

Isaiah Chapters 38-39 - Hezekiah's Life Extended; The Babylonian Envoys

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com); email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

I WILL SERVE THEE (YOU) – Maranatha Singers

I will serve You because I love You. You have given life to me. I was nothing until You found me. You have given life to me. Heartaches, broken people. Ruined lives are why you died on Calvary. Your touch is what I long for. You have given life to me. (2X)

Heartaches, broken people. Ruined lives are why you died on Calvary. Your touch is what I long for. You have given life to me. You have given life to me...

GENERAL OUTLINE OF ISAIAH: Referred to as the “Fifth Gospel” since the third century!

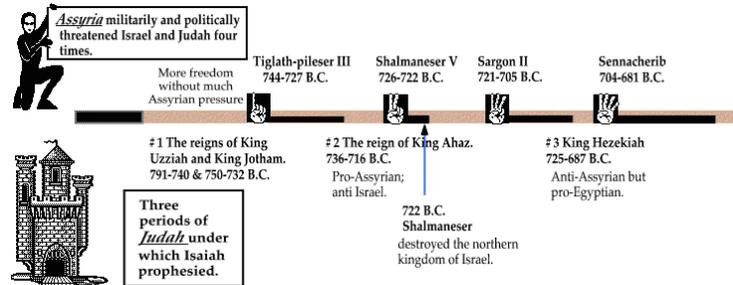
Possible date of kings reign” - Uzziah, - 792-740; Jotham, - 750-736; Ahaz, - 735-720 Northern Kingdom of Israel falls to Assyria in 722BC; Hezekiah, - 715-699/686; Manasseh – 687-642

Isaiah’s time of prophecy - About a minimum of 40 years and possibly more than 60 years!

In the tenth year of Nabopolassar (616 BC) the Babylonians defeated the Assyrian army.

Cyrus takes Babylon. In October (539 BC), the Persian king Cyrus took Babylon.

- I. **THE ASSYRIAN PERIOD - CONFLICT AND VICTORY (Isa 1-39)**
 - A. **PROPHECIES CONCERNING JUDAH AND JERUSALEM (Isa 1-12)**
 - B. **PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE NATIONS (Isa 13-27)**
 - C. **DELIVERANCE FOUND NOT IN EGYPT, BUT IN THE LORD (Isa 28-35)**
 - D. **HISTORICAL INTERLUDE (Isa 36-39)**
- II. **THE BABYLONIAN PERIOD - HOPE FOR TROUBLED TIMES (Isa 40-66)**
 - A. **THE ONE TRUE GOD VERSUS IDOLS (Isa 40-48)**
 - B. **LORD'S SERVANT WILL BRING SALVATION THROUGH SUFFERING (Isa 49-57)**
 - C. **THE FUTURE GLORY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE, THE NEW ZION (Isa 58-66)**



Isaiah – Bible Timeline

739 BC	Isaiah Complains of Zion's Corruption	Isaiah 1 - 5
739 BC	Isaiah's Vision and Commission	Isaiah 6
735 BC	Isaiah's Prophecy of Immanuel	Isaiah 7
734 BC	Uriah/Zechariah Verification	Isaiah 8
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a Child Is Born	Isaiah 9
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgments Upon Israel	Isaiah 9:8
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgment on Assyria	Isaiah 10
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies The Root of Jesse	Isaiah 11
730 BC	Isaiah's Joyful Thanksgiving	Isaiah 12
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies against the Nations	Isaiah 13 - 22
725 BC	Isaiah's Valley of Vision	Isaiah 22
725 BC	Isaiah's Burden of Tyre	Isaiah 23
725 BC	Devastation on the Earth	Isaiah 24
725 BC	Isaiah's Songs of Praise	Isaiah 25 - 27
725 BC	Isaiah's Further Warnings	Isaiah 28 - 32
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a King Shall Reign	Isaiah 32
725 BC	Isaiah Declares God's Judgments	Isaiah 33, 34
725 BC	Isaiah Declares the Joyful Will Flourish in Zion	Isaiah 35
712 BC	Hezekiah's Illness and Healing	2 Kings 20, Isaiah 38
711 BC	Hezekiah Shows Treasures	2 Kings 20:12, Isaiah 39
711 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Captivity and Restoration	Isaiah 40 - 66
701 BC	Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem	2 Kings 18, Isaiah 36, 2 Chron. 32
701 BC	Hezekiah's Prayer	2 Kings 19, Isaiah 37

