

Crystallization-Study Outlines — Isaiah (1)

Message Eleven

The Example of Hezekiah's Person and Failure

Scripture Reading: Isa. 36—39

- Isa 36:1 In the fourteenth year of King Heze kiah, Sennacherib the king of Assyria went up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.
- Isa 36:2 And the king of Assyria sent Rab-shakeh from Lachish to Jerusalem to King Hezekiah with a great force. And he stood at the conduit of the upper pool, on the road to the Fuller's Field.
- Isa 36:3 Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the scribe and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came out to him.
- Isa 36:4 And Rab-shakeh said to them, Say now to Hezekiah, Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria, What is this confidence in which you trust?
- Isa 36:5 I say, It is but a vain word that you say, There is counsel and strength for war. Now in whom do you trust, that you rebel against me?
- Isa 36:6 You now have put your trust in the staff of this broken reed, in Egypt, which, if a man should lean on it, will go into his hand and pierce it, for so is Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to all who trust in him.
- Isa 36:7 And if you say to me, We trust in Jehovah our God; is it not He whose high places and altars Hezekiah has taken away and has said to Judah and Jerusalem, You shall worship only before this altar?
- Isa 36:8 Now therefore give pledges to my master, the king of Assyria, and I will give you two thousand horses, if indeed you are able to set riders on them.
- Isa 36:9 How then can you refuse one official of the least of my master's servants and put your trust in Egypt for chariots and horsemen?
- Isa 36:10 And have I now come up apart from Jehovah against this land to destroy it? Jehovah said to me, Go up against this land and destroy it.
- Isa 36:11 And Eliakim and Shebna and Joah said to Rab-shakeh, Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, because we understand it; and do not speak to us in the Jews' language, in the ears of the people upon the wall.
- Isa 36:12 But Rab-shakeh said, Has my master sent me only to your master and to you to speak these words, and not to the men who sit on the wall, that they may eat their own dung and drink their own urine with you?
- Isa 36:13 Then Rab-shakeh stood and cried out with a loud voice in the Jews' language, and said, Listen to the words of the great king, the king of Assyria:
- Isa 36:14 Thus says the king, Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, because he is not able to deliver you;
- Isa 36:15 Neither let Hezekiah cause you to trust in Jehovah, saying, Jehovah will surely deliver us, and this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.
- Isa 36:16 Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria, Make your peace with me, and come out to me, and let each eat from his own vine and each from his own fig tree, and let each drink the waters of his own cistern;
- Isa 36:17 Until I come and take you away to a land like your land, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards.
- Isa 36:18 Be careful lest Hezekiah persuade you, saying, Jehovah will deliver us. Have any of the gods of the nations delivered their land out of the hand of the king of Assyria?
- Isa 36:19 Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? And have they delivered Samaria out of my hand?
- Isa 36:20 Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their land out of my hand, that Jehovah should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?
- Isa 36:21 But they were silent and did not answer him a word, because of the commandment of the king that said, You shall not answer him.
- Isa 36:22 Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the scribe and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn and told him the words of Rab-shakeh.
- Isa 37:1 And when King Hezekiah heard, he tore his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth and went into the house of Jehovah.
- Isa 37:2 And he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, and Shebna the scribe and the elders of the priests, who had covered themselves in sackcloth, to Isaiah the son of Amoz, the prophet.
- Isa 37:3 And they said to him, Thus says Hezekiah, This day is a day of affliction, rebuke, and contempt, for children have come to the point of birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth.
- Isa 37:4 It may be that Jehovah your God will hear the words of Rab-shakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria sent to reproach the living God, and will reprove the words which Jehovah your God has heard. Therefore lift up a prayer for the remnant which is left.
- Isa 37:5 So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah.

Isa 37:6 And Isaiah said to them, Thus you shall say to your master, Thus says Jehovah, Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me.

Isa 37:7 Indeed I will put a spirit in him, so that he will hear a report and return to his land. And I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.

Isa 37:8 And Rab-shakeh returned and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, because he had heard that the king had departed from Lachish.

Isa 37:9 And he heard a report about Tirhakah the king of Ethiopia which said, He has come forth to make war with you. And when he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,

Isa 37:10 In this way you shall speak to Hezekiah the king of Judah, saying, Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, Jerusalem will not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.

Isa 37:11 Indeed you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the lands, destroying them utterly. And will you be delivered?

Isa 37:12 Have the gods of the nations, whom my fathers destroyed, delivered them: Gozan and Haran and Rezech and the children of Eden, who were in Telassar?

Isa 37:13 Where are the king of Hamath and the king of Arpad and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, of Hena and Ivvah?

Isa 37:14 And Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it, and Hezekiah went up to the house of Jehovah and spread it before Jehovah.

Isa 37:15 And Hezekiah prayed to Jehovah, saying,

Isa 37:16 O Jehovah of hosts, God of Israel, who dwells between the cherubim, You, You alone are God of all the kingdoms of the earth; You made the heavens and the earth.

Isa 37:17 Incline Your ear, O Jehovah, and hear; open Your eyes, O Jehovah, and see; and listen to all the words of Sennacherib, who has sent messengers to reproach the living God.

Isa 37:18 Truly, O Jehovah, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the countries and their land,

Isa 37:19 And have cast their gods into the fire, because they were not gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone; so they destroyed them.

Isa 37:20 And now, O Jehovah our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone are Jehovah.

Isa 37:21 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah, saying, Thus says Jehovah the God of Israel, Because you have prayed to Me concerning Sennacherib the king of Assyria,

Isa 37:22 This is the word which Jehovah has spoken concerning him: The virgin daughter of Zion Has despised you and laughed at you; The daughter of Jerusalem Has shaken her head behind you.

Isa 37:23 Whom have you reproached and reviled? Against whom have you lifted up your voice And lifted up your eyes haughtily? Against the Holy One of Israel.

Isa 37:24 By your servants you have reproached the Lord, And you have said, In the multitude of my chariots, I have come up to the heights of the mountains, To the sides of Lebanon. And I will cut down its tall cedars, And the choicest of its cypresses: I will enter into its farthest height And its luxuriant forest.

Isa 37:25 I have dug; I have drunk water; With the sole of my foot I have dried up All the rivers of Egypt.

Isa 37:26 Have you not heard That long ago I did it; And from the days of old I had formed it? Now I have brought it to pass, That you should destroy fortified cities, And make them into ruinous heaps.

Isa 37:27 Therefore their inhabitants were short of strength; They were dismayed and felt ashamed; And they were like vegetation of the field And green shoots of tender grass, Like grass which grows on the housetops And is scorched before it has grown up.

Isa 37:28 But I know your sitting down, And your going out and your coming in, And your raging against Me.

Isa 37:29 Because your raging against Me And your arrogance has come up into My ears, I will put My hook in your nose And My bridle in your lips, And turn you back on the way by which you came.

Isa 37:30 This shall be the sign to you: This year you shall eat that which grows up of itself, and the second year that which shoots up from the same, and in the third year sow and reap and plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

Isa 37:31 And the remnant of those who have escaped of the house of Judah will again take root downward and bear fruit upward.

Isa 37:32 For a remnant will go forth out of Jerusalem, and from Mount Zion those who have escaped. The zeal of Jehovah of hosts will perform this.

