

2 Kings 20 Father Knows Best

Quail

I. Hezekiah's Life Extended: Quail

1 In those days Hezekiah was **sick and near death**. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the Lord:

'Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.' "

- **King at 25 years old:** One of greatest reformers of Judah
- **Overcame great obstacles:** Father's wicked example.

Great example of a man of God...

1 Corinthians 11:1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

2 Kings 18:3... he did **what was right** in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done.

Hezekiah now only 39 years old... and God tells him he is going die

- Wicked father Ahaz died at 36 years old
 1. **Idolater:** Worshiping false-gods on nations cast out of Israel
 2. **Sacrifice sons** [Hezekiah's brothers] in the fire

Yet to Righteous King Hezekiah
"Set your house in order"

2 Then [Hezekiah] **turned his face** toward the wall, and **prayed to the Lord**, saying, **3** "Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight."

Isaiah gives the news: You will die of this sickness
Hezekiah receive the news a judgement for his sin...it is not

- **Turns to wall and prays:**
 1. You watched me walk in **truth**
 2. You watched me walk in **faithfulness**
 3. You watched and me walk in **goodness...why is this happening?**

3b... And Hezekiah **wept bitterly.**

- **39-Year-old man.** Good man. Weeping at prospect of impending death
- **Wept Bitterly:** A lot, loud and intense. From rt. "to become magnified"

It is a very natural thing that man should **fear to die**, for man was not originally created to die. [Spurgeon]

- Natural for unbelievers. What about **our Eternal Hope?**

Why would the OT prophets' bargain with God to not let them die?

Psalm 102:24 I said, "O my God, Do not take me away in the midst of my days"

Psalm 88:11 Shall Your lovingkindness be **declared in the grave?**

Psalm 30:9 [David] "What profit is there in my blood... Will the **dust praise You?**

Psalm 6:5 [David] ... In the grave **who will give You thanks?**

Did David not know he was going to be with the Lord? At times...

2 Samuel 12:23 [When David/Bathsheba's baby died] Can I bring him back again? **I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."**

Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will **dwelt in the house of the Lord Forever.**

Psalm 17:15 [David] As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; **I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.**

- **We** [as David] **vacillate between temporal/eternal perspective on death**

Maybe we're all just freaking out because we're not meant to be temporary [MCC]

- As much faith as we have...**still thought of death just feels wrong**
 1. Want to be here with family/friends and what I know. Comfortable.
 2. Want to be with the Lord and know some/not all of next step. Blurry glass.

- **What Job think about dying?** Oldest book in Bible.

Job 19:25... I know that **my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand** at last on the earth;**26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God...**

- Job looked forward to death/resurrection. Wife may have played a part [curse God...]

Death for believers...Look forward to it, but with earthly apprehension of unknown

- **Hezekiah fears death even though righteous man...**

I may say to myself, "Do I feel now that I could die calmly or even triumphantly?" I may put the question if I like, but it is hardly a fair one, for I am not yet called to die; yet my experience and observation of others lead me to believe that very remarkable grace is often given to believers in their last hours. [Spurgeon]

55 has been a trying year. Too old to be young and too young to be old [NJC]

Are you afraid of dying? Oh! never be afraid of that; be afraid of living. Living is the only thing which can do any mischief; **dying never can hurt a Christian.** [Spurgeon]

Hezekiah cries out to the Lord as Isaiah leaves...

4 And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 5 "Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: **"I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the Lord.** 6 And I will add to your days **fifteen years.** I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David." ' "

**Isaiah receives Word from Lord
Tell Hezekiah I heard his plea and have granted him 15 more years to live**

7 Then Isaiah said, "Take a **lump of figs.**" So they took and laid it on the **boil,** and he recovered.

Q. Does God heal?

A. What would it be like to see human skin heal for the first time?

- **Healing through medicine?**

James 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing **him with oil** in the name of the Lord. [Medicine? JVM]

- Jesus used mud, spit, pool Siloam, hem of His robe all points of faith but God heals
- **Boil:** Kind of black leprosy, from skin covered w/black scales also w/swelled feet

God will heal you. You will walk to the house of the Lord on the Third Day

8 And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "**What is the sign that the Lord will heal me,** and that I shall go up to the house of the Lord the third day?" 9 Then Isaiah said, "**This is the sign** to you from the Lord, that the Lord will do the thing which He has spoken: shall the shadow **go forward ten degrees or go backward ten degrees?"**

