

There was now a new emperor in Germany, Charles V and the powers of the church in Rome demanded his help to stop the reformation started by Luther. A council of princes was due to meet in the town of Worms so Aleander, the legate or representative from Rome was given the chance to present Rome's case against Luther. Most of the princes seemed convinced until they moved onto the next item - the corruption and greed in the church, presented by Duke George of Saxony who was not a supporter of Luther.

The council decided they must interview Luther so Luther set out for Worms with some friends and at every town people flocked to see and hear him. Before arriving word came that his writings had been condemned and when he finally stood before the council he was asked if he would retract or take back what he had said in his books. Luther asked for time to consider the question and returned the next morning to give his answer.

He said the answer was not simple since the books fell into different categories. Even his enemies agreed his books about faith and good works were valuable. Other books were about the corruptions in the church and to retract them would make the corruption worse. Still others were about individuals who defended or carried out various evil practices, perhaps some of these were overly harsh but still, he said, to retract them would cause more harm than good. After speaking in German Luther was asked to repeat his answer in Latin which gave the princes more time to understand his reasoning.

The emperor decided that he would uphold the position of the previous emperor in supporting the official church, but refused to violate the promise of safe-conduct given to Luther and ordered Luther to return home.

Although he had not declared himself a friend of Luther in the council of Worms, Duke Frederick of Saxony knew that Luther's life would be in danger as soon as he arrived home so he arranged for Luther to be kidnapped on the way home; not even Frederick would know where he had been taken. Luther was hidden in the castle of Wartburg in the mountains where he rested for a while before resuming his study and writing again. It was while he was here that he translated the Bible into German and also wrote many tracts - handouts that were circulated throughout Germany,

Warnings

Sabbath

Here is a table of the kings of Judah and Israel. Look up the Bible verses to find out which ones loved God. Shade them according to whether they loved God. Yellow = loved God, Green = in between and Blue = worshipped idols.

Kings of JUDAH			Kings of ISRAEL		
Rehoboam	17 years	1 Kings 14:22	Jeroboam	22 years	1 Kings 13:33
Abijah	3 years	1 Kings 15:3	Nadab	1 year	1 Kings 15:26
Asa	41 years	1 Kings 13:11	Baasha	24 years	1 Kings 15:34
			Elah	2 years	1 Kings 16:13
			Omri	12 years	1 Kings 16:30
			Ahab	22 years	1 Kings 16:30
Jehoshaphat	25 years	1 Kings 22:43	Ahaziah	2 years	1 Kings 22:52
Jehoram	8 years	2 Kings 8:18	Joram	12 years	2 Kings 3:2
Ahaziah	1 year	2 Kings 8:27	Jehu	28 years	2 Kings 10:30-31
Queen Athalia	6 years	2 Kings 8:26; 11:1			
Joash	40 years	2 Kings 12:2-3			
Amaziah	29 years	2 Kings 14:3	Jehoahaz	17 years	2 Kings 13:2
Azariah also known as Uzziah	52 years	2 Kings 15:3	Jehoash	16 years	2 Kings 13:11
			Jeroboam II	41 years	2 Kings 14:24
			Zechariah	6 months	2 Kings 15:9
Jotham	16 years	2 Kings 15:34	Shallum	1 month	
Ahaz	16 years	2 Kings 16:2	Menahem	10 years	2 Kings 15:18
Hezekiah	29 years	2 Kings 18:3	Pekahiah	2 years	2 Kings 15:24
			Pekah	21 years	2 Kings 15:28
			Hoshea	9 years	2 Kings 17:2

Do you notice anything interesting?

Year 2, Quarter 2, Week 2, Level: "Pre/Teens"

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Refer: 2 Chronicles 31:20, 21; 32:1-11, 20-23; 2 Kings 20:1-11 NLT; Prophets and Kings p331-336; The Bible Story vol5 p127-132, 154-162

Sunday

In the twelfth year of King Ahaz' reign in Judah, Hoshea assassinated Pekah and became the next king of Israel. Hoshea did not worship God. Israel had been paying taxes to Assyria, but when Hoshea rebelled, the King of Assyria came and captured Samaria; he took the people away to Assyria, put Hoshea in prison and brought other people to live there. This happened because Israel had not heeded the warnings from God. God had warned them through the prophet Hosea; He even used Hosea's family as a parable: Hosea's wife was unfaithful and ran away but Hosea forgave her and brought her back. Israel was unfaithful to God and had left Him, but God still loved them and wanted them back. The prophet Amos received warnings for Aram, the Philistines, Tyre, Edmon, Ammon, Moab, Judah and Israel. He called the people of Israel and Judah to stop worshipping idols and to turn from evil. Micah had a similar message, calling the leaders of Judah and Israel to turn from evil and lead the people to do right or punishment would come

Three years after Hoshea became king, Ahaz' son, Hezekiah became the king of Judah. Hezekiah worshipped God; he reopened the temple which Ahaz had closed and removed the places of idol worship. He called the people from Judah and Israel to come and celebrate the Passover and they had so much fun they stayed an extra week, worshipping and praising God. Hezekiah rebelled against Assyria and was successful in all he did.