Isaiah Chapters 38-39 - Hezekiah's Life Extended; The Babylonian Envoys

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com); email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

Hezekiah's Sickness and Recovery

Isa 38:1 In those days

Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.' "

Isa 38:2 Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, Isa 38:3 and said, "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

Chapter 36 begins a four-chapter section different than the prophecies recorded before or after. **Isaiah 36, 37** describe the LORD's work against the Assyrian threat. **Isaiah 38, 39** describe the response to the Babylonian threat, which enables us to sense the arrogance of the Assyrian and the fear and despair in the hearts of the Israelites.

v. 1 The mercy of God to Hezekiah - Isaiah's announcement to Hezekiah. *In those days*: This happened at the time of the Assyrian invasion of Judah, because Jerusalem had not been delivered from the Assyrian threat yet (**Isa 38:6**). The events of this chapter are also recorded in **2Ki 20:1-11**. Most interpreters agree that the events described in chapters 38 and 39 preceded the invasion of 701 B.C. Many date these events in 702 B.C., if Hezekiah's death 687 B.C, but there is evidence (Berodach-Baladan was at height of his power 720-710), which suggests a date of about 711-712 B.C. **Was sick and near death**: We are not told how or precisely when Hezekiah became sick. However Hezekiah became sick, it was certainly permitted by the LORD. **Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live**: God was remarkably kind to Hezekiah, telling him that his death was near. Not all people are given the time to set your house in order. We know from comparing **2Ki 18:2** "He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem." with **2Ki 20:6** "And I will add to your days fifteen years." that Hezekiah was 39 years old when he learned he would soon die.

vs. 2-3 Hezekiah's prayer. **Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall**: Hezekiah was earnest in his prayer. He directed his prayer in privacy to God, and not to any man. **Remember now, O LORD**: To our ears, Hezekiah's prayer might almost sound ungodly. In it, his (Old Testament) focus is on self-justification and his own merits. It is pretty much as if Hezekiah prayed, "LORD, I've been such a good boy and You aren't being fair to me. Remember what a good boy I've been and rescue me." Under the Old Covenant, this was a valid principle on approaching God. Passages like Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 show blessing and cursing was sent by God on the basis of obedience or disobedience. On that principle, David could write in (**Psa 15:1-2**): LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart. Now, under the New Covenant, we are blessed on the principle of faith in Jesus (**Gal 3:13-14**). Hezekiah's principle of prayer isn't fitting for a Christian today. We pray in the name of Jesus (**Joh 16:23-24**), not in the name of who we are or what we have done. The Church bases its pleas on Christ's righteousness. **And Hezekiah wept bitterly**: Hezekiah lived under the Old Covenant, when there was not a confident assurance of the glory in the life beyond. Instead, Jesus brought life and immortality came to light through the gospel (**2Ti 1:10**). Also, under the Old Covenant Hezekiah would have regarded this as evidence that God was very displeased with him.

v. 1 *'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.'* " Jesus said to watch and pray with regard to anticipate His Second Coming at any time. We should consider, is our house in order? Spiritually? Relationally with others? Legally – a will or trust? As much as possible have things lined up when we are no longer here on earth.

vs. 2-3 **2Ki 18:3, 5** *And he (Hezekiah) did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done. [5] He trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him. If this happened to us, how many of us could say? "I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart and have done what is good in Your sight."* We should note well the first thing that Hezekiah got the bad news that he would not be healed! He prayed!

Isaiah Chapters 38-39 - Hezekiah's Life Extended; The Babylonian Envoys

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com); email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

*Isa 38:4 And the word of the LORD came to Isaiah, saying,
Isa 38:5 "Go and tell Hezekiah, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years."*

Isa 38:6 I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city."

