

## Thru the Bible Series

Date: Thursday, September 19th

Reading: 2 Kings 20 King Hezekiah

### Notes:

1. We know from comparing 2 Kings 18:2 with 2 Kings 20:6 that Hezekiah was 39 years old when he learned he would soon die... 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..." But under the Old Covenant, this was a valid principle on which to approach God. Passages like Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 show that under the Old Covenant, blessing and cursing was sent by God on the basis of obedience or disobedience. On that principle, David could write in Psalm 15: 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. (Psalm 15:1-2)... But under the New Covenant, we are blessed on the principle of faith in Jesus (Galatians 3:13-14). Hezekiah's principle of prayer isn't fitting for a Christian today. We pray in the name of Jesus (John 16:23-24), not in the name of who we are or what we have done. -Guzik

2. "Hezekiah was granted an added fifteen years; since he died c. 686 b.c. this promise can be dated from about the time of the siege of Jerusalem. His recovery was also symbolic of the recovery of Jerusalem." -Wiseman

**3. Because Hezekiah recovered, was God's word (You shall die and not live, 2 Kings 20:1) proved false? No; first, 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.** -Guzik

4. Hezekiah's prayer was important. By all indications, if Hezekiah had not made his passionate prayer, then his life would not have been extended. This is another demonstration of the principle that prayer matters... In fact, 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. -Guzik

5. *Take a lump of figs:* Apparently, God used this medical treatment 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. -Guzik

6. God showed even more mercy to Hezekiah. God was under no obligation to give this sign. In fact, God would have been justified in saying, "I said it and you believe it. How dare you not take My word for true?" But in real love, God gave Hezekiah more than he needed or deserved... 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 to demonstrate His love to us (John 3:16, Romans 5:8). -Guzik

7. God promised to do something completely miraculous for the confirming sign. He promised to make the shadow on the sundial move backward instead of forward... 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. -Guzik

8. It was a miracle, whatever way we take it. God could have reversed the revolution of the earth, had He seen fit to do so – for he is a poor clockmaker even, who cannot turn the hands of his own workmanship backward; or He could have caused the phenomenon by the ordinary law of refraction." -Knapp

9. The real reason of the visit was political; Babylon desired to throw off the yoke of Assyria. What nation was more likely to help them than the one at the hands of which Assyria had been so completely defeated? Babylon sought alliance with Judah against Assyria." -Morgan

10. 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 did everything he could to impress them, and showed 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 nothing but proud foolishness on Hezekiah's part. He was in the dangerous place of wanting to please and impress man, especially ungodly men. -Guzik

11. It was not spiritual pride, as with his great-grandfather Uzziah; but worldly pride – 'the pride of life,' we might say. It was his precious things, his armor, his treasures, his house, his dominion, etc., that he showed the ambassadors from Babylon..." Why did he not show these learned heathen God's house? 'Every whit' of which showeth 'His glory' (Psalm 29:9, margin). There he could have explained to them the meaning of the brazen altar, and the sacrifices offered thereon; and who can tell what the results might not have been in the souls of these idolaters?" -Knapp

12. There is the flavor that Hezekiah was proud to tell Isaiah this. He was like a small-town boy who was 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 seemed to make him blind... Hezekiah thought that this display of wealth would impress the 13. 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 2 Kings 24:10-13 and 2 Kings 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. - Guzik

14. *The word of the Lord which you have spoken is good!* This was a sad state of heart in the king of Judah. God announced coming judgment, and all he could respond with was relief that it would not happen in his lifetime... In this, Hezekiah showed himself to be almost the exact opposite of an “others-centered” person. He was almost totally self-centered. All he cares about is 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 (2 Kings 18:3-7). Yet his beginning was much better than his end; Hezekiah did not finish well. God gave Hezekiah the gift of 15 more years of life, but the added years did not make him a better or a more godly man... Time or age doesn’t necessarily make us any better. Consider that time does nothing but pass away. We sometimes say, “time will tell,” “time will heal,” or “time will bring out the potential in me.” But time will do nothing of the sort! Time will only come and go. It is only how we use time that matters. Hezekiah didn’t make good use of the extra time the Lord gave him. -Guzik

**Can you relate?**

What will I do with my time? How do I live every day? What are my priorities? Does flattery distract me too? Do I allow my blessings to point people to God or to myself?

**Explore:** 2 Kings 20:19 *Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “This message you have given me from the Lord is good.” For the king was thinking, “At least there will be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ during my lifetime.”*

**Express:**

- 1. We love peace and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. God loves \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. People have the \_\_\_\_\_ to choose to use God’s blessings for their own selfish purposes.

**Corresponding Scriptures:** How do these passages correspond with 2 Kings 20:19?

- 1. Psalm 90:12
- 2. Ephesians 5:16
- 3. James 4:14

**Engage:** Make a personal prayer asking God to help you manage your time. Ask God to reveal to you the areas of your life where you are not making good, godly use of the time he has given you.

**Closing:** God extended Hezekiah’s life. Just like last week with King Jehu, we see that God doesn’t remove a promise. We see again that God is kind and that his extended blessings are opportunities for us to pursue godliness. We have the freedom to use his blessings for us to pursue our own desires too. What did God tell you during this study today, and what are you going to do about it?

**Homework:**

Circle the things that could possibly eating up your time...

scrolling on my cel phone    no set work hours    my “me” time

hobbies    helping others    tv    laziness/sleep    depression    my job

Recognize that God is willing and able to help you in any or all of these areas. It isn’t a matter of you determining to have more will power when you wake up to conquer one of these issues. Just ask Jesus to help you put your phone away, help you establish work hours and family time, and help you with how you spend your downtime. He will. He will show you what to do one day at a time.

- 1. He will give you \_\_\_\_\_ when you ask for it. (James 1:5)
- 2. He will give you the \_\_\_\_\_ and the ability to do what pleases him. (Philippians 2:13)
- 3. He will direct your \_\_\_\_\_. (Proverbs 3:6)

Read 2 Kings 23 for next week!