Isa 37:33 Therefore, thus says Jehovah concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come to this city, Nor shoot an arrow there; Neither shall he come against it with shields, And build up a mound against it.

Isa 37:34 By the way on which he came, By the same shall he return, And into this city he shall not come, Declares Jehovah.

Isa 37:35 And around this city I will put an enclosure To save it, For My own sake And for the sake of David, My servant.

Isa 37:36 Then the angel of Jehovah went out and struck the Assyrians' camp, a hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when they arose early in the morning, all of them were dead corpses.

Isa 37:37 Then Sennacherib the king of Assyria departed and went back to dwell in Nineveh.

Isa 37:38 And when he was worshipping in the house of his god Nisroch, Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons slew him with the sword; and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And Esar-haddon his son reigned in his place.

Isa 38:1 In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill; and Isaiah the son of Amoz, the prophet, came to him and said to him, Thus says Jehovah, Put your house in order, for you are about to die and will not live.

Isa 38:2 And Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to Jehovah,

Isa 38:3 And said, Now, O Jehovah, please remember how I have walked before You in truth and with a perfect heart and have done that which is good in Your sight. And Hezekiah wept many tears.

Isa 38:4 Then the word of Jehovah came to Isaiah, saying,

Isa 38:5 Go and speak to Hezekiah, Thus says Jehovah, the God of David your father, I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; I will now add to your life fifteen years.

Isa 38:6 And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will put an enclosure around this city.

Isa 38:7 And this will be the sign from Jehovah to you, that Jehovah will do this thing which He has spoken.

Isa 38:8 Behold, I will cause the shadow on the steps, which has gone down with the sun on the steps of Ahaz, to go back ten steps. So the sun's shadow went back ten steps on the steps on which it had gone down.

Isa 38:9 The writing of Hezekiah the king of Judah when he had been sick and had recovered from his sickness:

Isa 38:10 I said, In the middle of my days, I will go into the gates of Sheol; I have been deprived of the rest of my years.

Isa 38:11 I said, I will not see Jah, Jah in the land of the living; I will not look on man any longer, While I am with those who dwell where everything has ceased.

Isa 38:12 Like a shepherd's tent, My dwelling has been pulled up and removed from me. Like a weaver, I have rolled up my life. He will cut me off from the loom; From day until night You make an end of me.

Isa 38:13 I have stilled myself until the morning; Like a lion, so He breaks all my bones; From day until night You make an end of me.

Isa 38:14 Like a swallow and a crane, so I twitter; Like a dove, I mourn; My eyes look languishingly above; O Lord, I am oppressed; be my surety.

Isa 38:15 What shall I say? He has both spoken to me, And He Himself has done it; I will walk deliberately all my years, Because of the bitterness of my soul.

Isa 38:16 O Lord, upon all these things men live; And in all of these things is the life of my spirit; Therefore may You restore my strength And make me live.

Isa 38:17 Indeed for peace I had bitterness, yes, bitterness; But You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of destruction, Because You have cast behind Your back All my sins.

Isa 38:18 For Sheol cannot thank You, And Death cannot praise You; They that go down to the pit Cannot hope in Your truth.

Isa 38:19 The living, the living, he will praise You, As I do today; A father shall make known Your truth to his children.

Isa 38:20 Jehovah is ready to save me; Therefore we will sing my songs, With stringed instruments, All the days of our life, In the house of Jehovah.

Isa 38:21 Then Isaiah said, Let them take a cake of figs and rub it upon the boil, and he will live.

Isa 38:22 Hezekiah had also said, What is the sign that I shall go up to the house of Jehovah?

Isa 39:1 At that time Merodach-baladan the son of Baladan, the king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah because he had heard that he had been sick and had recovered.

Isa 39:2 And Hezekiah was glad for them and showed them his treasury, the silver and the gold, and the spices and the fine oil, and his whole armory and everything which was found among his treasures; there was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

Isa 39:3 Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah and said to him, What did these men say? And from where have they come to you? And Hezekiah said, They have come to me from a distant land, from Babylon.

Isa 39:4 And he said, What have they seen in your house? And Hezekiah said, They have seen everything that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them.

Isa 39:5 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, Hear the word of Jehovah of hosts:

Isa 39:6 The days are now coming when everything that is in your house and that your fathers have laid up as a treasure unto this day will be carried away to Babylon; nothing will be left, says Jehovah.

Isa 39:7 And they will take away some of your sons who will issue from you, whom you will beget, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

Isa 39:8 And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, The word of Jehovah which you have spoken is good. He said moreover, Indeed there will be peace and truth in my days.

I. The first thirty-five chapters of Isaiah concern God's loving chastisement on His beloved Israel and His righteous judgment on the nations, in order that His elect might turn to Him so that the created things might be restored and the all-inclusive Christ might be brought in; at this point, everyone and everything have been discharged by God, and Christ, the only One who is qualified, has come:

- A. In chapters 36 through 39 Isaiah provides an example in the person of Hezekiah, the king of Judah; Isaiah shows how a person such as Hezekiah, who was appointed a king in God's kingdom, who was godly, and who prayed and received miraculous answers from God, eventually became not a success but a failure because of his self-glory and self-interest; hence, he too was eventually discharged by God.
- B. We can learn valuable lessons from the example of Hezekiah; whereas we can learn certain positive things, we can also learn from his failure as a warning to us for our future as members of the Body of Christ; his example can help us to remain pure in our living and service to God for our entire life—cf. 1 Sam. 1:25; 2:11b-26; 3:9.

- 1 Sam 1:25 And they slaughtered the bull and brought the child to Eli.
- 1 Sam 2:11b ... And the child ministered to Jehovah before Eli the priest.
- 1 Sam 2:12 Now the sons of Eli were worthless men; they did not know Jehovah,
- 1 Sam 2:13 Nor did they regard the priests' rightful due with the people. When any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's attendant would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand while the flesh was boiling,
- 1 Sam 2:14 And he would thrust it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or pot; all that the fork brought up, the priest took with it. Thus they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there.
- 1 Sam 2:15 Indeed before they burned the fat, the priest's attendant would come and say to the man sacrificing, Give some flesh to roast for the priest, for he will not accept boiled flesh from you, but only raw.
- 1 Sam 2:16 And if the man said to him, Let them burn up the fat first, then take as much as your soul desires; he would say, No, but you shall give it now; otherwise, I will take it by force.
- 1 Sam 2:17 And the sin of the young men was very great before Jehovah, for the men despised the offering of Jehovah.
- 1 Sam 2:18 And Samuel ministered before Jehovah, as a boy wearing a linen ephod.
- 1 Sam 2:19 And his mother would make him a little robe and bring it up to him yearly when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.
- 1 Sam 2:20 And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, May Jehovah give you seed by this woman in place of the one she requested of Jehovah; and they would go back to their place.
- 1 Sam 2:21 And Jehovah visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew before Jehovah.
- 1 Sam 2:22 Now Eli was very old, and he heard of all that his sons did to all Israel and how they lay with the women who were engaged in service at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting.
- 1 Sam 2:23 And he said to them, Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all this people.
- 1 Sam 2:24 No, my sons; for it is not a good report that I hear Jehovah's people spreading.
- 1 Sam 2:25 If one man sins against another man, God will arbitrate for him; but if a man sins against Jehovah, who will arbitrate for him? But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for Jehovah was pleased to kill them.
- 1 Sam 2:26 And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor both with Jehovah and with men.
- 1 Sam 3:9 And Eli said to Samuel, Go and lie down, and if He calls you, you shall say, Speak, O Jehovah; for Your servant is listening. And Samuel went and lay down in his place.

