

ISAIAH – Chapter 38

Vs. 1 Isaiah brings Hezekiah a word from the Lord.
Already sick, this is the Lord's word concerning his future!

NOTE: Chapters 38 & 39 occur chronologically before Chapters 36 & 37.

- 1) Sennacherib's surrounding of Jerusalem followed Hezekiah's sickness and healing, vs. 6.
- 2) Merodach-baladin, mentioned in 39:1, ruled from 721 to 710 and nine months in 703-702 B.C. (he ruled before Sennacherib's invasion of Judah in 701).

This means that Hezekiah was told of the Babylonian captivity awaiting Judah before God overthrew Assyria. The Babylonian captivity was caused by Hezekiah's stupidity!

- 3) Hezekiah's sickness was caused by a boil, 38:21.
- 4) Though Hezekiah was a man of God: 2 Kings 18:1-7(a)
 - a) He did some stupid things. Isa. 39
 - b) He became sick and did die!

Vs. 2-3 Hezekiah requests longer life be given him by the Lord. His request was based on his acts done for the Lord during his life.

Vs. 4-5 God's response to Hezekiah's prayer.

Hezekiah died in 686 B.C., therefore, his sickness and prayer would have occurred in 701 B.C.

Vs. 6 God's promise to heal Hezekiah was followed by His promise to deliver Jerusalem from the king of Assyria.

NOTE: Verse 22 apparently fits in between verses 7 and 8.

Vs. 7-8 Ahaz, Hezekiah's son, had built a staircase allowing the people to ascertain the time of the day. God, through Isaiah, tells Hezekiah that the sun's shadow would move in the opposite direction 10 steps. How did He accomplish this miracle?

- 1) Was the earth's rotation reversed?
- 2) Were the sun's rays refracted?

Verse 9-20 – Hezekiah's song of thanksgiving.

Verses 10-14

- 1) Hezekiah's illness came in the prime of his life.
- 2) Death is described as passing through gates. Job 38:17; Ps. 9:13; 107:18 Sheol, at the time of Hezekiah, is where all the departed (dead) went.
- 3) A walk with the Lord in this creation will no longer be possible.
- 4) Humanity will pass.
- 5) Like a shepherd's tent – folded up.
- 6) The canvas of the weaver – rolled up, with the picture finished – cut off the loom.
- 7) As for me – I am history!
- 8) He hoped he would get well (vs. 13a), but he got worse, vs. 13b-14. His illness was as if God were a lion breaking all his bones, his cries of pain were like the sound of birds.

Vs. 15 God had brought on this illness.

Verse 16-20

- 1) Hezekiah's experience is not unlike the experience of other men, but he cries out to God "restore me...let me live", vs. 16.
- 2) That which God has "brought down" upon Hezekiah has been for his own good – he realizes this truth. Rom. 8:28
- 3) He also sensed that God's love was with him and that God did not punish him with what his sins deserved, vs. 17.
- 4) He "reminds" God that those who are dead cannot praise the Lord.

Once death occurs, there is no more time to serve God – (then comes the judgment), vs. 18-19.
- 5) Hezekiah will proclaim the Lord's faithfulness for as long as the Lord allows him to continue to live.

He has seen the sign, he will..., vs. 20.

Vs. 21 God heals Hezekiah using earthly means!

Vs. 22 Goes between verses 6 and 7.