

Now in the time of his distress King Ahaz became increasingly unfaithful to the LORD. This is that King Ahaz.



For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus which had defeated him, saying, "Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, I will sacrifice to them that they may help me." But they were the ruin of him and of all Israel.





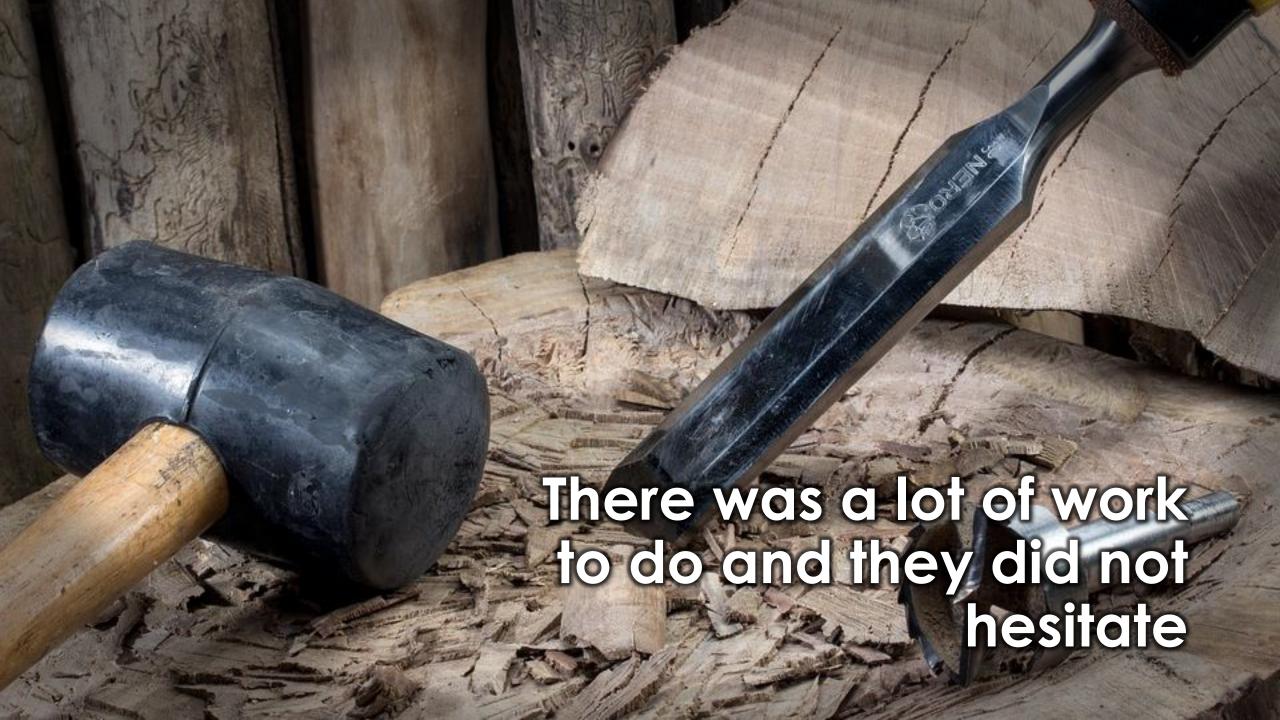
So Ahaz rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, in Jerusalem; but they did not bring him into the tombs of the kings of Israel. Then Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.





In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them.





And they gathered their brethren, sanctified themselves, and went according to the commandment of the king, at the words of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the LORD.





Hezekiah Restores Temple Worship





Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced that God had prepared the people, since the events took place so suddenly.





For they could not keep it at the regular time, because a sufficient number of priests had not consecrated themselves, nor had the people gathered together at Jerusalem.







And do not be like your fathers and your brethren, who trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, so that He gave them up to desolation, as you see.



So the runners passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun; but they laughed at them and mocked them.



Nevertheless some from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem.



