

HEZEKIAH'S PRAYER

In the Midst of Imminent Terror

Study Isaiah 38 & II Kings 20:1-11)



In those days was **Hezekiah sick unto death.** And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.

Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, and said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a

perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight.

And Hezekiah wept sore. Then came the word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying, Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years. (Isaiah 38:1-5) KJV

DOUBLE DILEMMA

Note: King Hezekiah was very ill and an Assyrian attack was imminent. This was a double dilemma for an ailing king, who faced insurmountable odds. In the midst of imminent terror of war, Hezekiah learned that his sickness was fatal. Isaiah, the Prophet, had delivered a message from the LORD God to the king “***Set thine house in order, for thou shalt die, and not live.***”

After hearing the message, Hezekiah did not *waste* time and energy on worrying about double trouble i.e. Assyrian attack [ruthless and merciless world power who had already uprooted 10 of the northern tribes of Israel], nor

did he *waste* time drowning in a mental pit of self pity.

Who was Hezekiah?

King Hezekiah came to the throne at a crucial stage in Judah's history. During the reign of King Ahaz [Hezekiah's father], Judah had become weak from wars by surrounding nations. King Ahaz was an evil king that disregarded the LORD God, and allowed the kingdom to fall into idolatry.

After King Ahaz's demise, his son Hezekiah became the 13th king of Judah. King Hezekiah's was one of Judah's good kings, who motivated the people to change their idolatrous living. King Hezekiah's major reforms included the reopening of the doors to the temple, which had to be thoroughly cleansed by dedicated priests, who had not succumbed to idolatry and immorality.

Timeliness was of the essence, because Judah was facing an imminent attack from Assyria. **King Hezekiah did not waste time** with lengthy meetings, he quickly assessed Judah's dilemma, namely evil and idolatrous living, with

no protection! Judah had to be readied in a hurry, the inhabitants would need to pray in the holy place [Solomon's prayer request at the dedication of the temple] and it was presently filthy and so was the land. **The inhabitants needed to repent and call on the LORD God**

In the meantime, Hezekiah has another dilemma; he has a serious illness and was told by the prophet to *set his house in order*, because he will die.

Hezekiah's Reaction



Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, and said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. **And Hezekiah wept sore.**

The LORD God's Response to Hezekiah



Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, **I will add unto**

thy days fifteen years. And I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria: and I will defend this city. (Isaiah 38:4-6)
KJV

The LORD says **“I will add, I will deliver, I will defend.”**

Study Investigation



 What two specific promises did God make in answer to Hezekiah's prayers? (38:4-5)

 How did God contradict natural laws in order to give Hezekiah a sign? (38:7-8)

 What were some of the images used by Hezekiah in his song to

describe his anguish upon learning that he would soon die? (38:9-14)

 How did Hezekiah acknowledge God as the source of his healing? (38:15-16)

 How did Hezekiah view his physical and mental suffering after he was delivered? (38:17)

 What did Hezekiah see as the duty of those to whom God gives the gift of life? (38:18-19)

📖 What details did Isaiah add about how God brought about Hezekiah's healing and why God gave a sign that these events would happen? (38:21-22)

Application



Ask the LORD to help you to go through a trial that is beyond your understanding.

Remember to repent for the remission of sin

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and forget not all His
benefits*

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