

Hezekiah's Prayers

In Isaiah 36-38, we read of two terrifying situations Hezekiah faced. The first was an ominous threat from the king of Assyria. The second was a word from the prophet Isaiah that Hezekiah was about to die. How did Hezekiah respond to these stressful situations? He prayed. Hezekiah's prayers are recorded for us in Isaiah 37:16-20 and Isaiah 38:3. These are very short prayers, but they teach us much about Hezekiah's faithfulness and the power of prayer.



Isaiah 37:16-20

This prayer for deliverance contains a great deal of praise towards God. Fear should never cause us to forget to praise the Lord. Further, Hezekiah's prayer for deliverance was not just so that he and the people would be spared, but so that God would be glorified among the nations. How often and how much do we praise God? Are our prayers merely for our own deliverance, or so that our God might be glorified?

Isaiah 38:3

Many people promise God that if He will heal them, they will begin living for Him. When Hezekiah prayed to God, he was able to say, "remember...how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart..." Isaiah was not boasting, but he felt confident approaching God because he had always sought to obey God. Can we approach God with such confidence? Could we rightly pray Hezekiah's prayer?

Questions:

1. "The Lord of hosts will be for a crown of _____ and a diadem of _____ to _____ of His people"
2. What name is given for Jerusalem in chapter 29? _____ *Bonus! - Research this name in a study Bible, Bible dictionary, or commentary for possible meanings of this name.
3. What nation were the Jews warned against turning to for help? _____
4. What kind of sword would Assyria fall by? _____
5. "The work of righteousness will be _____, and the effect of righteousness, _____ and _____ forever."
6. What was the name of the Assyrian king that threatened Hezekiah and Judah? _____
7. How many Assyrians did the Angel of the Lord kill? _____
8. How many years did God add to Hezekiah's life? _____

"That You May Grow Thereby..."

A weekly Bible reading plan



Isaiah 28-39

"Blessed Are Those Who Wait For Him"

Overview

Beginning in chapter 28, Isaiah's focus returns to Ephraim (Israel) and Judah. Assyria was at the height of power, and beginning the conquest of Israel. Judah had originally turned to Assyria for aid (against God's will), and now was in danger of falling to the hostile nation themselves. Chapters 28-35 contain various judgments against Israel and Judah, and warn Judah to not seek assistance from Egypt. Some of the people and counselors wanted to turn to Egypt for assistance against Assyria instead of trusting in the Lord, thus Isaiah was sent with strong words against such foolish action.

Chapters 36-39 depart from the normal style of Isaiah's writing. Instead of prophecy, these chapters contain historical narrative. We learn about the reign of Hezekiah in Judah, particularly the threats made to him by Assyria; how the Lord delivered Judah; the sickness and recovery of Hezekiah; and the king's foolish decision to show off his wealth to envoys from Babylon.

This section of Isaiah is a grave reminder to always trust in the Lord. Dangers and distractions tempt us to place our trust in other things, but we must always remember the Lord is our deliverer, and we must cling to Him and Him alone. As the prophet says, "For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are those who wait for Him." (Isa. 30:18)

Suggested Reading Schedule

- Monday: Isaiah 28-29
- Tuesday: Isaiah 30-32
- Wednesday: Isaiah 33-34
- Thursday: Isaiah 35-36
- Friday: Isaiah 37-39

Christ in Isaiah:

This week we come across another of Isaiah's messianic prophecies. This is the final messianic prophecy of section one (ch. 1-39). As with the other prophecies in this section, this prophecy highlights the divinity and strength of the coming Savior. This week, you might study this passage further, and try to find how this passage is used and applied by New Testament writers, and how the theme of a "stone" is used throughout the Old Testament.



A Covenant with Death (28:15-16)

Just before the "Sure Foundation" prophecy, Isaiah mocks the rulers of Judah and their decision to trust in powers other than the Lord. Isaiah says they:

- Made a covenant with death
- Are in agreement with Sheol
- Made lies their refuge
- Hid themselves under falsehood

Clearly death, Sheol, lies, and falsehood are not companions to trust in. Whenever one trusts in anything other than the Lord though, that's essentially what they choose. Today, we should ensure we place our trust in the Lord, not things like careers, money, or people. Only the Lord can deliver, and only the Lord should be served!

The Sure Foundation: Isaiah 28:16-17

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