*Isa 38:7 And this is the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do this thing which He has spoken:
Isa 38:8 Behold, I will bring the shadow on the sundial, which has gone down with the sun on the sundial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward." So the sun returned ten degrees on the dial by which it had gone down.*

vs. 4-5 Isaiah brings God's answer to Hezekiah's prayer. *I will add to your days fifteen years:* This brings up the age old problem concerning the sovereignty of God, and the effect of prayer upon God. You can carry that sovereignty of God so far, as to make man's actions totally unnecessary. The purposes of God shall stand, and that which He has purposed, He shall accomplish." You can make prayer just really of, of no value, or no effect, because God's going to do what He's going to do anyhow, so why pray? But this does show to us, that prayer does change things. Hezekiah had received the message, "Get your house in order, get things straight, because you're going to die, and not live." He immediately began to pray, and cry before the Lord. Instantly, instantly, before Isaiah even got out of the court, the Lord came to Isaiah, and said, "Go back and tell him God's heard his prayers, He saw his tears, He's going to give him fifteen more years. Add fifteen years to your life." In response to Hezekiah's prayer, God granted Hezekiah *fifteen years* more. **Hezekiah did in fact die, just not as soon as God first announced. Second, when God announces judgment it is almost always an invitation to repent and to receive mercy. I have heard your prayer:** Hezekiah's prayer was important. By all indications, if Hezekiah had not made his passionate prayer, then his life would not have been extended. Prayer matters! God gave two gifts to Hezekiah. First, **He gave the gift of an extended life.** Second, **He gave the gift of knowing he only had fifteen years left.** If he were wise, **this would still give King Hezekiah the motivation to walk right with God and to set his house in order.**

v. 6 The **promise of deliverance from the Assyrian threat.** This promise is in accord with the LORD's previous prophecies of deliverance, and dates this chapter as being before God destroyed the Assyrian army ([Isa 37:36-37](#)). The connection of the two promises indicates that one would confirm the other. **When Hezekiah recovered his health, he could know that God would also deliver him from the Assyrians.**

vs. 7-8 A sign to confirm the promise. *This is the sign . . . that the LORD will do this thing which He has spoken:* God showed even more mercy to Hezekiah. God was under no obligation to give this sign. But in love, God gave Hezekiah more than he needed or deserved. **Behold, I will bring the shadow of the sundial . . . ten degrees backward:** God promised to do something completely miraculous for the confirming sign. And it happened just as God promised: **So the sun returned ten degrees on the dial by which it had gone down.** This was a wonderfully appropriate sign for Hezekiah. By bringing the shadow of the sundial move backward, it gave more time in a day - just as God gave Hezekiah more time. How was this miracle accomplished? We simply don't know. God could have simply "moved the sun back." Or, He may have simply provided the miraculous appearance of it on the sundial of Ahaz. It doesn't really matter how God did it; He has miraculous resources and ways we know nothing about.

vs. 4-5 God answers prayer! We can see here that **prayer does change things!** God does at times respond to our asking for something less than His perfect will. We need to understand if it is not His perfect will, which will always be best for us in that only God know what is best, that our requests, if answered will result is something less than His best! ***Psa 106:15 And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.***

v. 6 In response to Hezekiah's prayer, God give two promises - *I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city."* These promises are in the future tense, which would indicate that Hezekiah's sickness and healing occurred prior to the LORD destroying the 185,000 Assyrian troops. Again, we see the importance of prayer!

vs. 7-8 God shows the same mercy to us. It should be enough for God to simply say to us, "I love you." But **God did so much more** to demonstrate His love to us ([Joh 3:16](#)) ***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (Rom 5:8) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

Isaiah Chapters 38-39 - Hezekiah's Life Extended; The Babylonian Envoys

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com); email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Isa 38:9 This is the writing of Hezekiah king of Judah, when he had been sick and had recovered from his sickness:

Isa 38:10 I said, "In the prime of my life I shall go to the gates of Sheol; I am deprived of the remainder of my years."

Isa 38:11 I said, "I shall not see YAH, The LORD in the land of the living; I shall observe man no more among the inhabitants of the world."