- C. King Hezekiah was a godly person with God-like behavior but not a man of God intrinsically and constitutionally (cf. 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 3:17); he began his life with the Lord well but ended poorly (cf. Gal. 3:3-4; 5:7; Prov. 4:18).

- 1 Tim 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, meekness.
- 2 Tim 3:17 That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.
- Gal 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?
- Gal 3:4 Have you suffered so many things in vain, if indeed it was in vain?
- Gal 5:7 You were running well. Who hindered you that you would not believe and obey the truth?
- Prov 4:18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, Which shines brighter and brighter until the full day.

II. Hezekiah, one of the best kings, did what was right in the sight of Jehovah, trusting in Him, clinging to Him, and keeping His commandments—2 Kings 18:1-8:

- 2 Kings 18:1 And in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah, the king of Israel, Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, the king of Judah, began to reign.
- 2 Kings 18:2 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Abi, the daughter of Zechariah.

- 2 Kings **18:3** And he did what was right in the sight of Jehovah, according to all that David his father had done.
- 2 Kings **18:4** He removed the high places and broke down the pillars and cut down the Asherah and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the children of Israel had burned incense to it; and he called it Nehushtan.
- 2 Kings **18:5** He trusted in Jehovah the God of Israel, so that after him there was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any among those who were before him.
- 2 Kings **18:6** And he clung to Jehovah; he did not turn away from following after Him but kept His commandments, which Jehovah commanded Moses.
- 2 Kings **18:7** And Jehovah was with him; everywhere he went, he prospered. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him.
- 2 Kings **18:8** He struck the Philistines as far as Gaza and its borders, from the watchmen's tower to the fortified city.
- A. Hezekiah removed the high places, broke down the pillars, cut down the Asherah, and broke in pieces the bronze serpent, to which the children of Israel had burned incense—v. 4.
- 2 Kings **18:4** He removed the high places and broke down the pillars and cut down the Asherah and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the children of Israel had burned incense to it; and he called it Nehushtan.
- B. Hezekiah restored the house of Jehovah and removed the things related to idol worship—2 Chron. 29:3-36.
- 2 Chron **29:3** He, in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of Jehovah and repaired them.
- 2 Chron **29:4** And he brought in the priests and the Levites and gathered them at the east square.
- 2 Chron **29:5** And he said to them, Listen to me, you Levites: Sanctify yourselves now, and sanctify the house of Jehovah, the God of your fathers; and bring out the impurity from the holy place.
- 2 Chron **29:6** For our fathers were unfaithful and did what was evil in the sight of Jehovah our God, and they forsook Him and turned their faces from the dwelling place of Jehovah, and they turned their backs on Him.
- 2 Chron **29:7** They also shut up the doors of the portico and extinguished the lamps; and they did not burn the incense, nor did they offer up the burnt offering in the holy place to the God of Israel.
- 2 Chron **29:8** Therefore the wrath of Jehovah was upon Judah and Jerusalem, and He made them an object of horror, astonishment, and hissing, as you see with your own eyes.
- 2 Chron **29:9** For indeed, our fathers fell by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives are captives because of this.
- 2 Chron **29:10** Now it is on my heart to make a covenant with Jehovah the God of Israel, that His burning anger may turn away from us.
- 2 Chron **29:11** My sons, do not now be negligent, for Jehovah has chosen you to stand before Him to minister to Him and to be His ministers and burn incense.
- 2 Chron **29:12** Then the Levites rose up: Mahath the son of Amasai and Joel the son of Azariah, from among the sons of the Kohathites; and from among the sons of Merari, Kish the son of Abdi and Azariah the son of Jehallelel; and of the Gershonites, Joah the son of Zimmah and Eden the son of Joah;
- 2 Chron **29:13** And of the sons of Elizaphan, Shimri and Jeuel; and of the sons of Asaph, Zechariah and Mattaniah;
- 2 Chron **29:14** And of the sons of Heman, Jehuel and Shimei; and of the sons of Jeduthun, Shemaiah and Uzziel.
- 2 Chron **29:15** And they gathered their brothers together and sanctified themselves. And they went in, according to the command of the king by the words of Jehovah, to cleanse the house of Jehovah.
- 2 Chron **29:16** And the priests went into the inner part of the house of Jehovah to cleanse it; and they brought out into the court of the house of Jehovah all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of Jehovah, and the Levites took it to carry it outside to the brook Kidron.
- 2 Chron **29:17** And they began on the first day of the first month to sanctify the house, and on the eighth day of the month they came to the portico of Jehovah; then they sanctified the house of Jehovah for eight days, and on the sixteenth day of the first month they fi
- 2 Chron **29:18** Then they went in to Hezekiah the king and said, We have cleansed the whole house of Jehovah: the altar of burnt offering with all its vessels and the table of the rows of bread with all its vessels.
- 2 Chron **29:19** And all the vessels that King Ahaz cast out during his reign when he trespassed we have prepared and sanctified, and they are now before the altar of Jehovah.
- 2 Chron **29:20** Then Hezekiah the king rose up early and gathered all the leaders of the city and went up to the house of Jehovah.

