

# Isaiah 39 - Hezekiah and the Babylonians

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

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

(C) Hezekiah foolishly displays the Temple treasures to Merodach-Baladan leading to the predicted Babylonian captivity (39:1-8)

## Isaiah 39

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1 At that time Merodach-baladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah, when he heard he had been sick and had survived.

1 At that time Merodach-baladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah: for he had heard that he had been sick, and was recovered.

- Merodach-baladan - name/title of a god they worshiped

2 Hezekiah was pleased, and let them see *all* his treasure house, the silver, the gold, the balsam oil, the excellent olive oil, his entire armory, and everything that was found in his treasuries. There was nothing in his house nor in all his realm that Hezekiah did not let them see.

2 Hezekiah was pleased, and showed them *all* his treasure house, the silver and the gold and the spices and the precious oil and his whole armory and all that was found in his treasuries. There was nothing in his house nor in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

2 Hezekiah was delighted with them, and showed them everything in his treasure-houses —the silver, the gold, the spices, the precious oils, his entire armory, and everything found in his treasuries. There was nothing in his palace or in all his kingdom that Hezekiah did not show them.

2 And Hezekiah was glad of them, and shewed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.

## **Two Important Letters**

- (1) The first was from Assyria, which Hezekiah took directly to God in prayer
  - God answered his prayer and delivered His people (Is 37:14-20)
- (2) The second letter was from the king of Babylon, which flattered Hezekiah and which he did not take to the Lord in prayer
  - As a result, it led to the undoing of Judah (Is 39:1-8)

## **The Inquisition of Isaiah**

3 Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah and said to him, "What did these men say, and from where did they come to you?" And Hezekiah said, "They came to me from a far country, from Babylon."

3 Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah and said to him, "What did these men say, and from where have they come to you?" And Hezekiah said, "They have come to me from a far country, from Babylon."

3 Then the prophet Isaiah came to King Hezekiah and asked him, "What did these men have to say? And from where did they come to you?"

Hezekiah replied, "From a distant land—they came to me from Babylon."

**3** Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country unto me, even from Babylon.

4 Then he said, "What have they seen in your house?" So Hezekiah answered, "They have seen everything that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not let them see."

4 He said, "What have they seen in your house?" So Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them."

4 "What did they see in your palace?" he asked.

"They saw everything in my palace," Hezekiah replied. "There is nothing in my treasures that I did not show them."

**4** Then said he, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All that is in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them.

## **The Judgment of God**

**5** Isaiah then said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD of armies,

**5** Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD of hosts,

**5** Then Isaiah told Hezekiah, "Listen to this message from the LORD of the Heavenly Armies:

**5** Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts:

**6** 'Behold, the days are coming when everything that is in your house, and what your fathers have stored up to this day, will be carried to Babylon; nothing will be left,' says the LORD.

**6** 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day will be carried to Babylon; nothing will be left,' says the LORD.

**6** 'The days are surely coming when everything in your palace and all that your ancestors have stored up to this day will be carried off to Babylon. They will come in, and nothing will be left,' says the LORD.

**6** Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.

**7** 'And some of your sons who will come from you, whom you will father, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.'

**7** 'And some of your sons who will issue from you, whom you will beget, will be taken away, and they will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.'

**7** 'Then some of your own sons, who will come from your loins, whom you will father, will be taken away to become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.'

**7** And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

### **The Repentance of Hezekiah**

**8** Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good." For he thought, "For there will be peace and truth in my days."

**8** Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good." For he thought, "For there will be peace and truth in my days."

**8** "The message from the LORD that you have spoken is good," Hezekiah replied to Isaiah, since he was thinking, "...at least there will be peace and security in my lifetime."

**8** Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. He said moreover, For there shall be peace and truth in my days.

- This happens 100 years later! (2 Chr 36:18)