

# Isaiah 38 - Hezekiah's Illness

II. Historical interlude: conclusion and introduction (Is 36:1–39:8)

(2) Looking forward: Hezekiah and Babylon (Is 38:1–39:8)

(A) Hezekiah's illness and healing (38:1-8)

(B) Hezekiah praises God for his healing (38:9-22)

## Isaiah 38

(2) Looking forward: Hezekiah and Babylon (Is 38:1–39:8)

(A) Hezekiah's illness and healing (38:1-8)

**1** In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, came to him and said to him, "This is what the LORD says: 'Set your house in order, for you are going to die and not live.'"

**1** In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.'"

**1** During that time, Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. Then Amoz's son Isaiah the prophet came to him and told him, "This is what the LORD says: 'Put your house in order, because you are going to die. You won't recover.'"

**1** 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.

**2** Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD,

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**3** and said, "Please, LORD, just remember how I have walked before You wholeheartedly and in truth, and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept profusely.

**3** and said, "Remember now, O LORD, I beseech You, how I have walked before You in truth and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

**3** "Please, LORD," he said, "Remember how I have walked before you faithfully and with a true heart, and I have done what pleases you." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

3 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.

4 Then the word of the LORD came to Isaiah, saying,

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4 Then this message from the LORD came to Isaiah:

4 Then came the word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying,

5 "Go and say to Hezekiah, 'This is what the LORD, the God of your father David says: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will add fifteen years to your life.

5 "Go and say to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of your father David, "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will add fifteen years to your life.

5 "Go tell Hezekiah, 'This is what the LORD God of your ancestor David has to say: "I've heard your prayer and I've seen your tears; so I will add fifteen years to your life.

5 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.

6 And I will save you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will protect this city."

6 I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city."

6 I'll save you and this city from the king of Assyria, and I'll defend this city, for my own sake and for my servant David's sake.

6 And I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria: and I will defend this city.

- Hezekiah got his request, but they were not good years

— Some scholars point out that this particular sickness may have been the sign of divine displeasure (Job 15:32; 22:5,16; Ps 55:23; Prov 10:27)

7 "And this shall be the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will perform this word that He has spoken:

7 "This shall be the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do this thing that He has spoken:

7 This is the LORD's sign to you that the LORD will carry out this thing he has promised:

7 And this shall be a sign unto thee from the LORD, that the LORD will do this thing that he hath spoken;

8 Behold, I will make the shadow on the stairway, which has gone down with the sun on the stairway of Ahaz, go back ten steps." So the sun's *shadow* went back ten steps on the stairway on which it had gone down.

8 Behold, I will cause the shadow on the stairway, which has gone down with the sun on the stairway of Ahaz, to go back ten steps." So the sun's *shadow* went back ten steps on the stairway on which it had gone down.

8 Watch! I will make the shadow on the steps of the upper dial of Ahaz that marks the sun go ten steps backwards."'"

Then the sunlight turned back on the dial the ten steps by which it had gone down.

8 Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down.

- Cf. 2 Chr 32:31; the parallel account notes that they requested the sun to go backwards, rather than forward

(B) Hezekiah praises God for his healing (38:9-22)

9 *This is* a writing of Hezekiah king of Judah after his illness and recovery:

9 A writing of Hezekiah king of Judah after his illness and recovery:

9 A composition by King Hezekiah of Judah, following his illness and recovery:

9 The writing of Hezekiah king of Judah, when he had been sick, and was recovered of his sickness:

10 I said, "In the middle of my life I am to enter the gates of Sheol; I have been deprived of the rest of my years."

10 I said, "In the middle of my life I am to enter the gates of Sheol; I am to be deprived of the rest of my years."

10 I said, "Must I leave in the prime of my life? Must I be consigned to the control of Sheol? Bitter are my years!"

10 I said in the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave: I am deprived of the residue of my years.

11 I said, "I will not see the LORD, The LORD in the land of the living; I will no longer look on mankind among the inhabitants of the world.

11 I said, "I will not see the LORD, The LORD in the land of the living; I will look on man no more among the inhabitants of the world.

11 I said, "I won't see the LORD in the land of the living; and I'll no longer observe human beings among the denizens of the grave.

11 I said, I shall not see the LORD, even the LORD, in the land of the living: I shall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world.

12 "Like a shepherd's tent my dwelling is pulled up and removed from me; As a weaver I rolled up my life. He cuts me off from the loom; From day until night You make an end of me.

12 "Like a shepherd's tent my dwelling is pulled up and removed from me; As a weaver I rolled up my life. He cuts me off from the loom; From day until night You make an end of me.

