

# Lesson 15

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Isaiah 38–39

## “In those days” (Isa. 38:1)

- “Those days” would likely be **before** or **during** the events described in chapters 36–37 (see 38:6).
- Records indicate that Hezekiah reigned for 29 years, from 726–697 B.C.
  - The 15 year extension, then, was granted in 712 B.C.
  - Some trouble squaring this with Assyrian records, because according to them, Sennacherib’s invasion (Isa. 36–37) took place in 701 B.C.
- Hezekiah began his reign when he was 25, so this extension was granted when he was 39.

# Key Passages

- **Isaiah to Hezekiah:** “Thus says the LORD: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live’” (Isaiah 38:1).
- **What God told Isaiah to tell Hezekiah:** “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years” (Isaiah 38:5).
- **Isaiah’s question to Hezekiah:** “What have they seen in your house?” (Isaiah 39:4).

# The Rest of the Story

- How quickly Hezekiah's prayer was answered:
  - “And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle of the court, that the word of the LORD came to him...” (2 Kings 20:4).
- The LORD's full answer to Hezekiah, and more information on the sundial sign:
  - 2 Kings 20:5–11.
- Lesson learned by Hezekiah:
  - 2 Chronicles 32:23–26, 31.

# Questions to Consider

- Concerning Hezekiah's life:
  - How does he describe it? (38:3).
  - Was he sinless?
  - It is possible for us to be described in the same way?
  - Can people this loyal to God still succumb to pride?

# Questions to Consider

- Concerning preparation for death:
  - Can we all expect the same warning Hezekiah was given?
  - When would be a good time to set our house in order, and what does that involve?

# Questions to Consider

- Concerning the Lord's care for us:
  - Does the Lord care when we cry?
    - Psalms 56:8: "You number my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book?"
  - Did Jesus ever cry?
    - John 11:35; Luke 19:41; Hebrews 5:7.

# Questions to Consider

- Concerning the poultice (lump of figs):
  - Did the poultice have any healing power?
  - Any more than Jordan river had for Naaman (2 Kings 5), or mud for the blind man's eyes (John 9)?



# Questions to Consider

- Concerning what Hezekiah wrote when he had been sick and recovered (38:10–20).
  - How does this differ from what Paul wrote in Philippians 1:23: “having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better”?
  - Can only the living praise God? (38:19).

# Questions to Consider

- “The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good!” (39:8).
  - Is the word of the Lord “good” even when it’s not good news?
    - 1 Samuel 3:18.