

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 19, 2023

Passage: Isaiah 38:1-39:8

Memory Passage: Isaiah 39:6-7

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 38:1-39:8.** Considering Hezekiah died in 587 BC, to what year does “in those days” refer (38:1 with 38:5)? Why do chapters 38-39 follow chapters 36-37 even though chronologically the events in 38-39 precede the events in 36-37?

(b) Read 2 Chron. 29-32. Was Hezekiah right to plead his case based on how he lived (38:3)? Explain your answer.

(c) How and why does Yahweh grant Hezekiah’s request (38:5-8)? How might these promises have motivated Hezekiah’s faithfulness in chapter 38 (Remember that Sennacherib attacked Judah in 701 BC)?

(d) If you were facing death and God granted you fifteen more years of life, how would this affect the way you lived those fifteen years? What types of activities would you pursue? What would your top priorities be?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 38:1-39:8.** Summarize the main point(s) of Hezekiah’s lament in 38:9-20. Take notice of how many times “I,” “my,” or “me” occurs in vs. 10-15, what he says about humans, death, life, and the praise God deserves, etc.

(b) Why does Isaiah place 38:21-22 at the end of the story (cf. the position of 2 Kings 20:7-8 within vs. 1-11)?

(c) Does Hezekiah’s lament glorify God or man? Explain your answer.

(d) What elements of Hezekiah’s lament are profitable for you to learn from and strengthen your prayer life?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 38:1-39:8.** Merodach-baladan was a Babylonian leader who held power off and on for many years, including the years of 705-701 BC, and his efforts were mostly against various Assyrian kings. Given that Hezekiah had recovered by the time of his envoy’s visit (39:1) and the fact that his coffers were full (39:2) so, his tribute to Sennacherib had most likely not yet been given (2 Kings 18:13-16), his envoy’s visit to King Hezekiah must have been in 702 or early 701.

(b) Was Hezekiah arrogant or naïve when he showed the envoy all the treasures of Judah (cf. 2 Chron. 32:24-25)?

(c) What judgment does Yahweh pronounce on Hezekiah and Judah, and when was it carried out (cf. 2 Kings 24:10-14)?

(d) Was Hezekiah's response (39:8) flippant or humble (cf. 2 Chron. 32:26)?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 38:1-39:8.** How does Isaiah 39 prepare us for Isaiah 40ff?

(b) How does Hezekiah's response to Yahweh's sign (Is. 38:8, 2 Kgs. 20:9-11) differ from Ahaz's response (Is. 7:11ff)?

(c) In what ways can living faithfully during crises (Hezekiah in Is. 37-38) bring a temptation to drop your guard and slip into unfaithfulness in tomorrow's peace (Hezekiah in Is. 39)? How do you avoid this future self-reliance?

(d) Why does God emphasize His covenant with David as grounds for his actions (37:35; 38:5)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 38:1-39:8.** How do you answer someone who says, "Your God is so fickle! One minute he says Hezekiah will die, and the next, he adds fifteen years to his life! How can you trust a God who changes his mind like that?"

(b) What do you learn about God's character and power from Isaiah 38 and 39? How do these truths equip you to "walk before (Him) in faithfulness and with a whole heart, and (do) what is good in (His) sight" (38:3)?

(c) What do you learn about yourself from chapters 38 and 39? In what ways might you need to repent today?

(d) In what ways does Hezekiah's life encourage you to persevere in your faith?

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Hezekiah's Prequel