

Introduction

We have been looking at the reign of **HEZEKIAH** for the last couple of our studies here in **2 KINGS**. First we saw the **REVIVAL UNDER HEZEKIAH** and then last week we saw **HEZEKIAH VS. ASSYRIA** and how the fact that he returned the nation of **JUDAH** to the **LORD** brought the blessing of the **LORD** fighting the battle for **JUDAH** against **SENNACHERIB**!

READ 2 Kings 20:1-11

I. WE SEE HEZEKIAH'S PROGNOSIS FROM THE LORD!

(Vs 1, 6-7) HEZEKIAH WAS SICK UNTO DEATH!

A. Understand When This Was Taking Place. *(Vs 1a)* *"In those days..."*

This was happening in the same days we spoke of last week in **Chapter 19** when **HEZEKIAH** was dealing with the siege of **SENNACHERIB'S** army.

We are familiar with the expression: *"When it rains it pours!"* Many of us may have used that phrase when we have been **overwhelmed with multiple negative circumstances of life at the same time!**

Well I can imagine that **with HEZEKIAH and JERUSALEM being under siege, and him dealing with a serious illness, AND then having the bad news of his impending death delivered to him, he was probably feeling more than a little overwhelmed** right here!

Now, last week we saw that the **LORD** fought the battle against the army of **SENNACHERIB** for him, but that had not taken place at this point! *(Vs 6)*

So, we know that when we are ill, especially seriously ill, **negative circumstances have a way of being magnified to such an extent that we have trouble seeing the good!**

B. Understand That This Was Taking Place In Spite Of The Spiritual Revival.

Even though **HEZEKIAH** had been a catalyst behind the **Spiritual Revival** in the nation of **JUDAH**, his nation was besieged by **ASSYRIA**, he still contracted this deadly illness, and now he was being told by the **LORD'S** **PROPHET ISAIAH** to prepare for death because he was about to die!

Here is an important point for us to understand: Even the most **GODLY** of the **LORD'S** servants in this world get sick and at some point die!

Being **GOD'S** child and even serving **GOD** does not exempt one from having to deal with **oppression, sickness, and death!**

Death is a **DIVINE APPOINTMENT!** *(Hebrews 9:27)*
Job 14:1- "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble."

C. Understand The Nature Of HEZEKIAH'S Illness. *(Vs 7)* *Verse 7 indicates that HEZEKIAH'S sickness was associated with a boil of some kind. We can't be sure exactly what kind of boil it was, but it is very possible that he had a staph infection of some sort!*

After all, the time that he lived in wasn't known for great hygiene!

Now we know how very serious and deadly **staph infections** can be today even when we have antibiotics to treat them! If left untreated, they can cause a condition called **sepsis**.

Sepsis is the body's extreme response to an infection. It is a life-threatening medical emergency. **Sepsis** happens when an infection you already have triggers a chain reaction throughout your body. Without timely treatment, **sepsis** can rapidly lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death.

D. Understand The Message From The LORD To HEZEKIAH! *(Vs 1b)*

As **HEZEKIAH** lay on his sick bed, the **PROPHET ISAIAH** came to the king to give him a message from the **LORD!**
"Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live."

This is a dreaded message that in our day is normally delivered by a medical professional to someone who has a terminal illness! But here, the man of **GOD** delivered it to him!

(i.e. He was saying, "Do whatever you need to do to get prepared to die because death is coming!")

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
HEZEKIAH'S LIFE EXTENDED
2 KINGS 20:1-11; 2 CHRONICLES 32:24; ISAIAH 38:1-8

That is a message that will hit you like a ton of bricks even when you might be expecting it!

In our day “*setting one’s house in order*” might include needing to do such things as:
Making sure your will is updated!
Making sure your family is told what they need to know!

WE SEE HEZEKIAH’S PROGNOSIS FROM THE LORD...

II. WE SEE HEZEKIAH’S PRAYER TO THE LORD! (Vs 2-3)

A. What We Are Not Told Here.

We are NOT told that **HEZEKIAH** took the matter of his illness to the **LORD** in prayer until **AFTER** the **PROPHET ISAIAH** delivered the message of death to him!

B. What We Are Told Here.

At this point in **HEZEKIAH’S** life, the **LORD** was ready to call him home, but **HEZEKIAH** wasn’t ready to accept the **LORD’S** plan and so he prayed to the **LORD** to **REMEMBER HIS WALK AND HOW HE HAD DONE RIGHT IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD!**

And it says that HEZEKIAH WEPT SORE!

The implication is that he was asking for his life to be spared! And we do see that in what we are told in the **BOOK OF ISAIAH 38:9-22** in some words that **HEZEKIAH** wrote himself regarding this time in his life.

Isaiah 38:15– “O LORD, by these things men live, and in all these things is the life of my spirit: so wilt thou recover me and make me to live.”

III. WE SEE HEZEKIAH’S PROMISE FROM THE LORD! (Vs 4-6)

ISAIAH didn’t even get out of the area of the palace before the **LORD** gave him an answer to **HEZEKIAH’S** prayer!

A. The LORD Said HEZEKIAH Would Be Healed Of His Illness! (Vs 5)

B. The LORD Said HEZEKIAH’S Life Would Be Extended By Fifteen Years! (Vs 6)

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
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D. The LORD Said That He Would Deliver HEZEKIAH And JERUSALEM Out Of The Hand Of The King Of ASSYRIA. (Vs 6b)

E. The LORD Told ISAIAH How To Treat The Boil. (Vs 7)

IV. WE SEE HEZEKIAH’S PROOF FROM THE LORD! (Vs 8-11)

This sign of the sundial moving back ten degrees was given to **HEZEKIAH** for confirmation:

1. That he would be healed from his illness in three days time!

2. That the LORD would guard him and JERUSALEM from being overrun by the ASSYRIANS!

3. That the LORD would add fifteen years to his life!

Conclusion

Now that’s our study for this evening and we might think that the additional years that **HEZEKIAH** was given by the **LORD** would be a blessing!

But we are going to see that we really need to be careful what we ask the **LORD** for! Because the additional fifteen years brought problems.

There can be a blessing in unanswered prayer or we should say when the **LORD’S** answer is “*No!*” to us!

Have you ever prayed for something where the **LORD’S** answer was “*No!*” And years later come to find out how the **LORD** protected you in that answer?

Or maybe you prayed for something where the **LORD** let you have what you asked for and then later you wish **HE** hadn’t!

Be careful what you pray for!

So we will pick right back up here, **LORD** willing, next Wednesday night!