Isa 38:12 My life span is gone, Taken from me like a shepherd's tent; I have cut off my life like a weaver. He cuts me off from the loom; From day until night You make an end of me.

Isa 38:13 I have considered until morning—Like a lion, So He breaks all my bones; From day until night You make an end of me.

Isa 38:14 Like a crane or a swallow, so I chattered; I mourned like a dove; My eyes fail from looking upward. O LORD, I am oppressed; Undertake for me!

vs. 9-14 King Hezekiah's statement regarding his healing - Hezekiah's lament. *In the prime of my life I shall go to the gates of Sheol: Sheol* is the Hebrew word for “the grave” or “the place of the dead.” Here, Hezekiah laments the news of his impending death. *I shall not see YAH, the LORD in the land of the living:* Hezekiah's pain at his approaching death is increased as he believes that in the grave he will no longer see the LORD. Hezekiah's thinking is based in the cloudy understanding of the world beyond before life and immortality were brought to life through the gospel of Jesus Christ (*2Ti 1:10*). Though there are occasional glimpses of hope into the world beyond (such as in *Job 19:25-27*), for the most part there is no clear understanding of the nature of life after death (*Psa 6:5, Psa 88:3-5, 11*). This explains why Hezekiah does not welcome death as a certain pathway to the presence of the LORD. For these Old Testament saints like Hezekiah and David, the grave (Sheol) was an uncertain place. They knew the LORD was there (*Psa 139:8*), but they didn't know exactly how. So for these Old Testament saints, going to the world beyond was exchanging this world's certainty for the uncertainty of the world beyond. *O LORD, I am oppressed:* Since Hezekiah lived before the finished work of Jesus, he lived under the bondage of the fear of death (*Heb 2:14-15*). How different for the believer in Jesus Christ, for whom death has no victory or sting (*1Co 15:53-55*). *Like a crane or a swallow, so I chattered; I mourned like a dove:* “The varied cries of Palestine's birds express the varied nature of Hezekiah's many cries to God, now quiet, now shrill, now mournful. We can have a clearer understanding of the world beyond than King Hezekiah did. The Bible uses three main words to describe where people go when they die. *Sheol* is a Hebrew word with the idea of the “place of the dead.” It has no direct reference to either torment or eternal happiness. The idea of *Sheol* is often accurately expressed as “the grave.” Hades is a Greek word used to describe the “world beyond.” In the Bible, it has generally the same idea as *Sheol*. *Rev 9:1* speaks of the bottomless pit; this place called the *abyssos* is a prison for certain demons (*Luk 8:31; 2Pe 2:4; Jud 1:6*). Or more generally, it is considered part of the realm of the dead (*Rom 10:7* uses it in the sense of Hades). *Gehenna* is a Greek word borrowed from the Hebrew language. In *Mar 9:43-44*, Jesus speaks of hell (*gehenna*). Hell is a Greek translation of the Hebrew “Valley of Hinnom,” a place outside Jerusalem's walls desecrated by Molech worship and human sacrifice (*2Ch 28:1-3; Jer 32:35*). It was also a garbage dump where rubbish and refuse were burned. The smoldering fires and festering worms of the Valley of Hinnom made it a graphic and effective picture of the fate of the damned. This place is also called the “lake of fire” in *Rev 20:13-15*, prepared for the devil and his angels (*Mat 25:41*). The place known as *Sheol* and *Hades* is not what we normally think of as “Hell.” It was, before the finished work of Jesus, the place where the dead awaited judgment or final justification (as illustrated by Jesus in the story of the rich man and Lazarus in *Luk 16:19-31*). *Gehenna* is what we normally think of as “Hell,” the *Lake of Fire* (*Rev 19:20; Rev 20:10-15; Rev 21:6-8*). Actually, *Gehenna* or hell has many names or titles in the Bible, including *lake of fire* (*Rev 19:20*), *everlasting fire* (*Mat 25:41*), *everlasting punishment* (*Mat 25:46*), and *outer darkness* (*Mat 8:12*). The Old Testament has little clear revelation about the afterlife; confident statements like *Job 19:25-26* are countered by fuzzy passages like *Ecc 3:19-20* and *Psa 6:4-5*. However, the New Testament gives much more specific revelation regarding the afterlife; these are things that have *now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.* (*2Ti 1:10*)

