

ISAIAH 38-39

- Come to
 - When heard
 - [from
 - He
 - and
 - He HOPE
 - The and let be
- Prayer of
 - The had the
 - But sent a to
 - Do
 - God
 - had a
 - LORD
 - For a went the letter
 - It
 - saw

the Lord...
King HEZEKIAH
the threats of
RABSHAKEH
the king of
Assyria]
went into the
House of the Lord
PRAYED...
believed there was
- but lacked the
STRENGTH
[women in labor]
Lord answered
told him – do NOT
yourself [jussive]
AFRAID!
Hezekiah...
King of Assyria
to leave because of
threat of WAR with
Ethiopia...
before he left he
threatening letter
HEZEKIAH...
NOT be deceived
[jussive] by the
in whom you
TRUST [תִּשְׁטַח]
○ Hezekiah
CHOICE - either
LISTEN to the
[jussive] or
LISTEN to men
[jussive]
SECOND time he
into the House of
Lord – and laid the
before God...
changed his
PERSPECTIVE – he
the MAKER of
Heaven and
Earth...

- And realized why other nations had FALLEN – they did NOT follow the ONLY God!
- Word of the Lord...
 - God sent His response to the King of Assyria [Sennacherib]
 - The ONLY reason why he was successful – was because it was the PLAN of God...
 - But because of his PRIDE – God would send the king back [hook in his nose] to [Ninevah]
 - He would NOT come into Jerusalem – because God was defending it...
 - AND [וְ] - and ANGEL of the LORD was sent out STRIKE the camp of ASSYRIA...
 - In ONE night he KILLED 185 thousand soldiers - in the morning they were ALL [כָּל] dead [מֵוָה]
 - Then [sequential] Sennacherib went back [שָׁבָה] the way he came [to Nineveh]
 - And as he was WORSHIPING his god [אֱלֹהֵימָהּ] his sons killed him [sword]!
- 1ST – DOUBT OF HEZEKIAH... vs. 1-8
 - 1st – Very Sick... vs. 1-3
 - All at once... vs. 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!
 - Parallel passages are found in: **II Kings 20:1-21** – **II Chronicles 32:24-33**
 - In those DAYS [בַּיָּמִים] - Hezekiah became VERY sick – he was DYING [לָמוּת]
 - And Isaiah came to him with a WORD from the LORD:
 - Set [piel] your house in order [imperative] – because [כִּי] you are going to DIE [מֵוָה]
 - Most likely Isaiah was telling Hezekiah to plan for a successor...
 - Because Hezekiah had NO children – NO heir to sit on the throne...
 - It would have to be someone from the House of David [a close relative]
 - Because God promised an heir of David would always sit on the throne - **II Samuel 7:16**
 - Hezekiah reigned in Jerusalem for 29 years – **II Chronicles 29:1**
 - Sennacherib attacked Jerusalem in the FOURTEENTH years of his reign – **II Kings 18:13**
 - And Hezekiah ended up living another FIFTEEN years AFTER Isaiah told him he would die...
 - Meaning this news potentially came DURING the siege of Jerusalem by Assyria...
 - Suggesting this passage backs up into the previous chapter – and Jerusalem was still in peril!
 - There are times when we ask the Lord – REALLY – when it rains it pours...
 - God knows when hard times come - our first reaction is to depend on ourselves...
 - So He adds to our PROBLEMS - till we can NO longer handle them...
 - So we learn NOT to trust ourselves - instead trust in God - **II Corinthians 12:9**
 - More time... vs. 2-3
 - Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall and prayed to the LORD 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!
 - No sooner had Isaiah told him – then Hezekiah TURNED to the WALL...
 - Hearing of his imminent DEATH – he went immediately in prayer to the LORD...
 - He PLEADED [נָא] with God to remember how he had WALKED before Him...
 - In TRUTH [אֱמֶת] – doing GOOD [טוֹב] with his whole HEART [לֵב]
 - And [וְ] Hezekiah WEPT greatly [גָּדוֹל] to the LORD!
 - I do NOT think Hezekiah was saying he NEVER wanted to DIE [everyone dies]
 - But Jerusalem was surrounded by the armies of Assyria...
 - And Hezekiah did NOT have an heir to pass the crown onto [no son]
 - He was just asking for MORE time so he could finish his work!

