

ISAIAH – Chapter 39

Historical Note:

- 1) Merodach-baladan had tried to break away from the Assyrians twice. One of those times, he had gained control over the city of Babylon.
- 2) After his second reign (nine months in 703-702 B.C.), he was deported by Sennacherib and sent to Elam. While in Elam, he actively tried to form alliances with other nations in his continuing effort to rid himself of the Assyrians.

His visit to Hezekiah was probably more about this than a congratulatory visit.

- 3) 2 Chron. 32:31 states that God’s motive behind the visit was to test Hezekiah’s heart.
- 4) Merodach-baladan’s visit preceded Sennacherib’s attack on Jerusalem in 701 (since the wealth shown by Hezekiah had not yet been given to the king of Assyria as tribute, 2 Kings 18:13-16).
- 5) Therefore; Hezekiah’s illness, Merodach-baladan’s visit, and Sennacherib’s attack – all three occurred in 701 B.C.

Vs. 1 The visit.

Vs. 2 Hezekiah’s incredibly dumb act of pride! Also, note that King Hezekiah treats “everything” in his dominion as if it belonged to him.

Vs. 3 Isaiah’s two questions:

- 1) What did these men say? – Hezekiah doesn’t answer his question!
- 2) From where have they come from? – from Babylon.

Vs. 4 Isaiah asks a third question:

What have they seen in your house? – Hezekiah answers.

Vs. 5-7 Isaiah gives a two-part prophecy in response to what Hezekiah has done:

- 1) The king’s wealth will be carried off to Babylon – all of it.
- 2) Some of the king’s descendants will serve in the royal court of Babylon (fulfilled in 605 B.C., Dan. 1:1-7).

Vs. 8 Hezekiah, the “man of God,” allows his true self to come through!