

be thankful

isaiah 38

isaiah 38: 1–8

In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. 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, you shall not recover.” Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, and said, “Please, O LORD, remember how I have walked before you in faithfulness and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

isaiah 38: 1–8

Then the word of the LORD came to Isaiah: “Go and say to Hezekiah, Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will add fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria, and will defend this city.

isaiah 38: 1–8

“This shall be the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do this thing that he has promised: Behold, I will make the shadow cast by the declining sun on the dial of Ahaz turn back ten steps.” So the sun turned back on the dial the ten steps by which it had declined.

prayer

- What exactly happens when Hezekiah prays?
- Isaiah was wrong or spoke out of turn.
 - No indication of that in the text.
- God gave the first word to Isaiah while intending to backtrack on it later.
 - That would make God a liar.

prayer moves God

- *Isaiah 38:5: "Go and say to Hezekiah, Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will add fifteen years to your life."*
- God changed the course of history because of Hezekiah's prayer.
- "God does nothing except in response to believing prayer."
 - John Wesley

the testimony

- When God does something big for you, write it down.
 - You think you'll remember every detail, but you won't.
- **Isaiah 38:10–11:** *I said, In the middle of my days I must depart; I am consigned to the gates of Sheol for the rest of my years. I said, I shall not see the LORD, the LORD in the land of the living; I shall look on man no more among the inhabitants of the world.*

goodness of God

- Psalm 27:13: *I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.*
- Not all the promises of God are for the future, coming Kingdom.
- You can see the goodness of God right now.

the testimony

Isaiah 38:12–15: My dwelling is plucked up and removed from me like a shepherd's tent; like a weaver I have rolled up my life; he cuts me off from the loom; from day to night you bring me to an end; I calmed myself until morning; like a lion he breaks all my bones; from day to night you bring me to an end.

Like a swallow or a crane I chirp; I moan like a dove. My eyes are weary with looking upward. O Lord, I am oppressed; be my pledge of safety! What shall I say? For he has spoken to me, and he himself has done it. I walk slowly all my years because of the bitterness of my soul.

the testimony

- Hezekiah does not deny the reality of what he is experiencing.
- Until we are honest with God, ourselves, and others we will not experience the healing we need.

deliver us from evil

Isaiah 38:16–17: O Lord, by these things men live, and in all these is the life of my spirit. Oh restore me to health and make me live! Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back.

thankfulness

- *Isaiah 38:18–19: For Sheol does not thank you; death does not praise you; those who go down to the pit do not hope for your faithfulness. The living, the living, he thanks you, as I do this day; the father makes known to the children your faithfulness.*
- You cannot give thanks when you're dead.

be thankful

- Be thankful you can see the goodness of God in the land of the living.
- Be thankful that when life stinks you can be honest with God.
- Be thankful your sins are cast behind His back.
- Be thankful while you are still alive.

worship

- Isaiah 38:20: *The LORD will save me, and we will play my music on stringed instruments all the days of our lives, at the house of the LORD.*
- Hezekiah wants to celebrate with music.
- If you are thankful, then sing.

reflection

- Give thanks.