vs. 9-14 We see this historical account of Hezekiah writing about his sickness and miraculous healing. It was at this time of his great sense of being given another 15 years of life that he committed the greatest sin of his reign and life. His pride and achievements are given to us in *2Ch 32:24-26* *In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death, and he prayed to the LORD; and He spoke to him and gave him a sign. [25] But Hezekiah did not repay according to the favor shown him, for his heart was lifted up; therefore wrath was looming over him and over Judah and Jerusalem. [26] Then Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah. What a warning here for us! We need to be most careful not to do the same thing when we see the LORD working greatly through us or giving us unusually great gifts, such as he gave Hezekiah.*

Isaiah Chapters 38-39 - Hezekiah's Life Extended; The Babylonian Envoys

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com); email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

*Isa 38:15 "What shall I say? He has both spoken to me, And He Himself has done it. **I shall walk carefully all my years** In the bitterness of my soul.*

Isa 38:16 O Lord, by these things men live; And in all these things is the life of my spirit; So You will restore me and make me live.

Isa 38:17 Indeed it was for my own peace That I had great bitterness; But You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, For You have cast all my sins behind Your back.

Isa 38:18 For Sheol cannot thank You, Death cannot praise You; Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your truth.

Isa 38:19 The living, the living man, he shall praise You, As I do this day; The father shall make known Your truth to the children.

Isa 38:20 "The LORD was ready to save me; Therefore we will sing my songs with stringed instruments All the days of our life, in the house of the LORD."

Isa 38:21 Now Isaiah had said, "Let them take a lump of figs, and apply it as a poultice on the boil, and he shall recover."

Isa 38:22 And Hezekiah had said, "What is the sign that I shall go up to the house of the LORD?"

vs. 15-20 Hezekiah praises God for sparing his life. *What shall I say? He has both spoken to me, and He Himself has done it:* When God answered his prayer, all Hezekiah could do was praise God. He knew that it was all the LORD's work, both in word (*spoken to me*) and deed (*done it*). So, Hezekiah was speechless (*What shall I say?*). *I shall walk carefully all my years:* This is a good promise Hezekiah makes, and one often on the lips of the person God has spared. But in the end, it was only a good promise if Hezekiah made it good. What did Hezekiah do with these added 15 years? One thing he did was father a son who would succeed him on the throne of Judah. Of the next king of Judah, Manasseh, the son of Hezekiah, it is written that he was 12 years old when he became king (**2Ki 21:1**). This means he must have been born in the last 15 years of Hezekiah's life. Sadly, fathering Manasseh was not a worthy achievement. It was written of him, *And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel (2Ki 21:2)*. In fact, God specifically targeted Judah for judgment because of the terrible sins of Manasseh (**2Ki 21:10-15**). In this, we may see that the LORD had a better plan than Hezekiah did in calling him home at the earlier time. God knew that if Hezekiah lived, he would give birth to this wicked successor. Sometimes it is best to simply leave our lot with the LORD, and leave what even seems to be clearly good up to His wisdom. *It was for my own peace that I had great bitterness:* Hezekiah is to be admired for his accurate self-knowledge, and his honesty. He admits that it was not for God's glory or honor, or even for the glory or honor of his kingdom that he was troubled over his impending death and that he wanted his life spared. It was for his *own peace*. *For Sheol cannot thank You, death cannot praise You; those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your truth. The living, the living man, he shall praise You, as I do this day:* Again, this passage reflects the uncertain understanding of the world beyond before the finished work of Jesus Christ. Hezekiah *knew* he could praise God while he walked this earth, but he wasn't so sure about the world beyond. *Therefore we will sing my songs with stringed instruments all the days of our life, in the house of the LORD:* Hezekiah shows the logical response to God's great deliverance - praise.