- DEATH is a very difficult thing to face on the best of days...
- All the more when we are convinced we still have things to do...
- But we do NOT get to choose the number of our days – **Psalm 139:16**
- And we need to TRUST the plan of God is the best for our lives [even our death]
- 2nd – Change of Plan... vs. 4-6
 - Word of the Lord... vs. 4
 - And the word of the LORD came to Isaiah saying:
 - 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.
 - I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria - and I will defend this city!
 - Before Isaiah had even left the house of Hezekiah – **II Kings 20:4**
 - The word of the Lord came to him to go BACK to the King...
 - The LORD had heard his PRAYERS and seen his TEARS...
 - God would add FIFTEEN years to his life [he was 39 years old]
 - Because God would rescue both Hezekiah and Jerusalem from the king of Assyria!
 - This is a TROUBLING verse – it appears to suggest PRAYER can CHANGE the mind of God...
 - Yet God CANNOT lie - and does NOT change his mind – **Numbers 23:19**
 - If God says something it happens - we can count on it – **II Corinthians 1:20**
 - Fifteen years...
 - It was during those FIFTEEN years his son Manasseh was born...
 - Manasseh was TWELVE years old when Hezekiah died – **II Kings 21:1**
 - Manasseh who was the most wicked king ever to reign in Judah...
 - It was because of the sins of Manasseh that Judah was taken into captivity – **II Kings 24:3**
 - God has amazing plans for our lives – beyond anything we could imagine...
 - But God will NOT insist we obey His plan – it is our CHOICE...
 - If we CHOOSE our PLAN – if we INSIST on going our own way – God will let us...
 - Yet since God sees the end from the beginning – He knows what is best for our lives...
 - So it is only logical for us to desire His PLAN...
 - Prayer is NOT about CHANGING the mind of God - getting Him to agree with us...
 - Prayer is about God CHANGING our mind - getting us to line up with His PLANS!
 - **Luke 22:42** - “Nevertheless not my will but Your will be done.”
- 3rd – The Sign... vs. 7-8
 - Doubting... vs. 7
 - This is the sign to you from the LORD - that the LORD will do this thing which He has spoken!
 - The Lord promised Hezekiah he would be healed in THREE days – **II Kings 20:5**
 - And God would give Hezekiah a SIGN to prove He would keep His WORD [הַדָּבָר]
 - But it was Hezekiah that asked for the SIGN [אֵיזָה] – **II Kings 20:8**
 - Yet the ONLY reason why he would ask for a SIGN – is if he DOUBTED!
 - Sign of Ahaz... vs. 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!
 - Isaiah gave a CHOICE – sun move forward or backwards on the SUNDIAL – **II Kings 20:9-10**
 - Hezekiah wanted the sun to move BACK [because that was impossible]

- Figurately giving Hezekiah more TIME to live...
- So the sun went back TEN steps on the sundial [steps] of AHAZ!
- There is NO need to mention WHOSE sundial the sun backed up on...
- Unless it is to connect us to another time when someone DOUBTED God...
- The Lord told King Ahaz he would NOT be defeated by Israel and Syria – **Isaiah 7:11**
- And offered to give ANY sign to prove it – and gave him the sign of Immanuel!
- The only reason why we would TEST God - is because we DOUBT His Word...
- It is much easier to believe if we SEE [it takes no faith – it takes no trust]
- Yet Jesus desires that we have a relationship with Him – FRIENDSHIP with God...
- What kind of FRIENDSHIP would it be if God always had to PROVE Himself...
- That is why to have a truly blessed relationship with the Lord – we need to TRUST the Lord!