- 2 Chron **29:21** And they brought seven bulls and seven rams and seven lambs and seven male goats as a sin offering for the kingdom and for the sanctuary and for Judah. And he ordered the sons of Aaron, the priests, to offer them up on the altar of Jehovah.
- 2 Chron **29:22** So they slaughtered the cattle, and the priests took the blood and sprinkled it on the altar; then they slaughtered the rams and sprinkled the blood on the altar, and they slaughtered the lambs and sprinkled the blood on the altar.
- 2 Chron **29:23** Then they brought the male goats of the sin offering before the king and the congregation, and they laid their hands on them.
- 2 Chron **29:24** And the priests slaughtered them and offered their blood as a sin offering upon the altar to make expiation for all Israel, for the king had commanded the burnt offering and the sin offering for all Israel.
- 2 Chron **29:25** And he set the Levites in the house of Jehovah with cymbals, with harps, and with lyres in the way David and Gad the king's seer and Nathan the prophet had commanded, for the commandment was from Jehovah through His prophets.
- 2 Chron **29:26** And the Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests, with the trumpets.
- 2 Chron **29:27** And Hezekiah ordered the offering up of the burnt offering at the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of Jehovah began also, as well as the trumpets with the accompaniment of the instruments of David the king of Israel.
- 2 Chron **29:28** And the whole congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters trumpeted—all this until the burnt offering was finished.
- 2 Chron **29:29** And when the offering was finished, the king and all who were found with him bowed down and worshipped.
- 2 Chron **29:30** And Hezekiah the king and the leaders commanded the Levites to praise Jehovah with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. And they praised with rejoicing and bowed down and worshipped.
- 2 Chron **29:31** Then Hezekiah responded and said, Now you have consecrated yourselves to Jehovah; come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the house of Jehovah. So the congregation brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all who were willing in heart brought burnt offerings.
- 2 Chron **29:32** And the number of burnt offerings that the congregation brought was seventy cattle, one hundred rams, and two hundred lambs; all these were for burnt offering to Jehovah.
- 2 Chron **29:33** And the things consecrated were six hundred cattle and three thousand sheep;
- 2 Chron **29:34** However the priests were too few and could not flay all the burnt offerings, so their brothers the Levites aided them until the work was finished and until the rest of the priests had sanctified themselves, for the Levites were more upright in heart than the priests in sanctifying themselves.
- 2 Chron **29:35** And besides the abundance of burnt offerings there were also the fat of the peace offerings and the drink offerings for the burnt offerings. So the service of the house of Jehovah was established.
- 2 Chron **29:36** And Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced over what God had prepared for the people, for the thing had happened so suddenly.
- C. Hezekiah recovered the Passover, which the people no longer kept—30:1-31:1.
- 2 Chron **30:1** And Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh telling them to come to the house of Jehovah in Jerusalem to hold the Passover to Jehovah the God of Israel.
- 2 Chron **30:2** For the king and his officers and all the congregation in Jerusalem had taken counsel to hold the Passover in the second month,
- 2 Chron **30:3** Because they could not hold it at that time, for the priests had not sanctified themselves in sufficient number nor had the people gathered to Jerusalem.
- 2 Chron **30:4** And the matter seemed right in the sight of the king and in the sight of all the congregation.
- 2 Chron **30:5** So they established a decree to send a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beer-sheba to Dan, telling them to come to hold the Passover to Jehovah the God of Israel in Jerusalem; for they had not held it for a long time, as it was decreed in writing
- 2 Chron **30:6** And as the king had commanded, the runners went with the letters from the hand of the king and his officers throughout all Israel and Judah, saying, You children of Israel, return to Jehovah, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and He will return to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria.
- 2 Chron **30:7** And do not be like your fathers and like your brothers, who trespassed against Jehovah, the God of their fathers, so that He made them a desolation, as you now see.
- 2 Chron **30:8** Do not now be stiff-necked, as your fathers were; yield to Jehovah, and come to His sanctuary, which He has sanctified forever, and serve Jehovah your God, that His burning anger may turn away from you.

- 2 Chron 30:9 For when you turn to Jehovah, your brothers and your children will find compassion before those who led them captive and will return to this land, for Jehovah your God is gracious and compassionate, and will not turn His face away from you if you return to Him.
- 2 Chron 30:10 So the runners passed from city to city in the land of Ephraim and Manasseh and as far as Zebulun, but they laughed them to scorn and mocked them.
- 2 Chron 30:11 Nevertheless some men from Asher and Manasseh and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem.
- 2 Chron 30:12 Moreover the hand of God was on Judah, giving them one heart to perform the commandment of the king and the officers by the word of Jehovah.
- 2 Chron 30:13 And many people gathered at Jerusalem to hold the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month, a very great congregation.
- 2 Chron 30:14 And they rose up and removed the altars that were in Jerusalem, and they removed all the incense altars and threw them into the brook Kidron.
- 2 Chron 30:15 Then they slaughtered the passover sacrifice on the fourteenth day of the second month. And the priests and the Levites were ashamed, and they sanctified themselves and brought burnt offerings to the house of Jehovah.
- 2 Chron 30:16 And they stood at their station after their custom, according to the law of Moses, the man of God: The priests sprinkled the blood that they received from the hand of the Levites.
- 2 Chron 30:17 For there were many in the congregation who had not sanctified themselves; therefore the Levites were charged with slaughtering the passover sacrifices for everyone who was not clean, to sanctify them to Jehovah.
- 2 Chron 30:18 For a great number of the people, many from Ephraim and Manasseh and Issachar and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the passover otherwise than as prescribed; for Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, May Jehovah the Good expiate for everyone
- 2 Chron 30:19 Who has prepared his heart to seek after God, after Jehovah, the God of his fathers, even though he is not according to the rules of purification for the sanctuary.
- 2 Chron 30:20 And Jehovah heard Hezekiah and healed the people.
- 2 Chron 30:21 And the children of Israel who were found at Jerusalem held the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great rejoicing, and the Levites and the priests praised Jehovah day by day, with loud instruments played to Jehovah.
- 2 Chron 30:22 And Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites who showed themselves well-skilled in their service to Jehovah, and so they ate the food of the appointed feast for seven days, sacrificing sacrifices of peace offerings and extolling Jehovah, the God of their fathers.
- 2 Chron 30:23 And the whole congregation took counsel to hold the feast another seven days, and they held the feast those seven days with rejoicing.
- 2 Chron 30:24 For Hezekiah the king of Judah contributed one thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep to the congregation, and the leaders contributed one thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep to the congregation, and a great number of priests sanctified themselves.
- 2 Chron 30:25 And all the congregation of Judah with the priests and the Levites and all the congregation who came from Israel and the sojourners who came from the land of Israel and dwelt in Judah rejoiced,
- 2 Chron 30:26 And there was great rejoicing in Jerusalem, for since the days of Solomon the son of David, the king of Israel, there had not been the like in Jerusalem.
- 2 Chron 30:27 Then the Levitical priests rose up and blessed the people; and their voice was heard and their prayer went up to His sanctuary, to heaven.
- 2 Chron 31:1 And when all this was finished, all Israel who were found in the cities of Judah went out and broke down the pillars and hewed down the Asherahs and pulled down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin and in Ephraim and Manasseh until they destroyed them all. And all the children of Israel returned to their cities, each man to his own possessions.
- D. Hezekiah set the services of the priests and the Levites in order—31:2-21.
- 2 Chron 31:2 And Hezekiah appointed the divisions of the priests and the Levites by their divisions, each of the priests and the Levites according to his service, for the burnt offering and for the peace offerings, to minister and give thanks and praise in the gates of the temple of Jehovah.
- 2 Chron 31:3 Also he appointed the king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, the morning and evening burnt offerings and the burnt offerings of the Sabbaths and the new moon and the appointed feasts, as written in the law of Jehovah.
- 2 Chron 31:4 And he commanded the people who dwelt in Jerusalem to give the portion for the priests and the Levites, that they might devote themselves to the law of Jehovah.
- 2 Chron 31:5 And when the commandment went out, the children of Israel gave in abundance the firstfruits of the grain and of the new wine and of the fresh oil and of the honey and of all the produce of the field; and they brought the tithe of everything in abundance.

