

The Judgment and Blessing of God – A Study in the Book of Isaiah

14 - THE COMING CRISIS WITH BABYLON (ISAIAH 38:1-39:8)

I. Hezekiah's Sickness and Healing (Isaiah 38:1-22)

A. Hezekiah faces death (Isaiah 38:1-8)

- In the time of the Assyrian crisis, Hezekiah became sick and faced death.
- Isaiah proclaimed that the Lord told the king that he will die.
- Hezekiah pleads with the Lord concerning his life.
- The Lord sent Isaiah to tell the king that he has heard his prayers.
- The Lord will add fifteen years to his life.
- The sign of the healing will be the lengthening of the day as the sun's shadow is reversed.

B. Hezekiah's Thanksgiving (Isaiah 38:9-20)

- Hezekiah wrote a song of thanksgiving when he recovered from his sickness.
- Hezekiah states that the illness came in the prime of his life.
- In death, Hezekiah states that he will no longer enjoy the blessing of God in this life.
- Hezekiah shared how he pleaded for his life before the Lord.
- Hezekiah praises God for delivering his life from death.
- Hezekiah recognizes that it was for his own good that he suffered.
- While he was alive, Hezekiah would proclaim the goodness of the Lord.

C. Hezekiah's healing (Isaiah 38:21-22)

- Isaiah stated that the king should be treated with a poultice of dry figs.
- The poultice was to be applied to the boil and the king would recover.
- In faith, Hezekiah asked for the sign that God's word will be fulfilled.

II. Hezekiah's Interaction with Babylon (Isaiah 39:1-8)

A. Babylonian officials visit (Isaiah 39:1-2)

- The king of Babylon sent a gift with his officials to congratulate Hezekiah for his healing.

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- Pleased with the gift, Hezekiah showed the Babylonians all the treasure of the kingdom.
- There was nothing that the king did not show the Babylonians.

B. Isaiah's inquiry (Isaiah 39:3-4)

- Isaiah asks where these officials came from and what did they say.
- Hezekiah tells Isaiah that they were from Babylon.
- Isaiah asks what these officials saw in Hezekiah's house.
- Hezekiah responds that they saw every treasure that the kingdom had.

C. The Message from the Lord (Isaiah 39:5-7)

- Isaiah proclaims that Lord has a message for the king.
- The Lord proclaims that a day will come when all of this treasure will be carried off to Babylon.
- Some of the king's sons will be carried away in exile and become eunuchs in the Babylonian palace.

D. Hezekiah's response (Isaiah 39:8)

- Hezekiah proclaimed that the Word of Lord which was spoken is good.
- He said this because the years of his life would be marked by peace and truth.