● **2ND – REFLECTION OF HEZEKIAH... vs. 9-20**

○ 1st – The Perspective... vs. 9-11

▪ Sheol... vs. 9-10

- The writing of Hezekiah king of Judah when he had been sick - recovered from his sickness:
- 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!
- This is what Hezekiah wrote AFTER he recovered from his sickness [only here in Isaiah]
- In the PRIME [idiom] of his life – he thought he would enter the gates of SHEOL [שְׁאוֹל]
- He would MISS [pual] the remainder of his years!
- SHEOL [שְׁאוֹל] is a general term in the Old Testament for the GRAVE [death]
- What happened after DEATH – was a mystery hidden until the New Testament...
- Before the cross NO one went to heaven – everyone went down to SHEOL [שְׁאוֹל]
- But there were TWO compartments - Abrahams Bosom [παράδεισος] and Hell – **Luke 16:22**
- PARADISE [Abrahams Bosom] – was a place of COMFORT for those who died in faith...
- It is now EMPTY – Jesus set the prisoners free after His death – **Isaiah 61:1**
- HELL [ᾗδης] – is place of torment for those who do NOT have faith...
- HELL will give up its dead to be judged before the Great White Throne – **Revelation 20:13**

▪ Not the End... vs. 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!
- The ignorance of Hezekiah led him to say to himself...
- He would NOT see YAH [contraction of יְהוָה] in the land of the LIVING...
- He would NOT look upon MAN [אָדָם] – and those who live in this PASSING [תְּהוֹלָה] world!
- When I was in high school one of my classmates called Christianity a DEATH cult...
- He was NOT a believer - and to him death was the END...
- What he could NOT see is that death is just the doorway to ETERNAL life!
- **II Corinthians 5:1** – “We know that if our earthly house - *this* tent is destroyed - we have a building from God - a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens.”
- Our bodies are NOT who we are - any more than the CLOTHES we wear...
- Our bodies are simply a TENT for our eternal spirit to live in for a short time...
- When we DIE we CHANGE clothing - and put on our eternal body...
- Because our physical - corrupt bodies cannot inherit eternal life – **I Corinthians 15:50**
- These bodies were NOT designed to live forever - they were NOT meant to go to heaven...
- But God has a NEW body - a MUCH better one - prepared for those who TRUST in Him!

○ 2nd – The Sickness... vs. 12-14

- My life span is gone taken from me like a shepherds 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.
- I have considered until morning like a lion - so He breaks all my bones.
- From day until night You make an end of me.
- 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!
- Hezekiah described the SICKNESS that almost killed him...
- He felt like his TENT [life] was being carried away [niphāl] like a SHEPHERD [unstable]
- Like the THREADS on a weavers loom – he life was being CUT [piel] short...
- He lie STILL [piel] until the morning – but it felt like a LION had broken ALL [כָּל] his bones...
- He felt like his life was taken in a DAY - from morning to night [2x for emphasis]
- As he lay in bed – he CHATTERED like [כָּ] a BIRD – MOANED like [כָּ] a dove [in pain]
- Brought low – he tired of looking up to the MASTER [אֱלֹהֵי] asking for HELP!
- We do NOT have any guarantees in this life – and it does pass QUICKLY [get sick and die]
- It is like a wisp of SMOKE – we are here today and gone tomorrow – **James 4:14**
- And once we are GONE the world will forget us – **Ecclesiastes 1:11**
- So the question becomes if our live is SHORT – and quickly FORGOTTEN – why are we here...
- The answer is to make a CHOICE – where we will spend ETERNITY!

○ 3rd – The Recovery... vs. 15-20

- Cautious... vs. 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!
 - What could Hezekiah say [piel] about his EXPERIENCE...
 - God had SPOKEN [perfect] – He was the one who had made him SICK [perfect]
 - It caused [hiphil] him to WALK carefully [2x in OT] for all [כָּל] his remaining YEARS...
 - Because of the DIFFICULTLY [כָּבֵד] that his SOUL [נַפְשִׁי] had been through!
- Restoration... vs. 16-17
 - 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.
 - 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!

