



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"Remember What God Has Done: If You Start to Forget, Don't. Remember"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Is 38:9-22; Proverbs 3:5; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Psalm 34:18

Isaiah 38 captures a moment of deep clarity in King Hezekiah's life, a moment brought on by crisis, desperation, and the nearness of death. And if we're honest, many of us know something of what that feels like. There are moments when pain strips away illusion, when we hit rock bottom and suddenly see clearly. In *those* moments, humility comes easily. Our defenses fall away. We listen. We repent. We become tender before the Lord.

But clarity born in desperation is fragile. When the discomfort fades, so often the desperation fades with it. Old instincts return. Old patterns reassert themselves. Pride creeps back in where humility had begun to take up residence. That's why Isaiah 38 is not just a testimony of healing—it's a warning. Hezekiah writes this psalm so he won't forget what God has shown him in the valley. Because forgetting is rarely sudden; it's gradual. It's the slow return to old grooves, deeply worn paths of thinking and living that feel natural but lead us away from trust and submission. Isaiah 38 asks us a piercing question: **Will the clarity in the crisis help shape the faithfulness of our future?**

1. REMEMBER THE DEPTH YOU WERE PULLED FROM

Hezekiah begins by taking us back into the darkness. This is not a victory song at first—it's a lament. He remembers the moment when he believed his life was ending, "*In the prime of my life I said: I will enter the gates of Sheol*" (Isa. 38:10). He speaks of being summoned, examined, judged—*paqad* (פָּקֹד)—as though he had been called into a divine meeting about the remainder of his years. The illusions of permanence collapse. Relationships feel like they are ending. Generations feel cut off. Everything that once felt stable suddenly feels temporary.

The metaphors are striking. His life is like a shepherd's tent—pulled up without warning. Like a weaver's cloth—cut off swiftly from the loom. What once felt enduring is suddenly finished. He roars like a lion in anguish, then chirps like a bird crushed into the dust. His strength dissolves into whispers. His eyes grow weary from looking upward. This is the language of someone who has come face-to-face with mortality, helplessness, and the limits of self-reliance. And Hezekiah remembers it intentionally—because deliverance is easily celebrated, but desperation is easily forgotten.

2. REMEMBER THAT THE PAIN WAS FOR YOUR SHALOM

In the turning point of the psalm, Hezekiah recognizes something remarkable: the bitterness was not pointless. "*Behold, it was for my own shalom that I had great bitterness*" (Isa. 38:17). The pain was not punishment alone—it was mercy. It was awakening. It was God's loving interruption. This moment of near-death brought clarity that comfort never could. He sees now that the Lord loved his soul enough to let him feel the edge of the pit, but not fall into it.

Here repentance becomes honest and personal. God did not merely remove the illness; He removed the sin—"You have flung all my sins behind Your back" (Isa. 38:17). Hezekiah realizes that his sickness exposed what success had hidden. This was not random suffering; it was

purposeful refinement. God was restoring wholeness—shalom—not just extending years. And this is the danger for us: we often want deliverance without transformation. But God loves us too much to leave us unchanged. The pain we resent may be the very thing forming us, if we will remember what it revealed.

3. REMEMBER, SO YOU LIVE DIFFERENTLY GOING FORWARD

Hezekiah concludes with resolve. *"The living—the living—HE praises You, as I do today"* (Isa. 38:19). Gratitude is no longer theoretical; it's embodied. He commits to make God's faithfulness known—to his children, in worship, in public testimony. He recognizes that **life preserved is life commissioned**. Deliverance demands response. And yet, the tension lingers: praise in the moment of rescue must carry forward into obedience in the next test.

Isaiah 39 is coming. The test will not be sickness—it will be pride. Influence. Political pressure. Old instincts. Hezekiah has been given both a word and a sign. The question now is whether remembering will shape his future decisions. And that question presses on us as well. Remembering is not nostalgia—it's vigilance. It's daily dying to self. Daily resisting old patterns. Daily choosing trust over instinct. The moment we say, "I've got it from here," the old grooves call us back. Scripture reminds us, *"Trust in Adonai with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding"* (Prov. 3:5). Remember—or risk repeating.

CONCLUSION

Moments of clarity are gifts, but they are not permanent unless we guard them. God does not rescue us so we can return unchanged to old ways of thinking and living. He rescues us so we can walk differently. Some of us today need to remember a moment when God met us in our desperation—when we were broken, honest, dependent. That moment was real. The humility was real. The clarity was real. Don't forget it.

If you find yourself drifting back into old patterns—self-reliance, defensiveness, pride—this is your invitation to return. Not to fear, but to trust. Not to despair, but to surrender. Today, let's choose to remember—not just what God did, but what He showed us. Let's ask Him to keep us tender, teachable, and dependent. Let today be a day of remembering that leads to transformation, not just relief.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is clarity often strongest in moments of desperation, and why is it so easy to forget it later?
2. What "deeply embedded patterns" does God invite you to resist daily?
3. How does understanding suffering as being "for your shalom" reshape the way you view past pain?
4. What practical habits help you remember what God has revealed in difficult seasons?
5. How can remembering God's deliverance prepare you for the *next* test, not just the last one?

CLOSING PRAYER:

ADONAI, we thank You for being near to the brokenhearted and faithful to rescue. Forgive us for how easily we forget what You have shown us in the valley. Guard our hearts from drifting back into old patterns of thinking and living. Help us remember—not just Your deliverance, but the humility and clarity You formed in us through pain. Teach us to walk carefully, trust deeply, and live dependently on You. May the life You have preserved in us bring You praise—not only today, but in every season ahead. *B'Shem Yeshua, In Yeshua's Name, Amen.*