

Aim:**Refer:** 2 Kings; Great Controversy chapter 7

There was now a new emperor in Germany, Charles V and the powers of the church in Rome sent demands for his help to stop the reformation started by Luther. A council of princes was due to meet in the town of Worms and Aleander, the legate or representative from Rome, argued against having Luther speak - he was afraid they would be convinced by Luther's clear arguments. Aleander was given the chance to present Rome's case against Luther instead.

The council listened to Aleanders testimony and seemed convinced. Then 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, but coming as it did after Aleanders testimony, the council decided they must interview Luther.

Luther set out for Worms with some friends and at every town, people flocked to see and hear him.

Before he arrived 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.

Luther had spoken in German and now he was asked to repeat his answer in Latin which he did; this gave the princes more time to understand what he was saying.

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

Using the chart from the front page of the Pre/Teen lesson – look up the verses for the kings on the Israel side and colour them in to indicate which ones followed God and which ones didn't.

What do you see? Do you think God had noticed?

- What did Elijah say to the people on Mount Carmel? (If the Lord is God follow Him)
- Why had God sent the drought? (Because the people were worshipping idols - 1 Kings 18:18)
- *Have a good reader:* Read Amos 4:6-12 (God tells of the things He did to get their attention)
- *Have a good reader:* Read Micah 3:1-4 (Chances are Micah didn't really mean that they were eating people – although there were times when they copied the idol worshipping nations around them and did some pretty disgusting things – more likely he was trying to tell them that the things the leaders were doing, would cause the people to die, just as much as killing and eating them would cause them to die)

There were many, many more prophets and warnings than these but the people just wouldn't listen.

Last week we talked about warnings that parent's give their children last week – let's talk about the reasons behind the warnings and the final consequences if you ignore the warnings...

Make a list: WARNING – REASON – CONSEQUENCES

There are actually two records about Hezekiah in the Bible, one is found in 2 Kings 18-20 and the other in 2 Chronicles 29-32

Was Hezekiah a good king? 2 Chronicles 29:2-3 (yes – he reopened the temple)

What else did he do? 2 Chronicles 30:1

The Passover was a lot like our Big Camp because it was one of the few times when everyone who could came together to one place to worship God. The celebrated the Passover for one week and then decided they were enjoying it so much they extended it a second week.

2 Chronicles 32:1-8

In Bible times, cities and towns were built with a strong wall around them for protection and the land of Judah had many such towns and cities. Now as Hezekiah waited in Jerusalem, news came that city after city was being defeated by Sennacherib. He captured them by laying siege to them – he surrounded them with his army and told them to give up and surrender – if they didn't surrender he would keep his army around them so they could get out to get food and he probably built battering rams or something similar to work at bashing through the walls.

2 Kings 18:14-16

Does it say that Hezekiah asked God what to do or that God told him to pay the gold and silver?

Sennacherib wasn't happy with just gold and silver. He sent his commander back with a long message designed to discourage the people. In 2 Kings 18:33 he said, "Has the gold of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria?" It seems that Sennacherib had always been successful in his conquests.

Hezekiah turned the problem over to God. What did God do? 2 Kings 19:35-36

What can you learn from this story of Hezekiah?

What should you do when you are worried?

Read Philippians 4:6-7 - *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* NLT

After Hezekiah's recovery, visitors arrived from Babylon; they had heard about Hezekiah's recovery – it doesn't say if they had seen the sun go backward.

What did Hezekiah do with his visitors? 2 Kings 20:13

After they left the Prophet Isaiah came to Hezekiah – what was his message from God? 2 Kings 20:17

Hezekiah showed his visitors everything he owned – what other things could he have done instead?

Discuss: When we have a visitor to our house do we show them everything we own? What other things could we do when we have visitors?