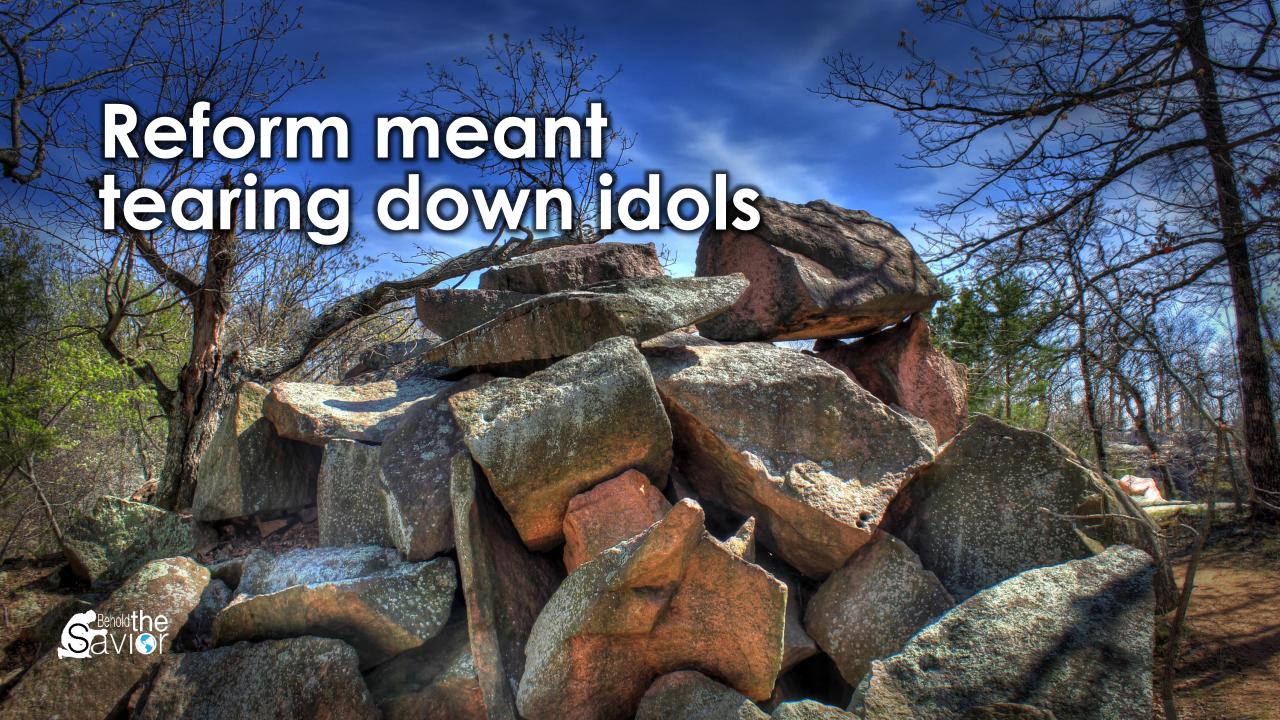


And Hezekiah gave encouragement to all the Levites who taught the good knowledge of the LORD;



and they ate throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings and making confession to the LORD God of their fathers.







And the children of Israel and Judah, who dwelt in the cities of Judah, brought the tithe of oxen and sheep;

2 Chronicles 31:6a



also the tithe of holy things which were consecrated to the LORD their God they laid in heaps.

2 Chronicles 31:6b





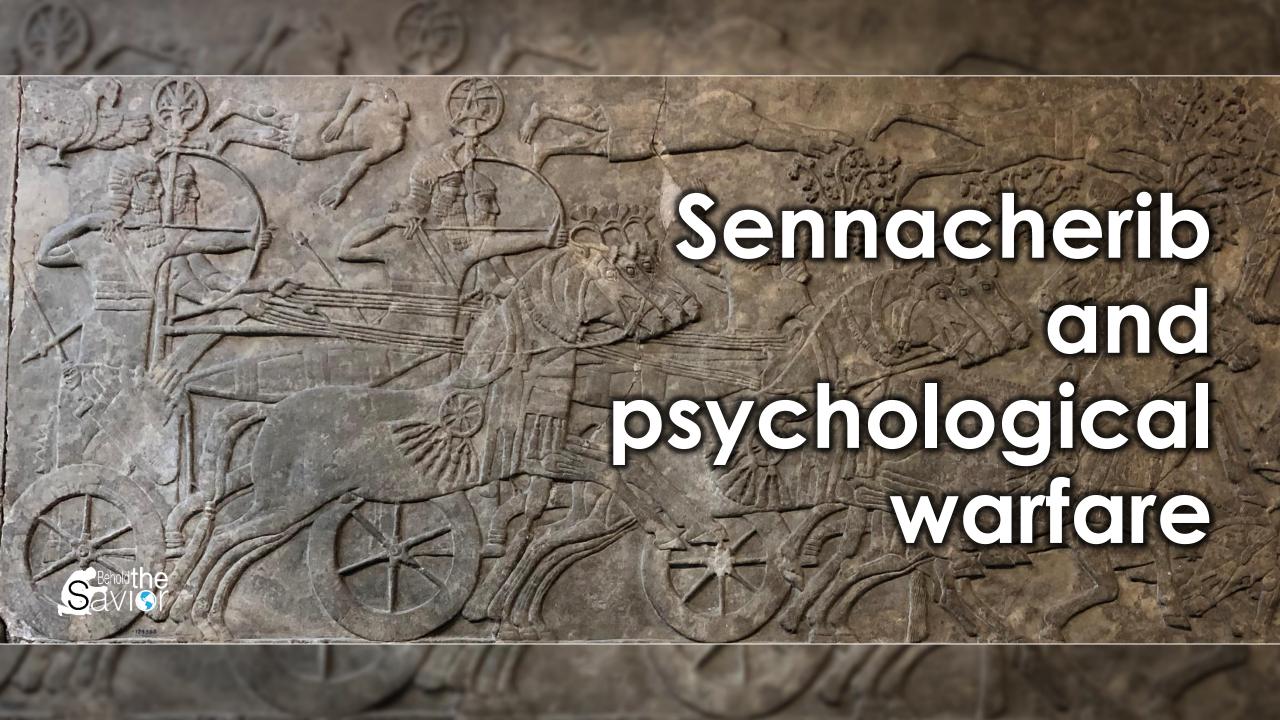


"Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for there are more with us than with him.



With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles." And the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.





Now because of this King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, prayed and cried out to heaven.





Then the LORD sent an angel who cut down every mighty man of valor, leader, and captain in the camp of the king of Assyria.



So he returned shamefaced to his own land. And when he had gone into the temple of his god, some of his own offspring struck him down with the sword there.



Thus the Lord saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all others, and guided them on every side.