Many years later, Sennacherib, another Assyrian king attacked Judah. In Jerusalem Hezekiah ordered that the water outside the city be blocked, the wall repaired and towers and a second wall built. Hezekiah said to the people, "Be strong! Don't be afraid. Our enemies have a great army but God is stronger! We have the Lord to fight for us!" But after several cities were captured Hezekiah promised to pay anything if they would stop. Sennacherib demanded 300 talents of silver and 30 of gold so Hezekiah took the gold from the doors of the temple to pay. Sennacherib did not leave, instead he sent his commander to discourage the people of Jerusalem. But the prophet Isaiah said, "Do not be afraid, God will call Sennacherib away."

Friday

What did Peter say when ordered to stop preaching about Jesus?

Acts 5:29_{NLT}, "We must _ _ _ _ God rather than any _ _ _ _ authority."

Martin Luther believed this, and if the kings of Israel had followed this advice they would have saved themselves a lot of trouble.

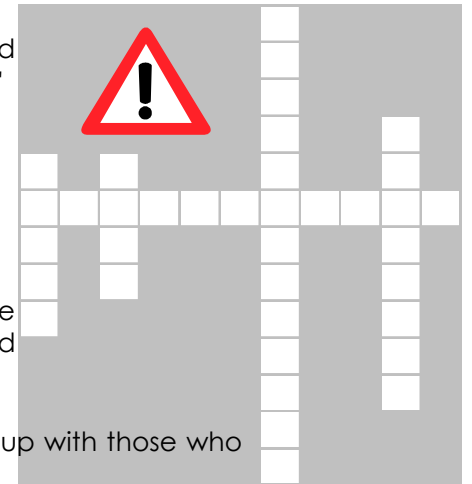
Here is another piece of advice that would have saved them and can save you a lot of trouble:

2 Corinthians 6:14_{NLT}, "Don't team up with those who are _ _ _ _ _ . How can _ _ _ _ _ be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with _ _ _ _ _ ?"

If King David and King Solomon had followed this advice the story of the Israelites would have been very different. Look at the chart on the first page and notice that Judah had a mix of good and bad kings. The Bible only tells us who some of their wives and mothers were but if you look them up, it soon becomes obvious that Kings who loved God had sons who worshipped idols because they had married wives who worshipped idols; if they had married women who loved God – their sons would have loved God too.

Choosing a marriage partner and business partners who love God, will save you a heap of trouble in the long run.

Matthew 24:4-14 has some special warnings for those of us who are living near the end of the world. Read it and write the warnings in your own words.

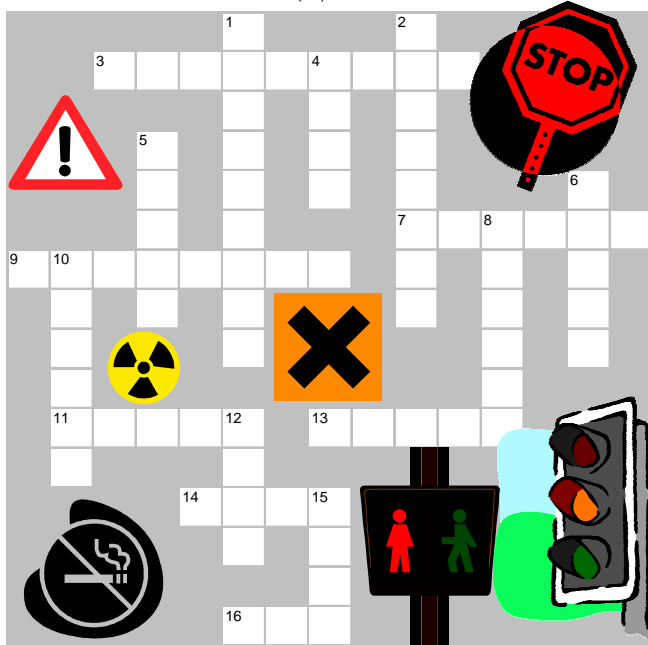


Thursday

Look up 2 Kings 17:13, "Again and again the _____ (15d) had sent His prophets and seers to warn both Israel and Judah: "_____ (4d) from all your evil ways. Obey my commands and decrees—the entire law that I commanded your _____ (3a) to obey and that I gave you through my servants the _____ (2d).

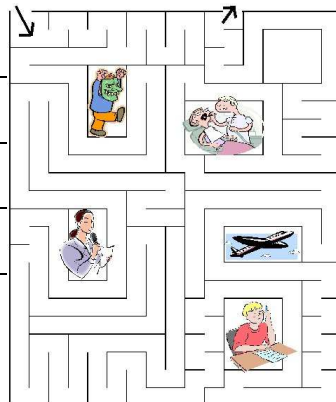
Here are some of people who gave warnings, fit the people along with the missing words into the grid.

**God, Moses,
David, Elijah,
Elisha, Isaiah,
Jeremiah,
Hosea, Joel,
Amos, Micah,
Zephaniah**



Many of the same warnings are still relevant for us today. Read this warning and write it in your own words.

