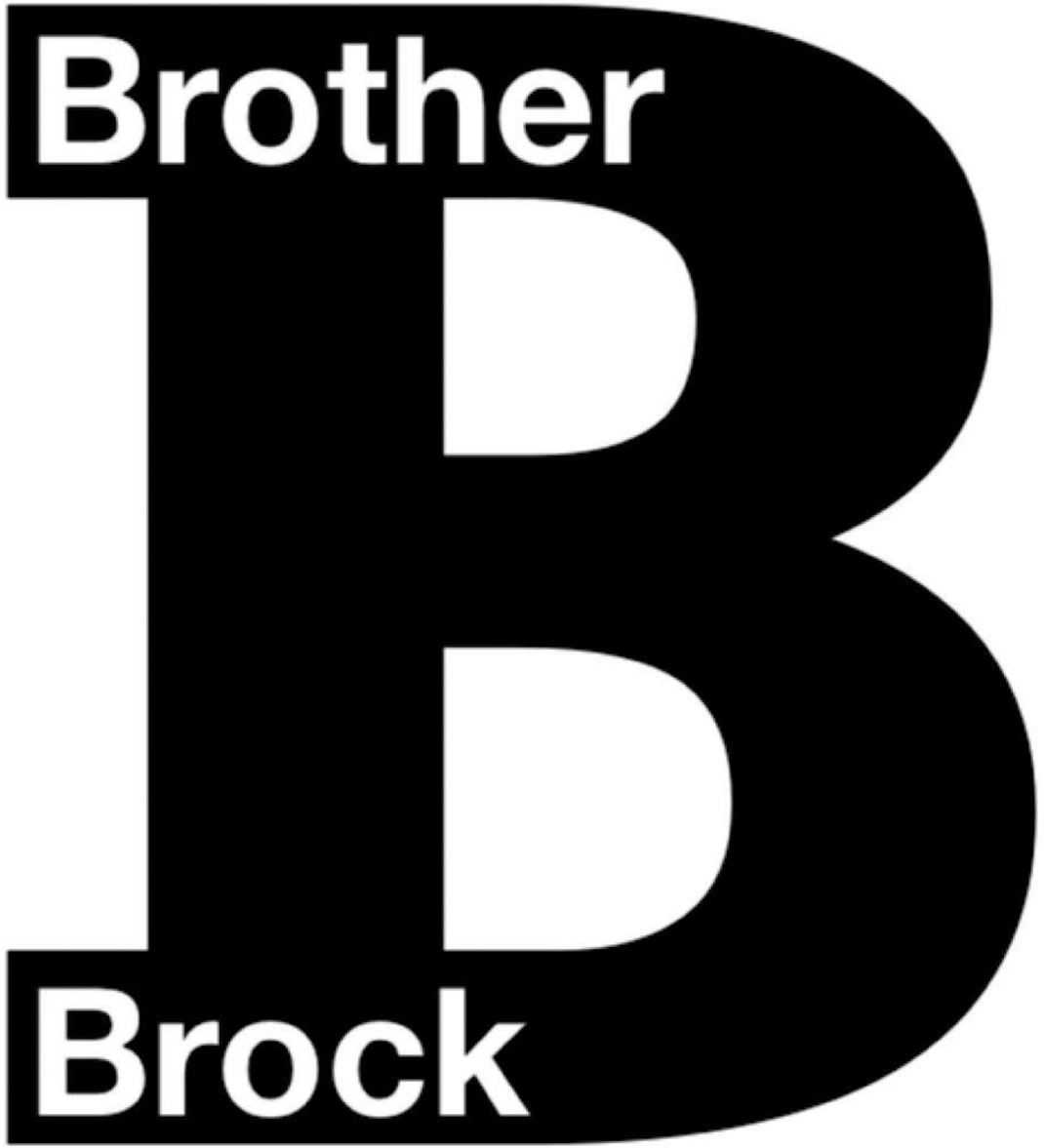
“Come to the House of the Lord”

Old Testament Lesson 30:
2 Chronicles 29–30; 32; 34



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Reading Spoons

- Each week there is a selection of wooden spoons at the front of the class. Volunteers can take a spoon. If you need to leave the class, please leave the spoon behind.
- Every time a scripture needs to be read, a spoon holder raises their spoon when they have it. I will then choose a spoon holder to read the scripture.
- As a thank you for volunteering, spoon holders will never be asked to expand upon a scripture or a related question (unless they offer to do so themselves).
- This approach allows the rest of the class to follow along and think about the scripture.