- Hezekiah realized it was through the DIFFICULTIES [sickness] that men LIVE...
- And in all [כָּל] these things his SPIRIT [רוּחַ] found life...
- Having come to that conclusion – God gave him HEALTH so he could LIVE...
- INDEED – it was for his PEACE [שָׁלוֹם] that the LORD gave him great DIFFICULTY [מַר]
- But it was also the LORD - in LOVE - that kept his SOUL [נַפְשׁ] from CORRUPTION...
- Because he CAST [hiphil] the SINS of Hezekiah behind His back!
- The DIFFICULTIES we face in life are NOT coming from the hand of an ANGRY God...
- They are the GRACIOUS acts of a LOVING Father trying to get our attention...
- He wants to give PEACE [שָׁלוֹם] to our SOUL [נַפְשׁ] – life to our SPIRIT [רוּחַ]
- He wants us to learn to come to Him so He can forgive our SINS!
- **Hebrews 12:6** – “For whom the LORD loves He chastens.”
- The reason... vs. 18-19
 - 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.
 - The father shall make known Your truth to the children!
 - Hezekiah reasoned why God did this while he was still ALIVE...
 - Those in SHEOL [שְׁאוֹל] cannot give THANKS – or those who are DEAD [מָוֶת] sing PRAISE...
 - Those who are in the PIT – cannot HOPE in the TRUTH [אֱמֶת]
 - But the LIVING – the LIVING [2x for emphasis] can PRAISE as Hezekiah did that DAY...
 - And as a FATHER he would make known [יַדַּע] that TRUTH [אֱמֶת] to his CHILDREN!
 - This may allude to the hope Hezekiah had he might now have kids...
 - Sadly history tells us that his love for God was NOT passed onto Manasseh!
 - But it is TRUE that once we are DEAD – there is NO more choice...
 - The reason why God will allow us to go through TRIALS is to get our attention...
 - Because EVERYONE will live forever - the question is WHERE will we spend our eternity...
 - Our decision is LIMITED to our time here on earth - **Hebrews 9:27**
 - The moment we DIE our fate is sealed - there is NO purgatory – NO second chances...
 - Either we have received GRACE from Jesus - and have the hope of eternity with God...
 - Or we have rejected the Gospel – sentencing ourselves to an eternity separate from Him!
- The response... vs. 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!
 - The LORD is the one who SAVED [יָשַׁע] Hezekiah...
 - Therefore he would SING to the LORD all the days of his life in the house of the LORD...
 - Do not miss the context – Hezekiah almost DIED...
 - The armies of Assyria were still marauding through Judea – but he is PRAISED the LORD...
 - It is even possible the LORD used his sickness to prepare him for the Assyrian crisis...
 - Teaching him to come to the LORD before the nation ever needed deliverance!
 - Our ability to PRAISE does NOT come from our circumstances...
 - We PRAISE the LORD in spite of them – knowing no matter what we have the VICTORY!
- 4th – The Sign... vs. 21-22
 - Isaiah said: Let them take a lump of figs and apply it as a poultice on the boil – he shall recover.
 - And Hezekiah had said: What is the sign that I shall go up to the house of the LORD?
 - Isaiah said to put some FIGS and press them on the BOIL of Hezekiah so he would LIVE...