- 2 Chron **31:6** And the children of Israel and Judah who dwelt in the cities of Judah also brought the tithe of the herd and of the flock and the tithe of the dedicated things, which had been dedicated to Jehovah their God, and laid them heap upon heap.
- 2 Chron **31:7** In the third month they began to lay the foundation of the heaps, and in the seventh month they finished.
- 2 Chron **31:8** And when Hezekiah and the leaders came and saw the heaps, they blessed Jehovah and His people Israel.
- 2 Chron **31:9** And Hezekiah inquired of the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps;
- 2 Chron **31:10** And Azariah the chief priest, of the house of Zadok, spoke to him and said, Since the time that the people began to bring the contributions into the house of Jehovah, there has been eating and satisfaction and an abundance left over, for Jehovah has blessed His people and this great amount is left over.
- 2 Chron **31:11** Then Hezekiah gave orders to prepare storechambers in the house of Jehovah, and they prepared them.
- 2 Chron **31:12** And they brought in the contribution and the tithe and dedicated things faithfully. And Conaniah the Levite was ruler over them, and Shimei his brother was second,
- 2 Chron **31:13** And Jehiel and Azariah and Nahath and Asahel and Jerimoth and Jozabad and Eliel and Ismachiah and Mahath and Benaiah were overseers under Conaniah and Shimei his brother by appointment of Hezekiah the king and Azariah the ruler of the house of God.
- 2 Chron **31:14** And Kore the son of Imna the Levite, the gatekeeper on the east, was over the freewill offerings of God, to distribute the contributions of Jehovah and the most holy things.
- 2 Chron **31:15** And under him were Eden and Miniamin and Jeshua and Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah, serving faithfully in the cities of the priests, to distribute the portion to their brothers by divisions, great and small alike,
- 2 Chron **31:16** Except for those who were enrolled by genealogy, males from three years old and upward, all who went to the house of Jehovah for their day-to-day duties, for their service in their offices by their divisions.
- 2 Chron **31:17** Now concerning the enrollment of the priests by genealogy, it was by their fathers' houses; and that of the Levites of those twenty years old and upward was by their offices in their divisions.
- 2 Chron **31:18** And the enrollment by genealogy included all their little ones, their wives, and their sons and daughters, the whole congregation of them; for they sanctified themselves faithfully in holiness.
- 2 Chron **31:19** And for the sons of Aaron the priests, who were in the pasture lands of their cities, in each and every city, there were men who were mentioned by name, to distribute portions to all the males among the priests and to all who were enrolled by genealogy among the Levites.
- 2 Chron **31:20** And Hezekiah did this throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and upright and faithful before Jehovah his God.
- 2 Chron **31:21** And in every work that he began in service to the house of God and in accordance with the law and the commandment, to seek after his God, he did it with all his heart and prospered.
- E. Hezekiah built a defense against the invasion of the Assyrians—32:1-5.
- 2 Chron **32:1** After these things and this faithfulness, Sennacherib the king of Assyria came and entered Judah. And he encamped against the fortified cities and intended to break into them for himself.
- 2 Chron **32:2** And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and that his face was set to fight against Jerusalem,
- 2 Chron **32:3** He took counsel with his officers and mighty men to stop the water of the fountains that were outside the city, and they helped him.
- 2 Chron **32:4** So many people gathered together and stopped all the fountains and the brook that flowed through the land, saying, Why should the kings of Assyria come and find an abundance of water?
- 2 Chron **32:5** And he took courage and built up all the wall that was broken down and erected towers on it and built another wall outside; and he strengthened the Millo in the city of David and made weapons and shields in abundance.
- F. Hezekiah trusted in God and encouraged his people to do so—vv. 6-8.
- 2 Chron **32:6** And he set battle captains over the people and gathered them to himself in the square at the gate of the city. And he encouraged them, saying,
- 2 Chron **32:7** Be strong and be bold; do not be afraid or dismayed because of the king of Assyria or because of all the multitude that is with him, for there is Someone greater with us than with him:
- 2 Chron **32:8** With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is Jehovah our God to help us and to fight our battles. And the people relied on the words of Hezekiah the king of Judah.
- G. Jehovah was with Hezekiah, and everywhere he went, he prospered—2 Kings 18:7.
- 2 Kings **18:7** And Jehovah was with him; everywhere he went, he prospered. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him.

III Hezekiah sought after Jehovah concerning the enemy's attack—Isa. 36:1-37:38:

- A. When Hezekiah heard about the situation, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of Jehovah; this indicates that he was a godly person—37:1.
- Isa 37:1 And when King Hezekiah heard, he tore his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth and went into the house of Jehovah.
- B. Hezekiah went up to the house of Jehovah, spread before Jehovah the letter he had received, and prayed to Him concerning the enemy's further attack—vv. 14-20.
- Isa 37:14 And Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it, and Hezekiah went up to the house of Jehovah and spread it before Jehovah.
- Isa 37:15 And Hezekiah prayed to Jehovah, saying,
- Isa 37:16 O Jehovah of hosts, God of Israel, who dwells between the cherubim, You, You alone are God of all the kingdoms of the earth; You made the heavens and the earth.
- Isa 37:17 Incline Your ear, O Jehovah, and hear; open Your eyes, O Jehovah, and see; and listen to all the words of Sennacherib, who has sent messengers to reproach the living God.
- Isa 37:18 Truly, O Jehovah, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the countries and their land,
- Isa 37:19 And have cast their gods into the fire, because they were not gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone; so they destroyed them.
- Isa 37:20 And now, O Jehovah our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone are Jehovah.
- C. Hezekiah trusted in Jehovah according to His answer to him and won the victory in Jehovah's fulfillment of His answer—vv. 21-38.
- Isa 37:21 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah, saying, Thus says Jehovah the God of Israel, Because you have prayed to Me concerning Sennacherib the king of Assyria,
- Isa 37:22 This is the word which Jehovah has spoken concerning him: The virgin daughter of Zion Has despised you and laughed at you; The daughter of Jerusalem Has shaken her head behind you.
- Isa 37:23 Whom have you reproached and reviled? Against whom have you lifted up your voice And lifted up your eyes haughtily? Against the Holy One of Israel.
- Isa 37:24 By your servants you have reproached the Lord, And you have said, In the multitude of my chariots, I have come up to the heights of the mountains, To the sides of Lebanon. And I will cut down its tall cedars, And the choicest of its cypresses: I will enter into its farthest height And its luxuriant forest.
- Isa 37:25 I have dug; I have drunk water; With the sole of my foot I have dried up All the rivers of Egypt.
- Isa 37:26 Have you not heard That long ago I did it; And from the days of old I had formed it? Now I have brought it to pass, That you should destroy fortified cities, And make them into ruinous heaps.
- Isa 37:27 Therefore their inhabitants were short of strength; They were dismayed and felt ashamed; And they were like vegetation of the field And green shoots of tender grass, Like grass which grows on the housetops And is scorched before it has grown up.
- Isa 37:28 But I know your sitting down, And your going out and your coming in, And your raging against Me.
- Isa 37:29 Because your raging against Me And your arrogance has come up into My ears, I will put My hook in your nose And My bridle in your lips, And turn you back on the way by which you came.
- Isa 37:30 This shall be the sign to you: This year you shall eat that which grows up of itself, and the second year that which shoots up from the same, and in the third year sow and reap and plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
- Isa 37:31 And the remnant of those who have escaped of the house of Judah will again take root downward and bear fruit upward.
- Isa 37:32 For a remnant will go forth out of Jerusalem, and from Mount Zion those who have escaped. The zeal of Jehovah of hosts will perform this.
- Isa 37:33 Therefore, thus says Jehovah concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come to this city, Nor shoot an arrow there; Neither shall he come against it with shields, And build up a mound against it.
- Isa 37:34 By the way on which he came, By the same shall he return, And into this city he shall not come, Declares Jehovah.
- Isa 37:35 And around this city I will put an enclosure To save it, For My own sake And for the sake of David, My servant.
- Isa 37:36 Then the angel of Jehovah went out and struck the Assyrians' camp, a hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when they arose early in the morning, all of them were dead corpses.
- Isa 37:37 Then Sennacherib the king of Assyria departed and went back to dwell in Nineveh.
- Isa 37:38 And when he was worshipping in the house of his god Nisroch, Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons slew him with the sword; and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And Esar-haddon his son reigned in his place.