- **Choice of sign:**

1. Father Ahaz given choice: False-humility refused to choose. Tested the Lord
2. Hezekiah all in to choose sign he will be healed

**Shadow move forward or backward?
Natural/Supernatural Sign**

10 And Hezekiah answered, "It is an easy thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; no, but let the shadow go backward ten degrees." 11 So Isaiah the prophet **cried out to the Lord,** and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down on the **sundial of Ahaz.**

- **Sundial of father Ahaz:** Turning back time

This was a wonderfully appropriate sign for Hezekiah. By bringing the shadow of the sundial

move backward, it gave more time in a day – just as God gave Hezekiah more time. [Guzik]

Isaiah 38:17 [Hezekiah letter to Isaiah after healed] ...You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, For You have cast all my sins behind Your back.18 For Sheol cannot thank You, Death cannot praise You; Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your truth.19 The living, the living man, he shall praise You, As I do this day; **The father shall make known Your truth to the children.**

- I will use this time to give thanks and teach my children about you Lord. Really?

2 Chronicles 32:24 [Read] In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death, and he prayed to the Lord; and He spoke to him and gave him a sign. **25 But Hezekiah did not repay** according to the favor shown him, for his heart was lifted up; therefore wrath was looming over him and over Judah and Jerusalem.

- Did not show favor to the Lord
- Heart lifted up causing God's **wrath to hover over him, Judah and Jerusalem**

SUMMARY Hezekiah's Life Extended 15 Years

II. Babylonian Envoys: Pride of Life

12 At that time Berodach-Baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he **heard that Hezekiah had been sick.**

- King of Babylon send sympathy letter to Hezekiah
- Ulterior motives?

"The real reason of the visit was political; Babylon desired to throw off the yoke of Assyria. What nation was more likely to help them than the one at the hands of which Assyria had been so completely defeated? Babylon sought alliance with Judah against Assyria." [Morgan]

Pride opens the door to the enemy as Babylon enters Hezekiah's home...

"2/3 of godly men/woman fall in **last 1/3 of life**" [Jon Courson]

13 And Hezekiah was attentive to them, and showed them all the house of his treasures—the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory—all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

2 Chronicles 32:31 [Read?] However, regarding the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, whom they sent to him to inquire about the wonder that was done in the land, **God withdrew from him, in order to test him**, that He might know all that was in his heart.

Would Hezekiah continue to give God glory during these 15 years
Hezekiah fails test Come look at all I have acquired

- Tempted by Success/Yielding to Pride of Life/Forgetting all God has done

[Danger] When a man admires himself, he never adores God. [Spurgeon]

14 Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah, and said to him, "What did these men say, and from where did they come to you?" So Hezekiah said, "They came from a far country, from Babylon." 15 And he said, "What have they seen in your house?" So Hezekiah answered, "They have seen **all that is in my house**; there is **nothing among my treasures** that I have not shown them."

- **Showing off to Isaiah:** I showed them all my toys, my house, my treasures

All that I accumulated because I'm such a good guy. Should have quit at 39?

16 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "**Hear the word of the Lord:** 17 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in **your house**, and what **your fathers** have accumulated until this day, shall be **carried to Babylon**; nothing shall be left,' says the Lord. 18 'And they shall take away some of your **sons who will descend from you**, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.' "

Some with money are tempted to believe they have earned God's favor. Likes me more
Easy to be deceived by riches

Mark 4:18 Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, 19 and the cares of this world, the **deceitfulness of riches**, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Luke 18:24 [Rich man walks away] "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! 25 For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle **than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.**"

1 Timothy 6:6 [Read/Para] Now godliness with **contentment is great gain.** 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into **temptation and a snare**, and into many **foolish and harmful lusts** which **drown men** in destruction and perdition. 10 For the **love of money** is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have **strayed from the faith in their greediness**, and pierced themselves through with **many sorrows.** 11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness **[some can handle riches/maintain relationship w/Lord]** ... **17 Command those who are rich** in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Some can handle it. Most cant. I can't. Hezekiah can't. God knew and had a plan. Die at 39.

