

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

The Day

Hezekiah

Blew It

Isaiah 39

Lesson Forty-Seven

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

The Day Hezekiah Blew It

Word had spread that Hezekiah was ill. Babylon sent some get well gifts to Jerusalem. Actually both here and in the same account in II Kings 20:12-19, the person sending the gifts and the messengers was Merodach-Baladan (Me-rO'-dak-bal'-uh-dan), the son of Baladan the King of Babylon.

Hezekiah was thrilled that these messengers had arrived, and wanted them to feel welcome, and to show them how great he was. He yielded to the temptation of many who have nice things and want to show them off. Read Isaiah 39:1-4.

The king not only had accumulated many things while he was king, but also had the treasurers of many kings who had preceded him. II Chronicles 32, beginning in verse 23 tells us that Hezekiah was a very rich man. After the army of Sennacherib was destroyed, the people brought gifts to the Lord (in the Temple) and brought “valuable gifts for Hezekiah, King of Judah.” We also read in verse 27 and following, “Hezekiah had very great riches and honor, and he made treasuries for his silver, gold, precious stones, spices, shields and all kinds of valuables. He also made buildings to store the harvest of grain, new wine and oil; and he made stalls for various kinds of cattle and pens for the flocks. He built villages and acquired great numbers of flocks and herds, for God had given him great riches.”

It may not have been unusual for a king to show a potential ally all his wealth. He would want to impress them with who he was and what kind of nation they were visiting. We can read between the lines, if we understand history at this time, that Babylon was taking advantage of Hezekiah's illness to send representatives to evaluate the possibility of forming an alliance with Judah against the Assyrians. In those days, Babylon was gaining strength, especially in the south and was looking to conquer the Assyrians.

Hezekiah was only too happy to show off. He took them on the full tour. He did not hold anything back. He told Isaiah that there was nothing in his treasuries that he did not show the Babylonians.

Isaiah, who lived in Jerusalem and had close contact with the king's palace, heard about the visit of the Babylonians and certainly about Hezekiah's grand tour of his treasuries. Isaiah came to the king and, as if he didn't know, asked what the visitors said and where they came from.

Hezekiah got very defensive. He said that they had come from a “distant land.” He was

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

important enough that a foreign nation had sent “get well” wishes to him personally. He said, “They came to me from Babylon.” He did not tell Isaiah what they said.

Isaiah was not finished. He asked about what they saw when they were in the king’s palace. Hezekiah, with his chin held high, said that they had seen everything. Hezekiah saw nothing wrong at all with showing everything to the Babylonians, even though they were potential enemies. It’s like he said to them, “Take inventory of everything and go tell your king about all the riches and all the defensive weapons we have.” Now we can just imagine Isaiah saying to himself, “Just as I thought, we are in deep trouble.” Isaiah said out loud, “Hear the word of the Lord Almighty.” Read Isaiah 39:5-8.

Isaiah, we can assume with a very heavy heart, told Hezekiah that there would come a time when all his wealth, everything he owned, even that which he had inherited, would be taken away to Babylon. That actually happened in 586 BC. All these important, valuable things would be gone. The things the king was so proud of would be hauled off and would become part of the wealth of a Babylonian king.

Can you believe it? This is the same king who prayed in the last chapter, “He (God) has spoken to me and He Himself has done this. I will walk humbly all of my years...” After his healing, he pledged that he would always be humble, and so soon afterward he was proudly leading tours of his riches and store of weapons.

Like many of us, Hezekiah had a hard time living up to his promises to God. We, too, will promise God just about anything when things are bad, but then a little time passes and we are feeling all better and we forget who delivered us. We say, “That’s OK God, I’ve got it.”

Isaiah said that even Hezekiah’s descendants would be enslaved in Babylon. But this bad news didn’t phase Hezekiah because he felt certain that he would not live long enough to see the attack of the Babylonians and the destruction of his kingdom. Like many of us, if the bad news doesn’t affect us personally, we just ignore it.

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

Page Three

Scripture Memory: ““He has spoken to me, and He Himself has done this. I will walk humbly all my years...” Isaiah 38:15

Lesson Goal: To encourage students to live up to their promises to God.

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

Student Worksheet

The Day Hezekiah Blew It—Isaiah 39

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

1. He (Hezekiah) yielded to the _____ of many who have nice things and want to _____ them off.
2. What did Hezekiah own or control that made him so rich?
3. What was the first question Isaiah asked Hezekiah in this chapter?
3. What did Isaiah tell Hezekiah would be taken away to Babylon?
4. Like many of us, Hezekiah had a hard time living up to his _____ to God. We, too, will _____ God just about anything when things are bad.

Scripture Memory: “He has spoken to me, and He Himself has done this. I will walk humbly all my years...” Isaiah 38:15

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.