D. Jehovah said that He would save Jerusalem not for Hezekiah's sake but for His own sake and for the sake of David; this word unveils that Hezekiah was not a weighty, valuable, or precious person in the sight of God—vv. 33-35.

Isa 37:33 Therefore, thus says Jehovah concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come to this city, Nor shoot an arrow there; Neither shall he come against it with shields, And build up a mound against it.

Isa 37:34 By the way on which he came, By the same shall he return, And into this city he shall not come, Declares Jehovah.

Isa 37:35 And around this city I will put an enclosure To save it, For My own sake And for the sake of David, My servant.

IV. Hezekiah sought after Jehovah for his health—38:1-22:

Isa 38:1 In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill; and Isaiah the son of Amoz, the prophet, came to him and said to him, Thus says Jehovah, Put your house in order, for you are about to die and will not live.

Isa 38:2 And Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to Jehovah,

Isa 38:3 And said, Now, O Jehovah, please remember how I have walked before You in truth and with a perfect heart and have done that which is good in Your sight. And Hezekiah wept many tears.

Isa 38:4 Then the word of Jehovah came to Isaiah, saying,

Isa 38:5 Go and speak to Hezekiah, Thus says Jehovah, the God of David your father, I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; I will now add to your life fifteen years.

Isa 38:6 And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will put an enclosure around this city.

Isa 38:7 And this will be the sign from Jehovah to you, that Jehovah will do this thing which He has spoken.

Isa 38:8 Behold, I will cause the shadow on the steps, which has gone down with the sun on the steps of Ahaz, to go back ten steps. So the sun's shadow went back ten steps on the steps on which it had gone down.

Isa 38:9 The writing of Hezekiah the king of Judah when he had been sick and had recovered from his sickness:

Isa 38:10 I said, In the middle of my days, I will go into the gates of Sheol; I have been deprived of the rest of my years.

Isa 38:11 I said, I will not see Jah, Jah in the land of the living; I will not look on man any longer, While I am with those who dwell where everything has ceased.

Isa 38:12 Like a shepherd's tent, My dwelling has been pulled up and removed from me. Like a weaver, I have rolled up my life. He will cut me off from the loom; From day until night You make an end of me.

Isa 38:13 I have stilled myself until the morning; Like a lion, so He breaks all my bones; From day until night You make an end of me.

Isa 38:14 Like a swallow and a crane, so I twitter; Like a dove, I mourn; My eyes look languishingly above; O Lord, I am oppressed; be my surety.

Isa 38:15 What shall I say? He has both spoken to me, And He Himself has done it; I will walk deliberately all my years, Because of the bitterness of my soul.

Isa 38:16 O Lord, upon all these things men live; And in all of these things is the life of my spirit; Therefore may You restore my strength And make me live.

Isa 38:17 Indeed for peace I had bitterness, yes, bitterness; But You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of destruction, Because You have cast behind Your back All my sins.

Isa 38:18 For Sheol cannot thank You, And Death cannot praise You; They that go down to the pit Cannot hope in Your truth.

Isa 38:19 The living, the living, he will praise You, As I do today; A father shall make known Your truth to his children.

Isa 38:20 Jehovah is ready to save me; Therefore we will sing my songs, With stringed instruments, All the days of our life, In the house of Jehovah.

Isa 38:21 Then Isaiah said, Let them take a cake of figs and rub it upon the boil, and he will live.

Isa 38:22 Hezekiah had also said, What is the sign that I shall go up to the house of Jehovah?

A. In answering Hezekiah's prayer, the Lord referred to Himself as the "God of David your father" (v. 5); this indicates that Hezekiah had very little credit before Him.

Isa 38:5 Go and speak to Hezekiah, Thus says Jehovah, the God of David your father, I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; I will now add to your life fifteen years.

B. In his prayer Hezekiah said that he would walk "deliberately [slowly, softly, and humbly, with much consideration] all my years" (v. 15); however, instead of walking in a deliberate way, he walked in a hasty way (39:1-8).

Isa 38:15 What shall I say? He has both spoken to me, And He Himself has done it; I will walk deliberately all my years, Because of the bitterness of my soul.

Isa 39:1 At that time Merodach-baladan the son of Baladan, the king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah because he had heard that he had been sick and had recovered.

- Isa 39:2 And Hezekiah was glad for them and showed them his treasury, the silver and the gold, and the spices and the fine oil, and his whole armory and everything which was found among his treasures; there was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.
- Isa 39:3 Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah and said to him, What did these men say? And from where have they come to you? And Hezekiah said, They have come to me from a distant land, from Babylon.
- Isa 39:4 And he said, What have they seen in your house? And Hezekiah said, They have seen everything that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them.
- Isa 39:5 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, Hear the word of Jehovah of hosts:
- Isa 39:6 The days are now coming when everything that is in your house and that your fathers have laid up as a treasure unto this day will be carried away to Babylon; nothing will be left, says Jehovah.
- Isa 39:7 And they will take away some of your sons who will issue from you, whom you will beget, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.
- Isa 39:8 And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, The word of Jehovah which you have spoken is good. He said moreover, Indeed there will be peace and truth in my days.

C. The fact that God extended Hezekiah's life by only fifteen years meant that he would live until the age of only fifty-four (2 Kings 18:2); this reveals that, in the sight of God, he was not a person who could be trusted to carry out God's purpose (Isa. 38:5); during his last fifteen years Hezekiah made a mistake that was so serious that it caused God's kingdom on earth to be lost (ch. 39).

2 Kings 18:2 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Abi, the daughter of Zechariah.

- Isa 38:5 Go and speak to Hezekiah, Thus says Jehovah, the God of David your father, I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; I will now add to your life fifteen years.
- Isa 39:1 At that time Merodach-baladan the son of Baladan, the king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah because he had heard that he had been sick and had recovered.
- Isa 39:2 And Hezekiah was glad for them and showed them his treasury, the silver and the gold, and the spices and the fine oil, and his whole armory and everything which was found among his treasures; there was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.
- Isa 39:3 Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah and said to him, What did these men say? And from where have they come to you? And Hezekiah said, They have come to me from a distant land, from Babylon.
- Isa 39:4 And he said, What have they seen in your house? And Hezekiah said, They have seen everything that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them.
- Isa 39:5 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, Hear the word of Jehovah of hosts:
- Isa 39:6 The days are now coming when everything that is in your house and that your fathers have laid up as a treasure unto this day will be carried away to Babylon; nothing will be left, says Jehovah.
- Isa 39:7 And they will take away some of your sons who will issue from you, whom you will beget, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.
- Isa 39:8 And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, The word of Jehovah which you have spoken is good. He said moreover, Indeed there will be peace and truth in my days.

