

# Lesson 15

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Isaiah 38–39



# “In those days” (Isa. 38:1)

- “Those days” would likely be **before** or **during** the events described in chapters 36–37.
  - “I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria...” (38:6).
- Hezekiah “was 25 years old when he became king, and reigned 29 years in Jerusalem” (2 Kings 18:2).
  - His “extension” was granted, then, when he was 39.
  - How did Hezekiah describe this time? (38:10).

# Key Passages

- **Isaiah to Hezekiah:** “Thus says the LORD: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live’” (38:1).
- **What God told Isaiah to tell Hezekiah:** “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...” (38:5–6).
- **Isaiah’s question to Hezekiah:** “What have they seen in your house?” (Isaiah 39:4).

# The Rest of the Story

- How quickly Hezekiah's prayer was answered:
  - “And it happened, **before Isaiah had gone out into the middle of the court**, that the word of the LORD came to him...” (2 Kings 20:4).
- The LORD's full answer to Hezekiah, and more on the sundial sign: 2 Kings 20:5–11.
- Lesson learned by Hezekiah: 2 Chron. 32:22–26, 31.

# Questions to Consider

- Concerning Hezekiah's life:
  - How does he describe it? (38:3). \*2 Kings 18:3\*
  - Was he sinless?
    - 38:17: "You have cast all my sins behind Your back."
  - Is it possible for us to be described in the same way?
  - Can someone like this still succumb to pride?

# Questions to Consider

- Concerning preparation for death:
  - Can WE expect the same warning Hezekiah was given?
  - **WHEN** would be a good time to set our house in order, and **WHAT** does that involve?

# Questions to Consider

- Concerning the Lord's care for us:
  - Does the Lord care when we cry?
    - Psalms 56:8: "You number my wanderings; **put my tears into Your bottle**; are they not in Your book?"
  - Did Jesus ever cry?
    - John 11:35; Luke 19:41; Hebrews 5:7 ("with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him...").
    - "Does Jesus Care?" (#466).

# Questions to Consider

- Concerning the poultice (lump of figs):
  - Did the poultice have any healing power?
  - Any more than Jordan river had for Naaman (2 Kings 5), or the mud for the blind man's eyes (John 9)?
  - Can anyone even imagine Hezekiah resisting the application of these figs?



# Questions to Consider

- Concerning what Hezekiah wrote when he had been sick and recovered (38:10–20).
  - How does this differ from what Paul wrote in Philippians 1:23: “having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is **far better**”?
  - Can only the **living** praise God? (38:19).

# Questions to Consider

- Concerning this statement by Hezekiah: “The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good!” (39:8).
  - Is the word of the Lord “good” even when it’s not good news?
    - “Then Samuel told him everything, and hid nothing from him. And he said, ‘It is the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him’” (1 Samuel 3:18).