52 Week Challenge Through The Old Testament - Week 32

Job 39 to Psalms 28

- Unicorn (Job 39:9 and Psalm 22:21) is a Hebrew word meaning buffalo or bison (LDS Bible footnote). Unicorn is the the King James Version word for several related Hebrew terms that modern translations render as “wild ox” (Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
- JST changes Psalm 15:1 from “who shall dwell in thy holy hill?” to “who shall dwell in thy holy hill of Zion?”
- “render to them their desert”, desert means ‘due reward’ (Psalm 28:4).
- Next weeks reading: Psalms 29 to Psalms 56.

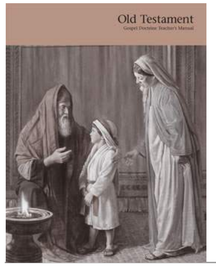
2 Chronicles 29-30; 32; 34

Hezekiah reigns in righteousness and restores the worship of Jehovah—The Levites cleanse and sanctify the house of the Lord—The priests offer sacrifices and make reconciliation and atonement for the people—Hezekiah and all the people worship the Lord and praise His name.

Hezekiah invites all Israel to a solemn Passover in Jerusalem—Some accept the call; others laugh him to scorn—The faithful Israelites worship the Lord in Jerusalem.

Sennacherib invades Judah and besieges the cities—He rails against the Lord—Isaiah and Hezekiah pray, and an angel destroys the leaders of the Assyrian armies—Hezekiah reigns in righteousness despite some pride in his heart.

Josiah destroys idolatry in Judah—The people of Judah repair the house of the Lord—Hilkiah finds a book of the law—Huldah the prophetess reveals the desolations to come upon the people—Josiah and the people covenant to serve the Lord.



