

Theme: Hezekiah's folly and pride sealed the downfall of his people, but Christ's wise obedience seals blessing for God's people.

I. Intro - Thematic Not Chronological

- A. Isaiah has rearranged 36-37 and 38-39
- B. Before Assyria attacks (38:6)
- C. Merodach-Baladan (721-710; 703)
- D. Probably in 703
- E. Done to link with Babylon; explain exile

II. Hezekiah's Illness and Recovery

- A. Hezekiah is very ill (v1)
- B. God's Word - You will die (v1)
- C. Hezekiah's Response - weeping (v3)
 - 1. A very human response
 - 2. Indifference/fatalism is not faith - inhuman
- D. Hezekiah's response - prayer (v2-3)
 - 1. He prays - even though God has spoken
 - 2. His simple prayer - remember
 - 3. An issue of no heir??
- E. God's Word to Hezekiah - you will live (vv4-5)
 - 1. God gives a new word - quickly [2Ki 20:4]
 - 2. Does not mention all Hezekiah had done

- 3. Mentions prayer and tears - moved God!
- 4. The power of prayer and truthfulness!

F. Hezekiah and Jerusalem - linked (v5-6)

- 1. God promises to deliver Jerusalem as well
- 2. Shows that if Jerusalem cries out - salvation
- 3. Note link with David - and psalm of Hezekiah
- 4. Hezekiah is a Davidic deliverer for the city

III. Hezekiah's Folly and Pride

A. Envoys from Babylon (v1-2)

- 1. Pretext - Hezekiah's healing (v1)
- 2. Real reason - allies in struggle with Assyria
- 3. Hezekiah's joy & pride (v2) - shows off
- 4. God allows Hezekiah to be tested (2 Chr 32:31)
- 5. Trouble is past; memory fades; faith fails

B. Isaiah questions and pronouncement

- 1. "What did they say; where from"; answer (v3)
- 2. An ominous, telling question & answer (v4)
- 3. An ominous word from God (vv5-7)
- 4. Hezekiah's poor response (v8)
 - a. People differ on this - some think good

- b. But does not seek God like in Isaiah 38
- c. Shows no concern for descendants
- d. Isaiah then moves into prophecies for exiles
- e. Point - show Hezekiah's failure - not Messiah
- f. Hezekiah better than Ahaz - but we need more

C. Do we see that only Jesus really delivers?

- 1. All Hezekiah's will ultimately fail
- 2. Only Christ can truly deliver
- 3. We look to Him
- 4. Lydia's baptism - calling on Christ

IV. Applying the Word

A. How do we respond in adversity?

- 1. Do we try and not respond at all? Not faith!
- 2. Do we respond fatalistically? Not faith!
- 3. Respond in faith - prayer, seeking God

B. Where do we find our source?

- 1. Hezekiah flattered by Babylon - are we?
- 2. Do we look to worldly resources to do God's work?
 - a. If it can convert us - seduce us
 - b. It will use us for its own ends
 - c. Economics, politics, etc - church must not!!!
- 3. Do we see that the things we trust in get us?
 - a. Ahaz - Assyria
 - b. Sennacherib - his god Nisroch
 - c. Hezekiah - Babylon

Hezekiah's Folly - Babylon Rising

Isaiah 38-39 (38:1-6; 39:1-8)

Acts 2:29-36

October 25, 2009

Lydia Parlett Baptism

Psalm 115:14-15

But when envoys were sent by the rulers of Babylon to ask him about the miraculous sign that had occurred in the land, God left him to test him and to know everything that was in his heart.

2 Chronicles 32:31

May the LORD make you increase, both you and your children. 15 May you be blessed by the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.
Psalm 115:14-15