vs. 21-22 How the LORD healed Hezekiah. *Let them take a lump of figs, and apply it as a poultice on the boil, and he shall recover:* Apparently, God used this medical treatment - at the very least, He used it as a sign - to bring Hezekiah's healing. God can, and often does, bring healing through medical treatments, and apart from an unusual direction from God, medical treatment should never be rejected in the name of "faith." *What is the sign that I shall go up to the house of the LORD:* Hezekiah wanted a sign, but why a sign that would allow him to *go up to the house of the LORD*? Because he could not, and would not *go up to the house of the LORD* until he was healed, so the two were connected.

vs. 15-20 King Hezekiah sang this song of deliverance after being given 15 extra years to live here on earth. We have been given, not 15 years, but all of eternity, not to live on earth, but to live in heaven! How much greater should our song of deliverance be?

vs. 21-21 Here we see not only the miracle of turning the shadows backward, but God will heal Hezekiah! Medicine doesn't heal, nor do doctors, neither does our immune system. It is God who heals! He can use medicine, miracles, our own bodies or a combination of all three to do His will!

Isaiah Chapters 38-39 - Hezekiah's Life Extended; The Babylonian Envoys

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com); email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Envoys from Babylon
Isa 39:1 *At that time Merodach-Baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that he had been sick and had recovered.*

Isa 39:2 *And Hezekiah was pleased with them, and showed them the house of his treasures—the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory—all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.*

Isa 39:3 *Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah, and said to him, "What did these men say, and from where did they come to you?" So Hezekiah said, "They came to me from a far country, from Babylon."*

Isa 39:4 *And 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."*

v. 1 **SHOWING OFF THE LORD'S TREASURE** - King Hezekiah shows off the treasures of his house to envoys from Babylon. A letter from the king of Babylon. *At that time*: This was after the miraculous recovery of Hezekiah. The LORD was good enough to give King Hezekiah 15 years more of life; but it was up to Hezekiah if those years would be lived in wisdom and to the glory of God. The king of Babylon *sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that he had been sick and had recovered*. Apparently this was a gesture of kindness from the king of Babylon, showing concern to Hezekiah as fellow royalty. The presence of *Merodach-Baladan* shows this was more than a courtesy call. This was an attempt to bring the kingdom of Judah on to the side of the Babylonians against the Assyrians. Hezekiah was deeply worried about Assyria. Feeling honored by the embassy, he gladly welcomed the envoys of this archenemy of Assyria. Without consulting either the Lord or Isaiah, he showed them his vast treasures, his abundant supplies of food, and his military armaments. God had given Hezekiah great wealth, so the visitors were duly impressed (**2Ch 32:27-29**). The first part of Isaiah (chapters 1 through 38) mainly dealt with the present threat from the Assyrian Empire. The rest of Isaiah (chapters 39 through 66) will prophetically speak to the threat of the coming Babylonian Empire. Therefore, "This brief chapter is actually an introduction to the second half of Isaiah."

v. 2 *And Hezekiah was pleased with them*: This was flattering for King Hezekiah. To receive this notice and recognition from the king of Babylon must have really made Hezekiah feel he was important. In gratitude, Hezekiah *showed them the house of his treasures*. We can imagine Hezekiah wanting to please these envoys from Babylon, and wanting to show them that they had good reason to be impressed with him and his kingdom. So he does everything he can to impress them, and shows them the very best riches of the royal household - and he showed them everything (*There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them*). As the coming rebuke from Isaiah will demonstrate, this was proud foolishness on Hezekiah's part. He is in the dangerous place of wanting to please and impress man, especially ungodly men. It was a genuine compliment for Hezekiah to receive this recognition from the king of Babylon. But Hezekiah received it wrongly, and let it go to his head. It is easy to get too puffed up when people compliment or recognize us, and to begin to take their praise - and ourselves - too seriously. What should Hezekiah have said to the envoys? "Thank you for coming and thank Merodach from his gift and invitation, but the fact is I have a divine promise to lean on; it has been confirmed personally in my return to health and cosmically in the sign of the sun. I cannot turn from faith in the promises of God." **2Ch 32:31** *But when envoys were sent by the rulers of Babylon to ask him about the miraculous sign that had occurred in the land, God left him to test him and to know everything that was in his heart.* So, it was a testing of God he failed.