- Then Hezekiah asked for the SIGN [אִתָּךְ] that he would go up to the HOUSE of the LORD...
- Not a SIGN to be healed – that had already been given – **Isaiah 38:8**
- He wanted to know how soon he could get back to worshiping!
- **3RD – FALL OF HEZEKIAH... vs. 1-8**
 - 1st – Babylon... vs. 1-2
 - Flattery... vs. 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!
 - At about the same time as Hezekiah was HEALED by the Lord...
 - Merodach-Baladan [Marduk has given a son] - the King of Babylon [around 703 B.C.]
 - Who was a fierce opponent of Sennacherib - King of Assyria...
 - He sent a LETTER and a GIFT because he heard what happened to Hezekiah...
 - More likely he was looking to form a political - military alliance against Assyria...
 - And God used it as a TEST - to see what Hezekiah would do!
 - **II Chronicles 32:31** – “Regarding the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon whom they sent to him to inquire about the wonder that was *done* in the land - God withdrew from Hezekiah in order to test him that He might know all *that was* in his heart.”
 - This is just the opposite of what Hezekiah had previously faced...
 - There were NO armies at the gates - NO sickness threatening his life...
 - Everything was going GREAT - he had LOTS of MONEY and HONOR - **II Chronicles 32:27**
 - People from other nations were coming and giving him GIFTS...
 - Yet it was still a TEST from God - now where would be put his TRUST!
 - Pride... vs. 2
 - 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!
 - Hezekiah was HAPPY [חֵפֶז] that they had come - and showed them EVERYTHING...
 - All of his SILVER - GOLD - SPICES - OILS - ALL [כָּל] of his TREASURES...
 - So that there was NOTHING [לֹא] in his house of kingdom they did NOT see...
 - Why - because in when everything was going well - PRIDE snuck in!
 - **II Chronicles 32:25** – “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.”
 - When life falls apart - and everything is going WRONG...
 - We get that is a TRIAL - the Lord is TESTING us to see who we will look to - **James 1:2**
 - But we likely do NOT think of riches and blessing as a TRIAL [test]
 - Yet in much the same way the question becomes who will we look to...
 - If we have LOTS of money - LOTS of blessings - do we become PRIDEFUL!
 - 2nd – Word of the Lord... vs. 3-8
 - Questions... vs. 3-4
 - 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.
 - He said: What have they seen in your house? So Hezekiah answered:

- They saw all that is in my house. There is nothing among my treasures I have not shown them!
 - Isaiah had TWO question for Hezekiah after the men left...
 - FIRST - where did the men come from?
 - Hezekiah let him know from a FAR away place [not dangerous] - Babylon...
 - SECOND - what did you should them in his house?
 - Hezekiah admitted he showed them EVERYTHING [כָּל]
 - But why ask the questions - as his answer will show he already knew!
 - When God called out to Adam and Eve in the Garden - **Genesis 3:9**
 - It was NOT because He did NOT know where they were...
 - It was to give them a chance to THINK about what they had DONE - and REPENT!
 - When we get the PRICK from the Holy Spirit - the CHECK in our heart...
 - We are wise to stop and REFLECT on what we have done - and if needed - REPENT!
- Nothing left... vs. 5-7
- Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah: Hear the word of the LORD of hosts:
 - 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.
 - 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!
 - Isaiah replied: HEAR [imperative] the Word of the LORD of [צְבָאוֹת]
 - The DAYS are coming when ALL [כָּל] that is in your house will be taken to BABYLON...
 - Everything you and your FATHERS [other kings] have SAVED - nothing will be left...
 - Even the SONS of Hezekiah that he would [imperfect] have...
 - Would be taken away to SERVE in the king of BABYLON!
- Not in my days... vs. 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!
 - Hezekiah said to Isaiah - the Word from the Lord was GOOD [טוֹב]
 - [כִּי] Because - there will be PEACE [שְׁלוֹמִים] and STABILITY in HIS days...
 - In other words at LEAST the consequences would NOT come on HIM!
 - Although Hezekiah was a GOOD King - **II Chronicles 29:2**
 - His PRIDE in his later years ended up passing onto his son [Manasseh]
 - The Lord wants to TEST us - show us what is in us...
 - And He can do that through TRIALS - or through BLESSINGS...
 - Both ways He is trying to let us see where were are putting our FAITH...
 - But know that the lesson is NOT just for us...
 - Our children are WATCHING - and they are following our EXAMPLE!