

Isaiah

“The Evangelical Prophet”

V. Isaiah’s *Description* of the **Fourteenth Year** of **King Hezekiah** (36:1-39:8)

- A. The *Taunts* from **Sennacherib**, the **King of Assyria** (36:1-22)
- B. The *Tactful response* from **King Hezekiah** (37:1-20)
- C. The *Triumph* over the **Assyrian King** (37:21-38)

D. The *Traumatic Sickness* of **King Hezekiah** (38:1-22)

1. A *Prediction* of the **King’s immanent Death** (38:1)

38 In *those* days **Hezekiah** became **mortally ill**.
And **Isaiah the prophet** the son of Amoz came to him and said to him,
“Thus says **the LORD**,
‘Set your **house in order**, for you shall **die** and **not live**.’”

2. A *Prayerful appeal* to **God** (38:2-3)

² Then **Hezekiah** turned **his face** to the **wall** and **prayed** to the **LORD**,

³ and said, “**Remember now, O LORD**, I *beseech* You,
how I have **walked before You** in *truth* and with a *whole heart*,
and have **done** what is *good* in **Your sight**.”
And **Hezekiah wept bitterly**.

3. A *Promise* of **additional Life** (38:4-5)

⁴ Then **the word of the LORD** *came* to **Isaiah**, saying,
⁵ “Go and say to **Hezekiah**,
‘Thus says **the LORD**, the **God** of your **father David**,

“I have heard your **prayer**, I have **seen your tears**;
behold, I will **add fifteen years** to your **life**.”

4. A *Plea* for a **Sign** (38:6-8) (II Kings 20:8)

⁶ I will **deliver you** and **this city** from the hand of the **king of Assyria**;
and I will **defend** this **city**.”

⁷ “This shall be the **sign** to you from **the LORD**,
that **the LORD** will **do** this thing that **He has spoken**:

⁸ Behold, **I will** cause the **shadow** on the **stairway**,
which has **gone down** with the **sun** on the **stairway of Ahaz**,
to **go back ten steps**.” So the **sun’s shadow** went **back ten steps**
on the **stairway** on which it had gone **down**.

5. A *Psalm* from **King Hezekiah** (38:9-20)

⁹ A **writing** of Hezekiah king of Judah **after** his **illness** and **recovery**:

¹⁰ I said, “In the **middle** of **my life** I am to **enter** the **gates of Sheol**;
I am to be **deprived** of the **rest of my years**.”

¹¹ I said, “I will **not see** the **LORD**, the **LORD** in the **land** of the **living**;
I will **look** on **man no more** among the **inhabitants** of the **world**.

¹² “Like a **shepherd’s tent my dwelling** is **pulled up** and **removed** from **me**;
As a **weaver** I **rolled up** my **life**.
He cuts me off from the **loom**;
From **day until night** **You** make an **end of me**.

¹³ “I **composed** *my soul* until **morning**.
Like a **lion**—so **He breaks** all my **bones**,
from **day until night** **You** make an **end of me**.

¹⁴ “Like a **swallow**, *like* a **crane**, so I **twitter**;
I **moan** like a **dove**; my **eyes look** wistfully to the **heights**;
O Lord, I am **oppressed**, be **my security**.

¹⁵ “**What** shall I say?
For **He** has **spoken to me**, and **He Himself** has **done it**;
I will **wander about** all my years because of the **bitterness** of my **soul**.

¹⁶ “O **Lord**, by *these* things **men** live,
and in **all these** is the **life of my spirit**;
O restore me to **health** and let **me live!**

¹⁷ “Lo, for **my own welfare** I had **great bitterness**;
it is **You** who has **kept** my **soul** from the **pit of nothingness**,
for **You** have **cast** all my **sins behind** Your **back**.

¹⁸ “For **Sheol cannot thank You**, **death cannot praise You**;
those who go down to the **pit cannot hope** for Your **faithfulness**.

¹⁹ “It is **the living** who **give thanks** to You, as I do today;
a **father tells** his sons about **Your faithfulness**.”

²⁰ “**The LORD** will surely **save me**;
so we will **play my songs** on **stringed instruments**
all **the days** of our life at the **house of the LORD**.”

6. A *Prescription* for **Healing** recounted (38:21-22)

²¹ Now **Isaiah** had said,
“Let them take a **cake of figs** and **apply it** to the **boil**,
that **he may recover**.”

²² Then **Hezekiah** had said,
“**What is the sign** that I shall **go up** to the **house of the LORD**?”

Personal Application
Hezekiah’s Psalm—I think Many of Us
can **Relate** to it

1. Like *Hezekiah*, I think many of us can **relate** to **receiving a blunt message of bad news**.

In **those** days **Hezekiah** became **mortally ill**.
And **Isaiah the prophet**...came to him and said to him,
“Thus says **the LORD**,
‘Set your **house in order**, for you shall **die** and **not live**.’” (38:1)

“**Bad news** travels **fast**, **good news** take the **scenic route**.”
(Doug Larsen)

2. Like *Hezekiah*, many of us have wondered **why** those who **walk righteously**, have to face **severe sickness** or **tragedy**. (38:3)

Then **Hezekiah...prayed** to the LORD,
and said, “**Remember now, O LORD**, I **beseech You**,
how I have **walked before You** in **truth** and with a **whole heart**,
and have **done** what is **good** in **Your sight**.”
And **Hezekiah wept bitterly**.

Many are the **afflictions** of the **righteous**,
But **the LORD delivers him out** of them **all**. (Psalm 34:19)

3. Like *Hezekiah*, I think we all **anguish** over hearing of a **life cut short** in its **prime**.

I (**Hezekiah**) said, “In the **middle** of **my life** I am to enter the **gates of Sheol**;
I am to be **deprived** of the **rest** of **my years**.”(37:10)

4. Like *Hezekiah*, I think many of us for **various reasons**, are *fearful* of **death**, and do **not readily desire** to be “**cut off**” from **life** in this **world**. (38:11, 16, 18-19)

My **heart** is in **anguish** within me,
And the **terrors of death** have **fallen upon me**. (Psalm 55:4)

5. Like *Hezekiah*, I believe *we all* to a certain degree, have **regrets** about **unaccomplished things** in **our lives**. (38:10, 19)

“**Most Christians** are being **crucified** on a **cross** between **two thieves**:
Yesterday’s regret and **tomorrow’s worries**.” — Warren W. Wiersbe

6. Like *Hezekiah*, some of us have **suffered great physical pain** and **spiritual anguish** due to **sickness** and other **tragic events**. (38:9-13)

Be **gracious** to me, **O LORD**, for I *am* **pinning away**;
Heal me, **O LORD**, for my **bones** are **dismayed**. (Psalm 6:2)

7. Like *Hezekiah*, almost **all of us** have experienced the **blessing** of having been **healed** of **severe sickness** and **pain**— **we** can relate to his **joyful praise** to **God**. (38:20)

“**The LORD** will surely **save me**;
so we will **play my songs** on **stringed instruments**
all *the days* of **our life** at the **house of the LORD**.”(38:20)

O LORD my God,
I **cried to You** for *help*, and **You healed me**...

Weeping may last for **the night**,
But a **shout of joy** comes in the **morning**. (Psalm 30:2, 5b)

8. Like *Hezekiah*, some of us can **relate** to **God** giving a **friend** or **loved one** **additional years** of **life**. (38:4-5)

Closing Comments