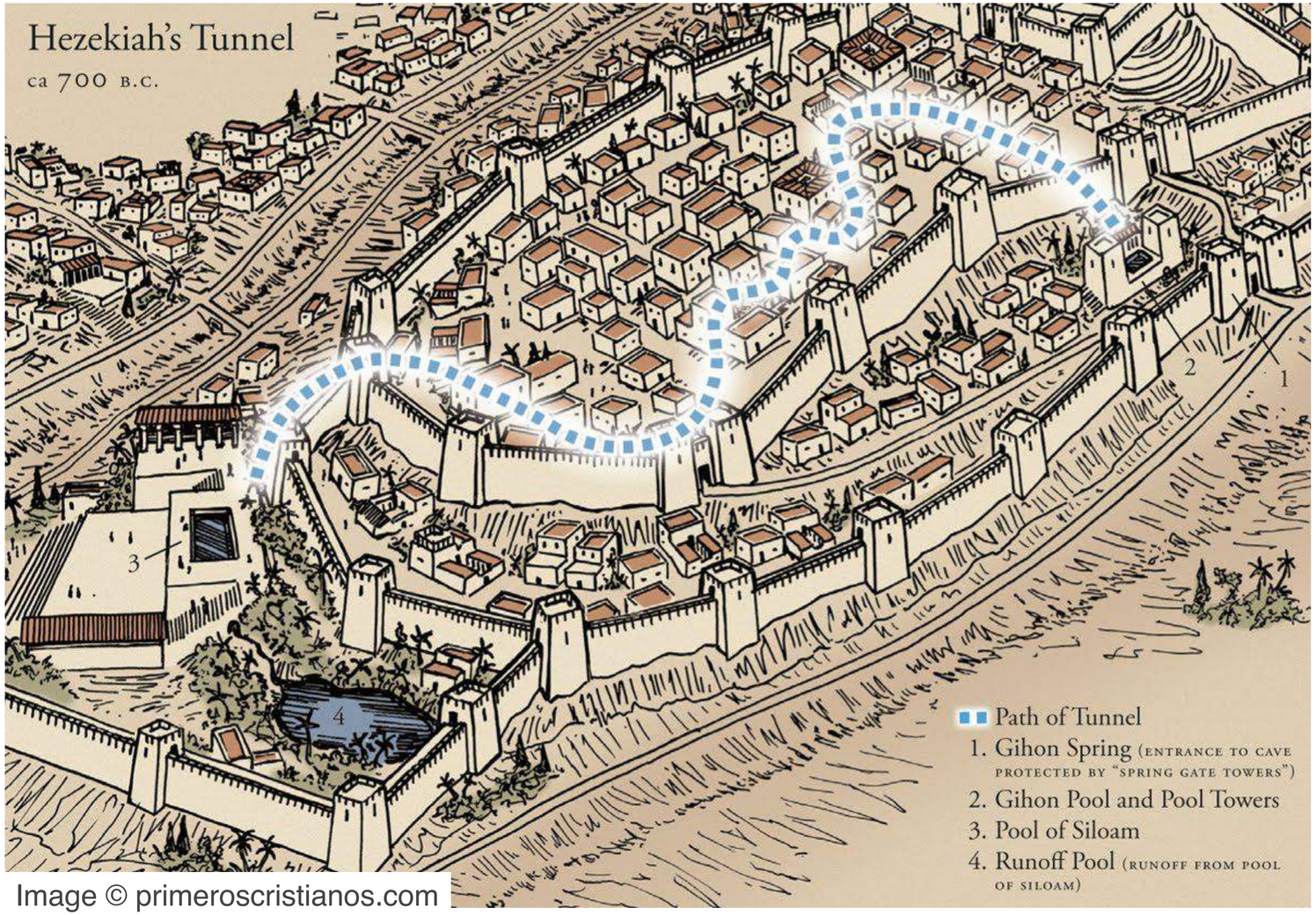
Hezekiah's Tunnel

To help defend Jerusalem against attacks by the Assyrians, King Hezekiah diverted the water of the spring of Gihon to the pool of Siloam, inside the city walls (2 Chronicles 32:2–4, 30; Bible Dictionary, "Hezekiah's Tunnel," 702). This was done by digging a conduit (tunnel) for the water through about 1770 feet of limestone rock. Hezekiah then ordered that the fountains outside the city be covered to deny the Assyrians easy access to the water. Without this water inside the walls of the city, the people of Jerusalem would not have survived the siege by the Assyrians.

CLOSER LOOK

Hezekiah's Tunnel

Photo © 2014 Eve & George DeLange



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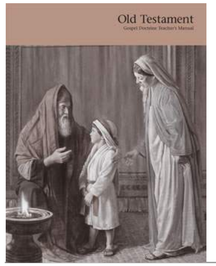
CLOSER LOOK Hezekiah's Tunnel

The water from the spring of Gihon was vital for the physical survival of Hezekiah's people during their battles with the Assyrians, living water is essential for our spiritual survival during our battles with Satan.

Q. What is living water? (See John 4:10–14.)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie explained that living water is "the words of eternal life, the message of salvation, the truths about God and his kingdom; it is the doctrines of the gospel"

Q. How can we open a conduit to the Lord so that living water can flow in our lives?



Hezekiah's Tunnel

One way to receive living water is to go to the temple, the house of the Lord, where we may be endowed with power and understanding, be instructed by the Lord, and feel peace and joy.

Worship in the temple was an important protection for the Israelites in Hezekiah's time, and it can also be an important protection for us today.

CLOSER LOOK Kings of Judah: Jehoshaphat to Ahaz

Jehoshaphat was the last good king of Judah we discussed.
He ruled for 25 years.

872 - 848 BC

Jehoram (firstborn of Jehoshaphat) was a bad king killing his brothers.
Ruled for 7 years.

