

Hezekiah's Illness

2 Kings 20

2 Chronicles 32:24-33

Isaiah 38 - 39

Psalm 116

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Hezekiah, king of Judah, became terribly ill. The prophet Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "The Lord has told me you will not survive this illness. Prepare yourself for death."

Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and wept. "Oh Lord, I have always served you and obeyed your commands. Please spare my life."

Isaiah went back to Hezekiah to tell him, "The Lord has heard your prayers and seen your tears. Your life will be extended by fifteen years. As a sign from the Lord, would you like to see the shadow cast by the sun move ten steps forward or ten steps backward?"

Hezekiah replied, "It's a simple thing for the shadow to move forward. Have it move backward!" God caused the shadow cast by the sun to move backward ten steps.

Hezekiah's health was restored. He went to the Temple to praise God. "The Lord heard my prayer for mercy and has saved me from death."

The king of Babylon sent representatives to express his best wishes and to deliver a gift. Hezekiah was pleased. He gave these men a tour of the palace, the treasury, and the storehouses. He showed them the silver, the gold, the spices, the fine oils, all the treasures of Judah.

Isaiah reprimanded Hezekiah, "The day will come when everything you have shown these men will be carried off to Babylon. Some of your own descendants will serve as slaves in the palace of the Babylonian king."

"This message from God is good," said Hezekiah, thinking, "During my lifetime Judah will find security and be at peace."