- **Consequences for yielding to Pride**

1. All your stuff and your fathers' things carried away
2. As there was nothing you did not show off...so nothing will be left

3. Your sons will be eunuchs in Palace of those you wanted to impress

19 So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The **word of the Lord** which you have spoken **is good!**" For he said, "Will there not be **peace and truth at least in my days?**"

Downward slope since receiving 15 extra years

- **Self-centered:** At least I won't see it
- **My sons will:** What happened to making truth known to them?

Politicians care about the next election...Statesman care about the next generation

- Hezekiah is all about Hezekiah

20 Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah—all his might, and how he made a pool and a **tunnel and brought water into the city**—are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 21 So Hezekiah rested with his fathers. Then Manasseh his son reigned in his place.

- **Tunnel of Hezekiah**

This was an amazing engineering feat. He built an aqueduct to insure fresh water inside the city walls even during sieges. It was more than 650 yards long through solid rock, begun on each end and meeting in the middle. It can still be seen today and it empties into the pool of Siloam. [Guzik]

Careful why we pray for something

Is it God's will or our own? Do we trust God for our best?

Sometimes God will say yes to our bad request to reveal our hearts

- **Numbers 11** [Read] People demand meat!

Numbers 11:6 "Who will give us meat to eat? 5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except **this manna** before our eyes!"...**10** Then Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, everyone at the **door of his tent**; and the anger of the Lord was greatly aroused; Moses also was displeased. ...**14** I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me. 15 If You treat me like this, **please kill me here and now—if I have found favor in Your sight**—and do not let me see my wretchedness!"

- **Ungrateful:** We want meat!

... **18** [Moses, tell the people] "Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the hearing of the Lord, saying, "Who will give us meat to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt." Therefore **the Lord will give you meat, and you shall eat.** 19 You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, 20 but for a whole month, **until it comes out of your nostrils** and becomes loathsome to you, because you have **despised the Lord** who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, "**Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?**" ' "

...31 Now a wind went out from the Lord, and it brought quail from the sea and left them fluttering near the camp, about a day's journey on this side and about a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground. 32 And the people **stayed up all that day, all night**, and all the next day, and gathered the quail...and they spread them out for themselves all around the camp. 33 But while the meat was **still between their teeth**, before it was chewed, the wrath of the Lord was aroused against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague. 34 So he called the name of that place Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they **buried the people who had yielded to craving**.

- **Kibroth Hattaavah Graves of Craving:** Result ungratefulness/ forcing our own will

Sometimes God will say yes to our bad request to show us His heart and test ours

- **God's heart was good:** Manna from Heaven
- **Peoples heart was wicked:** God answered them in a way they would remember

Has God ever answered yes to our bad prayer? Allowing us our will till it came out our nose **Lord...If it is your will, but don't send the quail** [e.g. move, purchase, relationship]

- We need assess **why we** are petitioning God so intently: Are we "Forcing the Issue"
 1. Are we petitioning Him out of a wicked/ungrateful heart? Despise goodness?
 2. Are we petitioning Him because we really **don't believe** He wants our best?

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things **work together for good to those** who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son

His will is always best. Father knows best even when it doesn't seem like it
God knows the future: Hezekiah was supposed to die at 39

- **What happened because of those 15 extra years?**
 1. Hezekiah forgot the Lord
 2. His heart was lifted up in pride
 3. Caused wrath loomed over Judah/Jerusalem

2 Chronicles 22:26 Then **Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart**, he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the Lord did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

- Humbled himself but damage was done

Wrath stored up/poured out
During 15 extra years Hezekiah would have a son... his name? **Manasseh**

- **Worst King of Judah EVER. Reign of terror for 55 years!**

2 Kings 21:1 [Read] Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hephzibah. 2 And he **did evil** in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel. 3 For he **rebuilt the high places** which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; he **raised up altars for Baal**, and **made a wooden image**, as Ahab king

of Israel had done; and he worshiped all the **host of heaven and served them**. 4 He also built **altars in the house of the Lord**, of which the Lord had said, "In Jerusalem I will put My name." 5 And he **built altars for all the host of heaven** in the two courts of the house of the Lord. 6 Also he **made his son pass through the fire, practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums**. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger. 7 He even set a **carved image of Asherah** that he had made, **in the house of which the Lord...9** Manasseh seduced [God's people] to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel.

**Horrifying time in Judah's History because Hezekiah did not believe that...
Father Knows Best**