848 - 841 BC

Ahaziah was a bad king he followed Idol worship.
Ruled for 1 year.

Athaliah (wife to Jehoram) was a bad queen she ruled for 7 years. She organised to have the heirs to the throne (her own grandchildren) killed.

841 - 835 BC

CLOSER LOOK Kings of Judah: Jehoshaphat to Ahaz

Joash (Jehoash) was an okay king repairing the temple, but then turned to Idol worship and killed his cousin. Ruled for 40 years.

835 - 796 BC

Amaziah (son of Joash) was an okay king he ruled for 29 years.

796 - 767 BC

Azariah (Uzziah) was an okay king he ruled age 16 for 52 years.

792 - 740 BC

Jotham (son of Azariah) an okay king he lead righteously but idolatry continued. Ruled for 16 years.

750 - 735 BC

Ahaz (son of Jotham) was a bad king he sacrificed his children as a burnt offering. Ruled for 16 years. He also desecrated the temple. Read 2 Chronicles 28:24

735 - 715 BC

CLOSER LOOK Kings of Judah: Hezekiah

Hezekiah (son of Ahaz) was a good king. Ruled for 29 years.

One of the first things he did when he became king: Read 2 Chronicles 29:3-5.

Why did the temple need to be sanctified? Read v6-7.

What happened to the people of Judah because they disregarded temple worship? Read v8-9.

What did King Hezekiah hope to achieve by introducing temple worship? Read v10.

What did King Hezekiah do once the temple was cleansed? Read v20-21, 29-31, 36.

715 - 686 BC

CLOSER

OOK Ki of

Hez

The invitation:

Read 2 Chr. 30:1,6

The response:

Read 2 Chr. 30:10-11

The lost blessings:

Read 2 Chr. 30:6-9

By the time of Hezekiah's reign, much of the kingdom of Israel [the Northern Kingdom] had been taken captive by the Assyrians. Hezekiah promised the remaining Israelites that if they would "turn again unto the Lord," the captives would be released. Instead, most of the people of Israel rejected Hezekiah's invitation. Because of the wickedness of the people, the remainder of the kingdom of Israel was taken captive several years later [2 Kings 18:10–12]. The captive Israelites became the lost ten tribes.)

715 - 686 BC

CLOSER LOOK Kings of Judah: Manassah to Amon

Manassah (son of Hezekiah) was a bad king. He placed idols in the temples and lead the people to sin. He eventually humbled himself and repented before his death. He ruled for 55 years.

697 - 642 BC

Amon (son of Manassah) was a bad king. He worshipped the idols his father had made. He did not repent and was killed by his own servants. Ruled for 2 years.

642 - 640 BC

CLOSER LOOK Kings of Judah: Josiah

Josiah (son of Amon, grandson of Manessah, great grandson of Hezekiah) was a good king. Ruled for 31 years and was the last good king Judah had.

> He became king aged eight.
>
> What kind of person was he? Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-2 and 2 Kings 23:25. (Note 2 Chronicles 2:34:2 mentions David, this is King David - he was a forefather not a literal father.)
>
> What did Josiah do early in his reign as king? Read 2 Chronicles 34:3-8. Remember he was only 15 or 16 when he made these changes.
>
> The high priest Hilkiah made a significant discovery whilst renovating the temple. Read 2 Chronicles 34:14.

640 - 609 BC

King Josiah and the Book of the Law

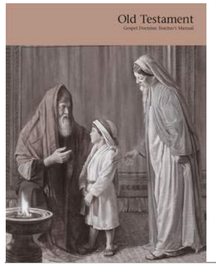
[04:41]

Click to Watch

bit.do/OT-2018-30-Video1

President Spencer W. Kimball

“The Lord is not trifling with us when he gives us these [scriptures], for ‘unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.’ (Luke 12:48.) Access to these [scriptures] means responsibility for them. We must study the scriptures according to the Lord’s commandment (see 3 Ne. 23:1–5); and we must let them govern our lives.”

