

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

**Hezekiah's
Praise**

Isaiah 38:9-22

Lesson Forty-Six

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

Hezekiah's Praise

In our last lesson we read the story of Hezekiah's near-death experience. Today, we will read and consider his prayer of thanksgiving. This has been compared to the "song of Hannah" in I Samuel 2:1-10 and the "prayer of Jonah" in Jonah 2:2-9. First we get a personal account of what it was like for King Hezekiah to go through that experience. Read Isaiah 38:9-14.

He was not an old man when his illness struck him. As we said in the last lesson, he was probably no more than 40 years old. In his words, he was "in the prime of my life." Literally he said that he was at "noontime" in his life. He did not expect to face death so soon. Most people who are young don't give death much thought. He was king of a great country. He lived in a palace. He had many servants. He had an army ready to do battle with the enemy. He had an alliance with Egypt, and felt good about the future of his country. According to II Kings 20, he had a treasure house with silver and gold. Also stored there were valuable spices and expensive oils. He also had a building where he had stored weapons of all kinds.

Suddenly everything changed. Now, with no help in sight, death came knocking. Hezekiah called it "being robbed of the rest of his life." All his possessions, all his power, all the medical help available to him was not enough to save him. He thought of death as a place from which he couldn't even see God. At this time, the Jews thought death was entering a dark place which, though not a place of punishment, certainly was not a place like the New Testament idea of Heaven. He thought of life as very flimsy, very fragile. It was like the shepherd's tent that can be taken down in a minute and moved elsewhere. It was like the strings that hold the woven cloth to the weaver's loom. They are easily cut to free the cloth for use. In his illness he looked back on his life. King Hezekiah saw how often he woke up in the morning ready to take on the world, but had found that so many things can change that. And, all our moaning and carrying on, all our dreams of the future, can do little or nothing to lengthen our lives.

But then, God healed him. Isaiah said that a patch made of figs should be applied to the cause of his illness and he was healed. Now, did the fig patch heal him? That and the power of God healed him. And King Hezekiah realized that. He credited God with his healing. Read, Isaiah 38:15-19 and 21.

He said, "What can I say?" Hezekiah was forced to admit that all that he was and all that he had didn't make a difference in his situation. He said, "He has done it." He also makes it obvious that he understands that he brought all this on himself.

It is interesting how people deal with recovery from serious illness. Some try to forget it. Others just assume that it is their right to be healthy and learn nothing from the experience. Still

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

others are like the king who begins to live his life with humility. He realized that his healing was a gift. All the days of his future life were a gift from God.

King Hezekiah said, “by such things men live...” What things? Well, we can only assume that he is talking about what he has been through. His illness, his pain, his fear, his calling on God for help. We can assume that he feels that he now knows what is important.

It is too bad that, for some, it takes a crisis to make us willing students of God’s love and grace. King Hezekiah thought that he knew it all. As we have talked about previously, he ignored the prophet Isaiah who warned against creating a military alliance with Egypt. Hezekiah thought that he had it under control, and that he didn’t need God or His prophet to help him.

He thanked God for the new strength in his life. He said that he now understood that it was for his own benefit that God allowed him to suffer. He seemed to link the new health he had to the forgiveness of his sins.

He knew that his life had been in “the pit.” God’s love had lifted him out of the pit which was both physical and spiritual. God put all the king’s sins behind His back.

He kick’s it up a notch and says that those who are really alive praise God. Read Isaiah 38:19. Their song is “The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord.” “The Lord will save me...” What a song!

From this payer we learn much for living today:

1. Life is short, and we dare not waste any of it.
2. God wants to use us just like we are.
3. God loves us and wants the best for us.
4. Sin must be punished.
5. Only God can give us a long life.
6. We should always be grateful to God for life and opportunity to serve Him.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Page Three

Scripture Memory: “The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord.” Isaiah 38:20

Lesson Goal: To encourage students to live every day of their lives serving and praising God.

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

Student Worksheet

Hezekiah's Praise—Isaiah 38:9-22

As the teacher goes through the lesson, listen for answers to these:

1. Like Hezekiah, most people who are _____ don't give _____ much thought.
2. It is too bad that for some it takes a _____ to make us willing students of God's _____ and _____.
3. God's love had lifted him out of the _____ which was both physical and _____.
God has put all the king's _____ behind His back.
4. What can we learn from this lesson about living today?

Scripture Memory: "The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord." Isaiah 38:20

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.