Proverbs 3:5-6



Find a way through the maze of things that might seem scary. Draw something else in the blank square.

Monday

Sennacherib had to stop his latest campaign when he received a report that the king of Cush was coming to fight, but first he sent a letter to Hezekiah, telling of all the kings he had killed - kings whose gods had been powerless to stop him. Hezekiah took the letter to the temple and prayed, and a message came to Isaiah: God had heard Sennacherib's boasting.

That night an angel of the Lord put to death 185,000 soldiers in the Assyrian camp so they returned home.

One day Hezekiah became deathly sick, and the prophet Isaiah went to visit him with this message: "This is what the Lord says: Get ready because you are going to die."

Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed, "Lord, I have always obeyed You." Then he broke down and cried.

Before Isaiah had left the palace, another message came: "Go back and tell Hezekiah I have heard his prayer. I will heal him and give him fifteen more years."

When Hezekiah asked for a sign, Isaiah said, "Would you like the shadow on the sundial to go forward ten extra steps or backward?" "The shadow always moves forward," Hezekiah said, "Make it go ten steps backward instead."
















So the Lord made the sun move backwards so that the shadow on the sundial moved ten steps back!














Soon after that Marduk-Baladan the son of the king of Babylon sent visitors to Hezekiah, he had heard of his illness - maybe he had even seen the sun go backward. Hezekiah proudly showed them everything: his storehouses, his armoury, treasures - everything.

After they left, Isaiah the prophet came and asked about the men and what they had seen. Then Isaiah said, "Hear this word from the Lord: They will be back and they will carry everything of yours to Babylon, including some of your descendants."

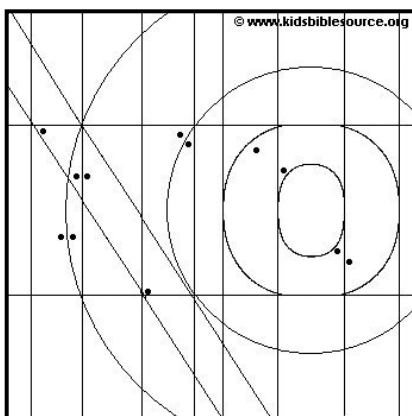
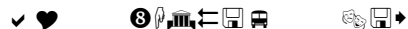
Tuesday

Hezekiah did not give up when King Sennacherib of Assyria came to attack his city. Instead he prepared for the battle and then called the people together to encourage them.

												
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

												
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

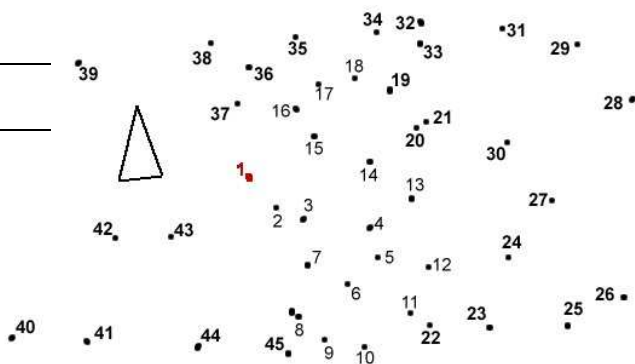
Use the code to find out what he said to the people?



Did God want Hezekiah to strip the gold from the temple to give to Sennacherib? Colour the shapes that contain a dot.

What did God do when Hezekiah asked for help? 2 Kings 19:35-36

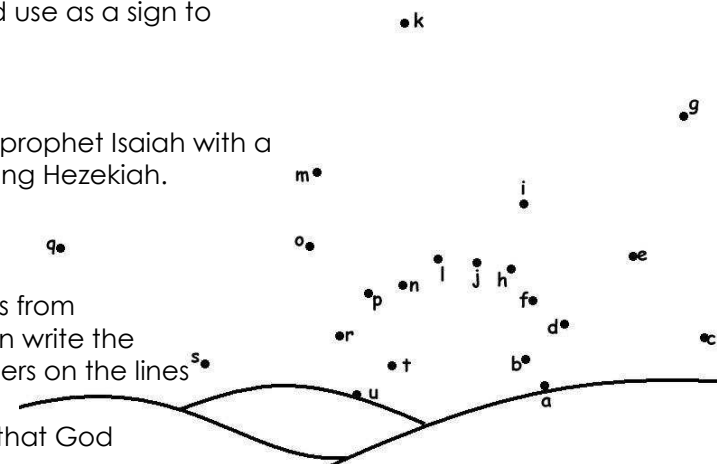
What did Hezekiah have to do?

Wednesday

What did God use as a sign to Hezekiah?

God sent the prophet Isaiah with a message to King Hezekiah.

Find the words from our lesson then write the remaining letters on the lines below to see another way that God speaks to us.

[illegible]

Do you remember when the Queen of Sheba visited King Solomon?
What did she say afterwards? 1 Kings 10:9

Hezekiah had missed an opportunity to tell the people of Babylon about God.