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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1555 ~ Hezekiah Cleans the Temple.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

How often in life do we start out well when doing something new? Good beginnings are just the start. We must persevere in doing a good job until the project is finished. If we don't, our work is only half-complete. What use is a half completed project to anyone?

After King Joash's death in Judah, the next three kings following him started off as good kings, trusting and obeying God to a degree. The fourth king, Ahaz, however, was an extremely evil man. He collected the utensils from the House of God and cut them up to make altars for worshipping false gods in every corner of Jerusalem. He closed the doors of God's Temple so that no one could worship the true God in His rightful place any more.

Ahaz also provoked Israel in the north to go to war with him. From this battle, the Israelite soldiers took away 200,000 people from Judah as slaves. When the Israeli army returned with all these captives, a prophet of God living in Israel told the army they could not keep their slaves, as they were descendents of Abraham too. God would be very angry with the Israelites if they did that. So the captured people of Judah were returned home.

After Ahaz's reign which lasted 16 years, his son Hezekiah came to the throne when he was 25 years old. In 2nd Chronicles, Chapter 29, it says that Hezekiah did right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that King David his forefather had done. Hezekiah was the first in the line of twelve kings to receive such high praise.

Early in his reign, King Hezekiah started reforms in the worship of God. The Temple doors were re-opened and the place given a thorough clean after its many years of neglect. Once the building and people were rededicated to God, Hezekiah invited the people of Israel to join with the people of Judah in celebrating the Passover Feast.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

At the rededication of the Temple of God, the priests and Levites brought to God many sin offerings on behalf of themselves and the people. They all realised they'd broken their covenant with God. The only way back to God was by confession of wrongdoing.

Confession is the act of recognising and admitting sin to God so that He can forgive us. Confession also indicates our desire to have our sin forgiven. If you have no desire to have your sin forgiven, God won't force His forgiveness upon you.

In the New Testament of 1st John, Chapter 1, it says: "If we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us." Confession of sins clears the way to be reconciled to God and being able to walk in fellowship with Him again.

During the Temple's rededication, the singers sang songs of praise to God from the Psalms. In Psalm 117, it says: "Praise the Lord, all you nations. Praise Him all you people of the earth. For He loves us with unfailing love; the Lord's faithfulness endures forever. Praise the Lord!" The whole of Judah celebrated in great joy.

In Hezekiah's next stage of Temple restoration work, Hezekiah planned a celebration of the Passover Feast. This was normally held on the 15th day of the first month of the Jewish year. But the priests and Levites weren't consecrated and ready for this. So Hezekiah planned the Passover for a month later. He sent invitations to all the Jewish people from the top to the bottom of the kingdom as it was in the time of Solomon 250 years earlier. Just it is now, some people at the time scorned Hezekiah's invitation to gather to worship God. Some also considered it too much trouble to travel to Jerusalem for such an occasion.

When the people from far away had assembled in Jerusalem, it was found they weren't ceremonially consecrated or ready to take part in the Passover Feast. King Hezekiah prayed to God on their behalf. God listened to Hezekiah's prayer and didn't punish the people. During the seven-day feast, the priests, Levites and people spent much time praising God and giving thanks to Him for all His goodness to them. So great was their joy at this celebration that it was extended for a further seven days. There had been nothing like it in Jerusalem since the days of Solomon and King David.

What gladness filled the people's hearts at the end of the extended Passover Feast! The people went throughout all the cities of Judah, destroying all the worship places and altars of idol gods and Baal set up around the country. Worship of God becomes life changing!

Do you have a thankful heart towards God? Have you placed yourself in God's hands and confessed all your wrongs to Him? He gives you victory over sin and death when you put your faith in Jesus Christ. A spirit of gratitude and praise changes the way you look at life. Complaining connects you to your unhappiness but thankfulness and praise to God connect you to the source of real joy. Expressing thanks for God's help is one part of truly worshipping God.

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

That was Susie Stevens-Logan singing "Doxology".

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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