



2. *Hezekiah's first prayer.*

*"In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover." Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, "Remember, O LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly." Isaiah 38:1-3*

- a. The New Bible Commentary puts Hezekiah's age at 39. What does that add to your thoughts?
- b. What do these verses reveal about Hezekiah? Did he have a proud heart? Do you think he had a problem with self-righteousness?
- c. How would we react if we were given a similar message from God?
- d. Discuss Hezekiah's prayer in Isaiah 38:3 and then compare it with what his attitude was after his recovery.
- e. What does Isaiah 38:4-6 teach us about our God?
- f. What kind of relationship did Hezekiah have with God?

3. *In verses 7 and 8 there is a remarkable sign from God.*

God is altering the time for Isaiah. Commentaries suggest this could be anything from a special refraction of the sun's rays to a reversal of the rotation of the earth. The stairs were some sort of sundial. What is the significance of this sign? God seems to be altering time for Hezekiah. Why such a remarkable sign from God? Because He could!

Consider God's compassion and unprecedented power when you face difficult circumstances.

4. *Hezekiah's second Prayer, Isaiah 38:10-20*

The song itself is in two halves, and is centered on verse 15. This is a statement of humble submission to the Lord, and demonstrates a mature attitude from Hezekiah.

The first half of Hezekiah's song or poem (38:10-14) describes his feelings before he was healed. He was scared of death (38:10) and of abandonment by God Himself (38:11), and he resented the shortening of his life.

There is much wisdom however in the rest of the poem. Hezekiah came before the Lord to give Him honor for his healing, and he confirmed his faith in his prayer. All people suffer in one way or another, but by recognizing this Hezekiah was able to break out of the self-pity and gloom of oppression.

Hezekiah's vision of a future with the Lord however is one of praise and thanksgiving (38:19, 20), in which the blessings of God are handed on from parent to child and there is continuous praise and song in the presence of the Lord.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

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- A. What did Hezekiah fear when he faced death, and how similar is this to our fears? How do we feel about his crying out before God? Are there times in our lives when we need to cry out to God?
  
- B. As you look at Hezekiah's response after his healing what strikes you about his interaction with God? Isaiah 38:10-20
  
- C. What about your own interaction with God?
  
- D. Do you agree with the statement that - Prayer is the way that God delivers us? If you agree discuss how this happens.

**Conclusion:**

Hezekiah realized the living can praise God to the next generation. He realized that the dead cannot praise God. Answers to prayer are a legacy to pass on to the next generation.

There are two sets of people in church:

1. Those who have tremendous needs
2. Those who had needs which God had met.

The second group can minister to the first, how can we encourage this to happen?