

The Divine Test on Hezekiah's Life

Text: Isaiah 38:1-8; 21-22

Date: 5-8-22 10:30 AM

The truth is that our lives are in God's hands and we can revel in the knowledge that each day is both a gift from God and an opportunity to glorify Him through a life of full trust in His plan.

- I. **Hezekiah's difficult predicament exposes the king's frailty (Isa. 38:1).**
- II. **Hezekiah's prayer demonstrates that his only hope of longer life would come through divine involvement (Isa. 38:2-3).**

The king's motive was to place his full weight and trust in God for his life so that he may continue to lead the nation to spiritual restoration.

Why then did God say that Hezekiah would die? He wanted to test Hezekiah to see if He would fully trust Him for the nation's future.

- III. **Jehovah's response to Hezekiah's prayer establishes that He is sovereign and in control of His creation (Isa. 38:4-8).**

God now gives the king several promises and reassurances:

- A. "I have heard your prayer" (v. 5b)

The God of David has promised that Hezekiah will now live to bear a son and it will be through that son the promise of David will be fulfilled. Manasseh was born 3 years later (II Kings 21:1).

Therefore Hezekiah is a legitimate heir to David's throne and to the promises of the Davidic covenant.

Did God change His mind because of Hezekiah's prayer? No. God now fully revealed His purpose in the sickness. **God clearly was not done with Hezekiah. It is clear that Jehovah desired that the king rely upon Him completely.**

- B. "I have seen your tears" (v. 5c)
- C. "I will add 15 years to your life" (v. 5d)
- D. "I will deliver you and this city from the Assyrians" (vs. 6a)
- E. "I will defend this city" (v. 6b)

- IV. **Jehovah gives a sign to Hezekiah as a guarantee that He would keep His word (Isa. 38:21-22; 7-8).**

"I will make the sun go backwards in the sky."

"Whatever the method by which God accomplished this result, we may discern here an act performed by the supernatural power of God in the external world, contrary in its appearance to the ordinary providential working of God, and designed to be an attestation or sign of the redemptive purposes of God" (Young 515).

Do we see our frailty? In our own brevity, do we truly trust the Divine for His years upon our lives? Do we trust the Sovereign Creator over His creation? Has God done enough to guarantee our future with Him?