vs. 3-4 Isaiah reproves Hezekiah - Isaiah questions Hezekiah regarding the visit of the Babylonian envoys. *What did these men say, and from where did they come to you?* Isaiah probably already knew the answer to these questions. It is likely that his questions were guided by God to allow Hezekiah the opportunity to answer honestly (which he did) and to see his error himself (which he apparently did not). *They have seen all that is in my house*: There is the flavor that Hezekiah was proud to tell Isaiah this. He is like a small-town boy who is awed by the attention of a big-city man. "Isaiah, you should have seen how impressed those Babylonians were by all I have. They really know we are something here in Judah!" Hezekiah's pride and inflated ego have blinded him!

v. 1 *How easy it is for us to let the effect of flattery cause us to sin. Feeling honored by the visit by the Babylonians, although Hezekiah was a man of prayer, he failed to pray or even consult Isaiah regarding the visit but showed what turned out to be the future conquerors of Judah all their treasures including their military armaments. Pro 20:19 He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; Therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips. Pro 29:5 A man who flatters his neighbor Spreads a net for his feet.*

v. 2 *When Hezekiah got a threatening letter from the Assyrians, he prayed! When he got a flattering letter from the Babylonians, he didn't pray but showed them all the treasures of precious things, the silver and the gold, spices and the house of armor. The lesson for us is to take not only threatening letters to the LORD but take the flattering letters to Him too! They are just as dangerous, or as we saw in Hezekiah's case, even more dangerous!*

vs. 3-4 *On two occasions when Mary was given revelation and insight, we're told she treasured those things in her heart. If God give us treasured revelation, we don't need to immediately shout it out to everyone. If He give us insight and glorious truths, the wisest thing to do is to simply treasure them to our hearts. Oh, if Hezekiah had only done that!*

Isaiah Chapters 38-39 - Hezekiah's Life Extended; The Babylonian Envoys

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com); email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

Isa 39:5 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD of hosts:

Isa 39:6 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD.

Isa 39:7 'And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.' "

Isa 39:8 So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good!" For he said, "At least there will be peace and truth in my days."

vs. 5-7 The word of the LORD to Hezekiah through Isaiah. *All that is in your father's house . . . shall be carried to Babylon:* Hezekiah thought that this display of wealth would impress the Babylonians. All it did was show them what the kings of Judah had, and what they could get from them. One day the kings of Babylon would come and take it all away. This was fulfilled in [2Ki 24:10-13](#) and [2Ki 25:11-17](#), under the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar. It would be more than a hundred years before Babylon carried away the royal treasures of Judah, but they did come, just as Isaiah prophesied. This prophecy is so remarkably accurate that many skeptics insist - without grounds other than unbelief - a later “Isaiah” must have written it after the fact. *And they shall take away some of your sons . . . and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon:* Worse than taking the material riches of the kings of Judah, the king of Babylon would take the **sons** of the king of Judah - his true riches! One fulfillment of this was the taking of Daniel and his companions into captivity. Daniel was one of *the king's descendants* taken into the *palace of the king of Babylon* ([Dan 1:1-4](#)). Because of this promise of God through Isaiah, many think that Daniel and his companions were made *eunuchs* when they were taken to serve in the palace.

v. 8 Isaiah reproves Hezekiah - King Hezekiah's response. *"The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good!" For he said, "At least there will be peace and truth in my days."* This is a questionable state of heart in the king of Judah. God announces coming judgment, and all he can respond with is relief that it will not happen in his lifetime. He seems pretty self-centered caring mostly cares about his own personal comfort and success. There is no doubt that Hezekiah started out as a godly king, and overall his reign was one of outstanding godliness ([2Ki 18:3-7](#)). Yet his beginning was much better than his end; Hezekiah did not finish too well. God gave Hezekiah the gift of 15 more years of life, but the added years did not make him a better or more godly man. Three things took place after God extended his life that were foolish acts: **he showed his treasures to Babylon**, which will cause great trouble in the future; **he begot a son, Manasseh**, who was the most wicked of any king; **he revealed an arrogance, almost an impudence** in his later years. His heart became filled with pride. [2Ch 32:25](#) *"But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem."* You see, it might have been better if Hezekiah had died at God's appointed time. However, in the very next verse, we do see a good thing in Hezekiah! [2Ch 32:26](#) *Then Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah.*

