**April 28, 2019**

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Sunday School Times

***Stuff For Today***

• Punctuation

• Life Truth #6

• How many times can you tell a story before people begin to take notice and wonder why you are telling it over and over?

Published almost weekly, but more like…..whenever, so get used to it, OK?

# A Story x Three = ?

**By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com**

***II Kings 18-20***

***II Chronicles 29-32***

***Isaiah 36-39***

History from a textbook consists of names, dates and events of interest. The Biblical record, divine history, is not merely a chronicle of past occurrences. There are spiritual truths cast, and many times hidden, in the narrative. Scripture details past experiences rarely more than twice. God saw fit to pass down to us a few facets of Hezekiah’s reign over Judah. He did so with three distinctive authors, three varying viewpoints, and placed the information in three different locations in the Bible. That act flags this small portion of the historical record as noteworthy, even though the events are relatively insignificant and minor compared to the rest of the world of that day.

Of the twenty-one kings who ruled over Judah following the reign of David, none are equal to Hezekiah. If David was number one in God’s eyes, Hezekiah was number two. His reign is one of transforming the struggling southern kingdom back into what it was meant to be, a nation the entire world would look upon with respect because of their relationship to Jehovah God. His father, Ahaz, had boarded up the temple and urged the nation to worship pagan gods. Hezekiah took his position as the leader of Judah upon the death of his father, when he was but twenty-five years of age. One has to admire his conviction and drive. He opened the doors of the temple again, and cleaned it. He, having discovered the truth of the Law, for the book had been lost and forgotten, reintroduced the practices once again. Temple worship had been restored after a very long time of neglect. Return to the Word of God always results in great things.

It is fitting that the first nationwide celebration would be the Passover. That meal in Egypt was a turning point for Israel, and an appropriate place to begin again this second time. Recall that the northern kingdom of Israel had been taken by Assyrian invaders during the reign of Ahaz. Hezekiah did one of the classiest, most proper and admirable things any king could have done. He invited everyone from the northern kingdom who would like, and was able, to join in the celebration in Jerusalem. Many availed themselves of the opportunity, and a wonderful time was experienced by all, so much so that they extended the celebration an extra week in length. Revival had begun in Judah, a very rare commodity to be sure.

Hezekiah immediately began clearing the land of idols. The very successful campaign netted at least one interesting catch. Many years before, when Israel was wandering in the desert, they disobeyed God. He promptly sent deadly serpents among them. Many died, but God chose to supply a remedy. Moses built a brazen serpent, put it on a pole, and anyone who looked to the serpent on the pole lived. We are told of the parallel to Jesus in John 3:14-15. The pole, with its bronze sculpture, was a picture of the future cross that Jesus would die on. Over the years, there were those who attributed the healing in the desert to the pole and its serpent, rather than to God, who had performed the healing. They developed a more than mere sentimental attachment to it and began worshipping it, calling it Nehushtan. Hezekiah found this relic, called it what it was, and destroyed the four or five hundred year old artifact.

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**Pray Without Ceasing**

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

1. God, grant me the serenity to accept stupid people as they are, the courage to maintain self-control and the wisdom to know that if I act on it, I will end up in jail.

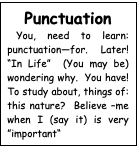
2. Dear God, did you really mean for a giraffe to look like that, or was that just an accident?

3. Dear God, I thank you for my younger brother. But what I really prayed for was a puppy.

4. Dear God, I have a wonderful suggestion for you. Please change the taste of asparagus and brussell sprouts to cotton candy.

5. Dear God, it must be very difficult for you to love everyone in the world. I have only four people in my family and I can’t even do that.

6. Dear God, So far today I think that I’ve done pretty well. I haven’t gossiped, or lost my temper. I haven’t been greedy, crabby, mean, or nasty. I haven’t lied or stolen anything either. I am very grateful for that. But God, now I’m going to need a lot more help with these things. I have to get out of bed in a few minutes.



**For your own safety, please do not stop here and read, there is nothing to see. Go on to another article. Thank you.**

**Life Truth #6**

Daddys are right 97% of the time.

Nobody cares about the other 4%.