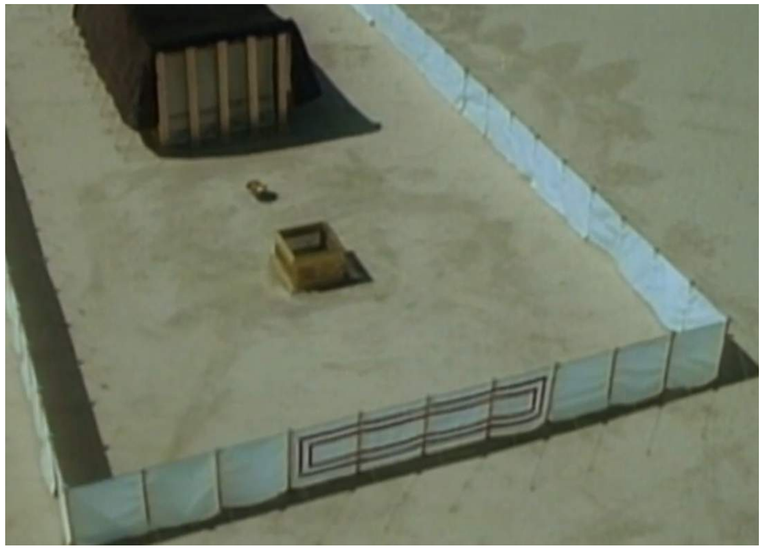


Temple Covenants and Scriptures

While Josiah and his people were at the temple, they made a covenant with the Lord. In our day, in the temple we make sacred covenants with the Lord, the fulfillment of which will bring us earthly blessings and eternal exaltation.

The people in the kingdom of Judah eventually became so wicked that the Lord allowed them to be taken captive (2 Chronicles 36:14–21). During their reigns, however, Hezekiah and Josiah had sought to strengthen the people by turning their attention to the temple and the scriptures.

Click the following to learn more:



Ancient Temples: A visual tour of a representation of Moses' tabernacle helps us understand temple worship and the Atonement of Jesus Christ (Video length 8:45)

"What did King Josiah Reform?"
Brigham Young University
address by Margaret Barker

PDF

MP3

Time to Ponder…..

Q. Do you think the Book of the Law was ‘lost’ or preserved for the time of King Josiah’s reign? Does this change how you feel about this story?

Q. How can temple attendance be a protection? What can we do to make temple worthiness and attendance a priority in our lives?

Q. How can we follow Josiah’s example and teach our family the laws of the gospel?

Mormon Temples: The Blessings of the Temple

[03:32]

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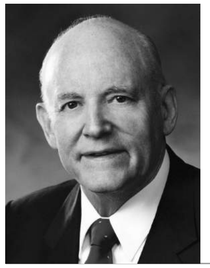

President Howard W. Hunter

“Let us be a temple-attending people. Attend the temple as frequently as personal circumstances allow. Keep a picture of a temple in your home that your children may see it. Teach them about the purposes of the house of the Lord. Have them plan from their earliest years to go there and to remain worthy of that blessing.

“If proximity to a temple does not allow frequent attendance, gather in the history of your family and prepare the names for the sacred ordinances performed only in the temple. This family research is essential to the work of the temples, and blessings surely will come to those who do that work”

Closing thoughts...

- King Josiah realised the word of God when he heard it. He took upon himself the responsibility to teach and warn his people. Do we realise the importance of our role in living and teaching by the scriptures?
- The temple is a wonderful place. Have you considered how blessed you are to live in this, the final dispensation where temple Covenants are restored upon the earth?
- I promise you, that if we do the best we can to live worthily, seeking counsel and direction by reading from the scriptures daily; we can prepare ourselves to attend the temple for our family ancestors or in our time of need. We will receive promptings and reassurance from heaven through our scripture reading and temple worship.

Next weeks reading assignment

Lesson 31 - Online link

“Happy Is the Man That Findeth Wisdom”

Proverbs and Ecclesiastes

Online link to today’s first slide picture

Online link to today’s reverence music source