12 My house has been plucked up and vanishes from me like a shepherd's tent; like a weaver, I've taken account of my life, and he cuts me off from the loom— day and night you make an end of me.

12 Mine age is departed, and is removed from me as a shepherd's tent: I have cut off like a weaver my life: he will cut me off with pining sickness: from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me.

13 "I composed *my soul* until morning. Like a lion—so He breaks all my bones, From day until night You make an end of me.

13 "I composed *my soul* until morning. Like a lion—so He breaks all my bones, From day until night You make an end of me.

13 I've been swept bare until morning; just like a lion, he breaks all my bones— day and night you make an end of me.

13 I reckoned till morning, that, as a lion, so will he break all my bones: from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me.

14 "Like a swallow, *like* a crane, so I twitter; I moan like a dove; My eyes look wistfully to the heights; Lord, I am oppressed, be my security.

14 "Like a swallow, *like* a crane, so I twitter; I moan like a dove; My eyes look wistfully to the heights; O LORD, I am oppressed, be my security.

14 Like a swallow or a crane I chirp, I moan like a dove. My eyes look weakly upward. O Lord, I am oppressed, so stand up for me!

14 Like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove: mine eyes fail with looking upward: O LORD, I am oppressed; undertake for me.

15 "What shall I say? For He has spoken to me, and He Himself has done it; I will walk quietly all my years because of the bitterness of my soul.

15 "What shall I say? For He has spoken to me, and He Himself has done it; I will wander about all my years because of the bitterness of my soul.

15 What can I say, so I tell myself, since he has done this to me? I will walk slowly all my years because of my soul's anguish.

15 What shall I say? he hath both spoken unto me, and himself hath done it: I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul.

16 "Lord, by *these* things *people* live, And in all these is the life of my spirit; Restore me to health and let me live!

16 "O Lord, by *these* things *men* live, And in all these is the life of my spirit; O restore me to health and let me live!

16 "My Lord is against them, yet they live, and among all of them who live is his spirit. Now you have restored me to health, so let me live!

16 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.

17 "Behold, for *my own* welfare I had great bitterness; But You have kept my soul from the pit of nothingness, For You have hurled all my sins behind Your back.

17 "Lo, for *my own* welfare I had great bitterness; It is You who has kept my soul from the pit of nothingness, For You have cast all my sins behind Your back.

17 Yes, it was for my own good that I suffered extreme anguish. But in love you have held back my life from the Pit in which it has been confined; you have tossed all my sins behind your back.

17 Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.

18 "For Sheol cannot thank You, Death cannot praise You; Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your faithfulness.

18 "For Sheol cannot thank You, Death cannot praise You; Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your faithfulness.

18 For Sheol cannot thank you, death cannot sing your praise; and those who go down to the Pit cannot hope for your faithfulness.

18 For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth.

19 "It is the living who give thanks to You, as I do today; A father tells his sons about Your faithfulness.

19 "It is the living who give thanks to You, as I do today; A father tells his sons about Your faithfulness.

19 The living—yes the living—they thank you, just as I am doing today; fathers will tell their children about your faithfulness.

19 The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth.

20 "The LORD is *certain* to save me; So we will play my songs on stringed instruments All the days of our life at the house of the LORD."

20 "The LORD will surely save me; So we will play my songs on stringed instruments All the days of our life at the house of the LORD."

20 The LORD will save me, and we will play my music on strings all the days of our lives in the LORD's Temple.

20 The LORD was ready to save me: therefore we will sing my songs to the stringed instruments all the days of our life in the house of the LORD.

### **Hezekiah Healed**

**21** Now Isaiah had said, "Have them take a cake of figs and apply it to the boil, so that he may recover."

**21** Now Isaiah had said, "Let them take a cake of figs and apply it to the boil, that he may recover."

**21** Now Isaiah had said, "Let them prepare a poultice of figs and apply it to the boil, so that he may recover."

**21** For Isaiah had said, Let them take a lump of figs, and lay it for a plaster upon the boil, and he shall recover.

22 Then Hezekiah had said, "What is the sign that I will go up to the house of the LORD?"

22 Then Hezekiah had said, "What is the sign that I shall go up to the house of the LORD?"

22 Hezekiah also had asked, "What will be the sign for me to go up to the LORD's Temple?"

**22** Hezekiah also had said, What is the sign that I shall go up to the house of the LORD?

- The OT had a limited view of death (Hezekiah was 39)

— Jesus brought life and immortality to light (2 Tim 1:10) and freed us from bondage (Heb 2:14-15)