vs. 5-7 Isaiah gives the first prophecy of Judah's future captivity by Babylon, although it would not occur for about another 100 years. Additionally, Hezekiah is told that Babylon will take away some of his sons and they will become eunuchs in the king's palace in Babylon. Note the danger of pride and in this case, the effect that **flattery had** on Hezekiah, which caused his to do such an unwise thing!

v. 8 It would appear the granting of fifteen extra years was more of seeing God's permissive will than His perfect will being done. We see in 2 Chronicles chapter 32 that Hezekiah's heart was lifted up in pride – not good! But then in the very next verse, we see *"Then Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah. 2Ch 32:26* - a very good thing! His leadership through and following God's deliverance of Jerusalem had some positive merit. But having Manasseh, who became the worst king that Judah ever had, bringing judgment on Judah and showing Judah's treasures to Babylon could not be of God's perfect will

Isaiah Chapters 38-39 - Hezekiah's Life Extended; The Babylonian Envoys

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

SUMMARY:

- God's perfect or direct will is always the best for us! We should always be seeking that!
- God will allow his permissive will to be done, if we persist in seeking it – that is His second, third, fourth “not nearly so good for us” for us.
- Example: His perfect will: - 2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
- His permissive will: - Mat 7:14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Psa 106:15 And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul!
- So, what are we to do when we are sick? James chapter 5, says for the sick to call on the elders of the church to be anointed with oil and ask for healings.
- If God chooses to heal in answer to our prayers, may we make the very best use of each day of the extra time for His kingdom!
- If He doesn't heal, we know His appointed time for believers to be with Him has come! Joh 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.
- When Hezekiah got a threatening letter from the Assvrians, he prayed! When he got a flattering letter from the Babylonians, he didn't pray but showed them all the treasures of precious things, the silver and the gold, spices and the house of armor. The lesson for us is to take not only threatening letters to the LORD but take the flattering letters to Him too!
- We need to be especially aware of our tendency to be prideful whenever the LORD totally blesses us, heals us, or uses us in a great way! Also, that flattery blinds us and opens our lips all too often!
- 2Ch 32:31 But when envoys were sent by the rulers of Babylon to ask him about the miraculous sign that had occurred in the land, God left him to test him and to know everything that was in his heart. It was a testing of God he failed.
- Watch out for the flattering “Merodach-Baladans”!
- 2Ch 32:26 Then Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

Isaiah Chapters 38-39 - Hezekiah's Life Extended; The Babylonian Envoys

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – **ptwente@gmail.com** For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: **www.ptwente.com** Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

(regnal years counted Tishri to Tishri)

YEAR BCE	REGAL YEAR	EVENTS
727	A	← Hezekiah (727-698) became king in third year of Hoshea, Temple cleansed and Passover kept in his first year,
726	1st	
725	2nd	
724	3rd	
723	4th	
722	5th	
721	6th	←-- Fall of Samaria (721)
720	7th	
719	8th	
718	9th	
717	10th	
716	11th	
715	12th	
714	13th	←-- Hezekiah's life-threatening illness, when God gave him fifteen extra years of life
713	14th	
712	15th	
711	16th	
710	17th	←-- b. Manasseh (710)
709	18th	1 yo.
708	19th	2 yo.
707	20th	3 yo.
706	21st	4 yo.
705	22nd	5 yo.
704	23rd	6 yo.
703	24th	7 yo.
702	25th	8 yo.
701	26th	9 yo. ←-- Sennacherib's invasion
700	27th	10 yo.
699	28th	11 yo.
698	29th/A	12 yo. ← Manasseh (698-643)
697	1st	13 yo.