D. Hezekiah prayed a good prayer, but his prayer had the taste of selfishness (38:2-20); he asked Jehovah in a selfish way to put him among the living so that he could praise Him; this indicates that he was for God, but he was for God in a selfish way; this is what we taste in his prayer (vv. 18-19).

- Isa 38:2 And Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to Jehovah,
- Isa 38:3 And said, Now, O Jehovah, please remember how I have walked before You in truth and with a perfect heart and have done that which is good in Your sight. And Hezekiah wept many tears.
- Isa 38:4 Then the word of Jehovah came to Isaiah, saying,
- Isa 38:5 Go and speak to Hezekiah, Thus says Jehovah, the God of David your father, I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; I will now add to your life fifteen years.
- Isa 38:6 And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will put an enclosure around this city.
- Isa 38:7 And this will be the sign from Jehovah to you, that Jehovah will do this thing which He has spoken.
- Isa 38:8 Behold, I will cause the shadow on the steps, which has gone down with the sun on the steps of Ahaz, to go back ten steps. So the sun's shadow went back ten steps on the steps on which it had gone down.
- Isa 38:9 The writing of Hezekiah the king of Judah when he had been sick and had recovered from his sickness:

- Isa 38:10 I said, In the middle of my days, I will go into the gates of Sheol; I have been deprived of the rest of my years.
- Isa 38:11 I said, I will not see Jah, Jah in the land of the living; I will not look on man any longer, While I am with those who dwell where everything has ceased.
- Isa 38:12 Like a shepherd's tent, My dwelling has been pulled up and removed from me. Like a weaver, I have rolled up my life. He will cut me off from the loom; From day until night You make an end of me.
- Isa 38:13 I have stilled myself until the morning; Like a lion, so He breaks all my bones; From day until night You make an end of me.
- Isa 38:14 Like a swallow and a crane, so I twitter; Like a dove, I mourn; My eyes look languishingly above; O Lord, I am oppressed; be my surety.
- Isa 38:15 What shall I say? He has both spoken to me, And He Himself has done it; I will walk deliberately all my years, Because of the bitterness of my soul.
- Isa 38:16 O Lord, upon all these things men live; And in all of these things is the life of my spirit; Therefore may You restore my strength And make me live.
- Isa 38:17 Indeed for peace I had bitterness, yes, bitterness; But You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of destruction, Because You have cast behind Your back All my sins.
- Isa 38:18 For Sheol cannot thank You, And Death cannot praise You; They that go down to the pit Cannot hope in Your truth.
- Isa 38:19 The living, the living, he will praise You, As I do today; A father shall make known Your truth to his children.
- Isa 38:20 Jehovah is ready to save me; Therefore we will sing my songs, With stringed instruments, All the days of our life, In the house of Jehovah.

E. Hezekiah was a godly man, but he was not a man of God, a God-man.

V. Isaiah 39 shows Hezekiah's failure in the enjoyment of the peaceful situation and sound health:

- Isa 39:1 At that time Merodach-baladan the son of Baladan, the king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah because he had heard that he had been sick and had recovered.
- Isa 39:2 And Hezekiah was glad for them and showed them his treasury, the silver and the gold, and the spices and the fine oil, and his whole armory and everything which was found among his treasures; there was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.
- Isa 39:3 Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah and said to him, What did these men say? And from where have they come to you? And Hezekiah said, They have come to me from a distant land, from Babylon.
- Isa 39:4 And he said, What have they seen in your house? And Hezekiah said, They have seen everything that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them.
- Isa 39:5 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, Hear the word of Jehovah of hosts:
- Isa 39:6 The days are now coming when everything that is in your house and that your fathers have laid up as a treasure unto this day will be carried away to Babylon; nothing will be left, says Jehovah.
- Isa 39:7 And they will take away some of your sons who will issue from you, whom you will beget, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.
- Isa 39:8 And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, The word of Jehovah which you have spoken is good. He said moreover, Indeed there will be peace and truth in my days.

A. Hezekiah's showing the visitors from Babylon his treasury, his whole armory, and everything in his dominion was a foolish act and a great mistake; the showing of these riches became a temptation to Babylon; a little over one hundred years later, the king of Babylon came and took away those riches (2 Kings 24-25):

- 2 Kings 24:1 In his days Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant for three years; then he turned and rebelled against him.
- 2 Kings 24:2 And Jehovah sent against him bands of the Chaldeans and bands of the Syrians and bands of the Moabites and bands of the children of Ammon; and He sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of Jehovah, which He spoke through his servants the prophets.
- 2 Kings 24:3 Surely it was at the command of Jehovah that this came to pass against Judah, to remove them out of His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done,
- 2 Kings 24:4 And also for the innocent blood that he shed; for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; and Jehovah would not forgive.
- 2 Kings 24:5 And the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?
- 2 Kings 24:6 And Jehoiakim slept with his fathers. And Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

- 2 Kings **24:7** And the king of Egypt did not come out of his land again, for the king of Babylon had taken all that belonged to the king of Egypt from the brook of Egypt to the river Euphrates.
- 2 Kings **24:8** Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem; and the name of his mother was Nehushta, the daughter of Elnathan from Jerusalem.
- 2 Kings **24:9** And he did what was evil in the sight of Jehovah, according to all that his father had done.
- 2 Kings **24:10** At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon went up to Jerusalem, and the city came under siege.
- 2 Kings **24:11** And Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came against the city while his servants were besieging it.
- 2 Kings **24:12** And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he and his mother and his servants and his captains and his eunuchs; and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign.
- 2 Kings **24:13** And he brought out from there all the treasures of the house of Jehovah and the treasures of the king's house. And he cut in pieces all the golden vessels which Solomon the king of Israel had made in Jehovah's temple, as Jehovah had said.
- 2 Kings **24:14** And he carried away into exile all Jerusalem and all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land.
- 2 Kings **24:15** And he carried Jehoiachin away into exile to Babylon; and the king's mother and the king's wives and his eunuchs and the leading men of the land, he carried away into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.
- 2 Kings **24:16** And all the seven thousand men of valor and the one thousand craftsmen and smiths, all mighty men fit for war, even these the king of Babylon carried away into exile to Babylon.
- 2 Kings **24:17** Then the king of Babylon made Jehoiachin's uncle Mattaniah king in his place, and he changed his name to Zedekiah.
- 2 Kings **24:18** Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah, from Libnah.
- 2 Kings **24:19** And he did what was evil in the sight of Jehovah, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.
- 2 Kings **24:20** For it was through the anger of Jehovah that this came to pass in Jerusalem and in Judah until He cast them out from His presence. And Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.
- 2 Kings **25:1** In the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came, he and his whole army, against Jerusalem and encamped against it; and they built a siege wall against it all around.
- 2 Kings **25:2** So the city came under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.
- 2 Kings **25:3** On the ninth day of the fourth month, the famine was so severe within the city that there was no food for the people of the land.
- 2 Kings **25:4** Then the city was breached, and all the men of war fled by night by way of the gate between the two walls, which was by the king's garden, while the Chaldeans were all around the city; and the king went on the way toward the Arabah.
- 2 Kings **25:5** And the army of the Chaldeans pursued after the king, and they overtook him in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him.
- 2 Kings **25:6** And they seized the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they pronounced judgment upon him.
- 2 Kings **25:7** And they slaughtered Zedekiah's sons before his eyes then put out Zedekiah's eyes and bound him with bronze fetters and brought him to Babylon.
- 2 Kings **25:8** In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month (this was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon), Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, the servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.
- 2 Kings **25:9** And he burned the house of Jehovah and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every large house he burned with fire.
- 2 Kings **25:10** And all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the bodyguard broke down the walls around Jerusalem.
- 2 Kings **25:11** And the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who deserted to the king of Babylon and the rest of the multitude, Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard carried away into exile.
- 2 Kings **25:12** But the captain of the bodyguard left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and field workers.
- 2 Kings **25:13** And the Chaldeans broke in pieces the bronze pillars, which were in the house of Jehovah, and the bases and the bronze sea, which were in the house of Jehovah. And they carried their bronze to Babylon.

