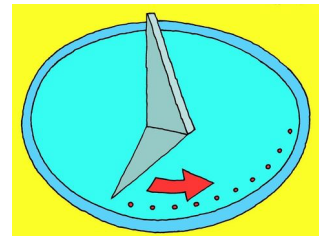


THE SICKNESS OF HEZEKIAH and THE VISITORS

TEXT: Isaiah Chapters 38 and 39

1. Why do you think Hezekiah had such a great dread of death?
2. Was his recovery, or the unusual behavior of the sundial, the greatest miracle?
3. What is a miracle?
4. Compare King Hezekiah's attitude toward death with that of the Apostle Paul. What made the great difference?
5. What would be your attitude if someone should tell you to "set thine house in order" right away, for you are going to die?
6. With what phrases of Hezekiah's writing can you identify?



Isaiah 38:10-20:

10 I said in the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave: I am deprived of the residue of my years.

11 I said, I shall not see the LORD, even the LORD, in the land of the living: I shall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world.

12 Mine age is departed, and is removed from me as a shepherd's tent: I have cut off like a weaver my life: He will cut me off with pining sickness: from day even to night wilt Thou make an end of me.

13 I reckoned till morning, that, as a lion, so will He break all my bones: from day even to night wilt Thou make an end of me.

14 Like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove: mine eyes fail with looking upward: O LORD, I am oppressed; undertake for me.

15 What shall I say? He hath both spoken unto me, and Himself hath done it: I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul.

16 O LORD, by these things men live, and in all these things is the life of my spirit: so wilt Thou recover me, and make me to live.

17 Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but Thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for Thou hast cast all my sins behind Thy back.

18 For the grave cannot praise Thee, death can not celebrate Thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for Thy truth.

19 The living, the living, he shall praise Thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known Thy truth.

20 The LORD was ready to save me: therefore we will sing my songs to the stringed instruments all the days of our life in the house of the LORD.

7. Why should Hezekiah have known that to show Judah's wealth to the Babylonian visitors was a mistake?
8. What kind of "testimony" did Hezekiah give to the Babylonians who came to celebrate his recent recovery?
9. Whose treasures were they which the king displayed? Was the statement 'my treasures' totally correct?



Isaiah 39:4: Then said he, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All that is in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them.

10. What kind of testimony can we have to visitors in our own homes? What do they see in our homes? What attitudes do they sense as we extend hospitality?

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