- 2 Kings **25:14** And they took away the pots and the shovels and the snuffers and the spoons and all the bronze vessels with which they ministered.
- 2 Kings **25:15** And the captain of the bodyguard took away the firepans and the bowls: that which was of gold, for its gold, and that which was of silver, for its silver.
- 2 Kings **25:16** As for the two pillars, the one sea, and the bases which Solomon had made for the house of Jehovah, the bronze of all these vessels was beyond weight.
- 2 Kings **25:17** The height of one pillar was eighteen cubits, and a bronze capital was upon it; and the height of the capital was three cubits; and a network and pomegranates were upon the capital all around, all of bronze; and the second pillar was like these with a network.
- 2 Kings **25:18** And the captain of the bodyguard took Seraiah the chief priest and Zephaniah the second priest and the three doorkeepers.
- 2 Kings **25:19** And from the city he took one eunuch, who was overseer of the men of war, and five men from the king's inner circle who were found in the city, and the scribe of the captain of the army, who mustered the people of the land, and sixty men of the people of the land who were found in the city.
- 2 Kings **25:20** And Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard took them and brought them to the king of Babylon in Riblah.
- 2 Kings **25:21** And the king of Babylon struck them down and put them to death in Riblah, in the land of Hamath; so Judah was carried away into exile out of its land.
- 2 Kings **25:22** And for the people who were left in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon left behind, he appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan over them.
- 2 Kings **25:23** And when all the captains of the forces, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah, they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah, that is, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and Johanan the son of Kareah and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite and Jaazaniah the son of the Maacathite, they and their men.
- 2 Kings **25:24** And Gedaliah swore to them and their men and said to them, Do not be afraid of the servants of the Chaldeans; dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will be well with you.
- 2 Kings **25:25** In the seventh month, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah the son of Elishama, of the royal seed, came with ten men with him; and they struck down Gedaliah and he died. And they did the same to the Jews and the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah.
- 2 Kings **25:26** And all the people, both small and great, and the captains of the forces rose up and went to Egypt, for they were afraid of the Chaldeans.
- 2 Kings **25:27** In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin the king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, Evil-merodach the king of Babylon, in the year that he became king, released Jehoiachin the king of Judah from prison.
- 2 Kings **25:28** And he spoke with him kindly and set his throne above the throne of the kings who were with him in Babylon.
- 2 Kings **25:29** And Jehoiachin changed his prison clothes and ate his food in his presence continually all the days of his life.
- 2 Kings **25:30** And for his allowance, a continual allowance was given to him by the king, a portion for each day, all the days of his life.
1. Hezekiah did not consider his action carefully, nor did he pray about it; he did not take thought concerning what the king of Babylon might do.
 2. This shows that Hezekiah was hasty and not considerate or careful—Isa. 39:1-2.

Isa **39:1** At that time Merodach-baladan the son of Baladan, the king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah because he had heard that he had been sick and had recovered.

Isa **39:2** And Hezekiah was glad for them and showed them his treasury, the silver and the gold, and the spices and the fine oil, and his whole armory and everything which was found among his treasures; there was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.
 3. His making a show offended God, who hates man's pride—1 Pet. 5:5:

1 Pet **5:5** In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

 - a. We all need a secret, hidden life with the Lord, a life in which we experience the Lord secretly in the depths of our being—Psa. 42:7a; Matt. 6:3-4, 6.

Psa **42:7a** Deep calls unto deep At the sound of Your water spouts; ...

Matt **6:3** But you, when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

Matt **6:4** So that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Matt **6:6** But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

- b. The Christian who parades all his spiritual life and virtues before men and who does not have anything in the depths of his being has no root; he will not be able to stand in the day of trial and temptation—13:6, 21; Isa. 37:31.
 - Matt 13:6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered.
 - Matt 13:21 Yet he does not have root in himself but lasts only for a time, and when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately he is stumbled.
 - Isa 37:31 And the remnant of those who have escaped of the house of Judah will again take root downward and bear fruit upward.
- c. Because Hezekiah exposed all that he had to the Babylonians, all his riches were carried away; this shows that the measure in which we display things to others will be the measure of our own loss; the measure in our life that we exhibit before others will be the measure we give up in ourselves.
- 4. Hezekiah failed concerning receiving gifts and concerning self-glorification; he was full of self and was not able to restrict the self.
- 5. Although Hezekiah was a godly person who prayed and received miraculous answers from God, he eventually became a failure because of his self-glory and self-interest.
- B. Hezekiah's selfishness is demonstrated by the way he responded to Isaiah's word to him in 39:5-8:
 - Isa 39:5 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, Hear the word of Jehovah of hosts:
 - Isa 39:6 The days are now coming when everything that is in your house and that your fathers have laid up as a treasure unto this day will be carried away to Babylon; nothing will be left, says Jehovah.
 - Isa 39:7 And they will take away some of your sons who will issue from you, whom you will beget, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.
 - Isa 39:8 And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, The word of Jehovah which you have spoken is good. He said moreover, Indeed there will be peace and truth in my days.
 - 1. The kingdom of Judah was actually the kingdom of God on earth, and Hezekiah should not have regarded it as his own kingdom; for Hezekiah to lose his kingdom was a small thing, but for God to lose His kingdom was a great thing.
 - 2. Hezekiah had no thought for God and for God's kingdom, and he did not even care for his own children; he was altogether for himself.
- C. The factors of Hezekiah's failure include:
 - 1. Making a show of what he had, according to his flesh.
 - 2. Not being watchful.
 - 3. Not seeking after the Lord.
 - 4. Not praying.
 - 5. Not considering the issue, the result of his actions.
 - 6. Caring only for himself and not for God's kingdom on the earth.

VI. "In light of this pattern, we need to spend some time with the Lord and ask ourselves what kind of person we would be. Would we be like Hezekiah, who was hasty and was so much for himself? As we consider this matter, we must learn to say, 'Lord, I would not be any kind of person; I would just be nothing. I would have You as my person and my life, as the One who lives in me that I may live You. If I want to be anything, I want to be a person like this.' If we would all pray such a prayer, the Lord's recovery would have a great revival" (*Life-study of Isaiah*, p. 128).