

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022

Preacher – Rev Philip Knowles, Ps/Hymns Ps 32:1-5 T -Salzburg, 320, 227 Read: Isa 38:17

Text: Isa 38:17

Title – Sin Cast Behind Christ's Back.

The context in which Hezekiah speaks in this chapter is one of great trial and difficulty that had come upon him, such as war and sickness.

Very often this is the case in the experience of God's people – their tests are often multiplied, resulting in seasons of severe affliction.

Hezekiah was king of Judah and at the time in view in this chapter his kingdom had come under attack from the Assyrian army.

Under Sennacherib their king, the Assyrians had invaded the land taking city after city until they marched right up to Jerusalem and laid siege against it.

Had it not been for the intervention of God there is no doubt that Jerusalem would have been destroyed, and lives wasted.

Clearly, it was, therefore, a time of crisis, testing Hezekiah's faith to the very limit of all hope and endurance.

However, at the same time with the Assyrian invasion and the threat of destruction, there came into Hezekiah's life another major difficulty in the form of a most severe illness.

Please notice, the opening statement of this chapter in **verse 1** – ***"In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death."***

Hezekiah had been stricken with a deadly illness. It came upon him during the very days when Jerusalem was surrounded by the ungodly Assyrians.

It was therefore a most dark and difficult time in the life of this man of God. It was undoubtedly the lowest point that he had ever faced.

However, this passage records, Hezekiah's state of mind, during this time.

He was moved to write what the Lord had done for him. We learn the way in which he handled the situation of great trial.

Notice this carefully, in a time of physical sickness and great difficulty Hezekiah encouraged himself by focusing on the Gospel truth of the forgiveness of sin as demonstrated in the words of **verse 17** “*...for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.*”

He had trusted his God; he had cast himself upon the merit of the promised Messiah. He was saved through faith in Christ, not by feeling. He walked by faith and not by sight.

Hezekiah focused on the fact that because his sin was pardoned, all his sins were cast away, out of view, not one of them remained. Hezekiah was able to face his trials and cope with his sickness through faith in His Redeemer.

He could face the future with a sickness unto death because God had pardoned his sin. He was assured at death He would be with His living Redeemer.

Now we know, God spared Hezekiah another 15 years according to His own sovereign will.

But what a testimony this is; and what great lessons it holds for all both saved and lost.

Hezekiah as a believer knew his sins were forgiven.

He had acceptance with God by faith, in Christ and what Christ would do for Him, whereas our faith rests in what Christ has done for us.

Hezekiah looked forward to death of Christ, we look back to the death of Christ, yet Christ is where we all meet to have sins cast behind His back.

Sins forgiven centres upon, by, in through and because of Christ.

Unsaved one, you face every day knowing your sin is not forgiven and you are unacceptable to God, and therefore, will be cast into hell, where the punishment of sin will be cast upon you.

Therefore, ***Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool***

Have all your sins cast behind Christ's back.

**I FIRST, HEZEKIAH'S SINS WERE CAST BEHIND GOD'S BACK PERSONALY**

In his prayer, Hezekiah rejoices in his own personal sin pardoned, forgiven, notice he says, "***for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.***"

The words **cast behind thy back**, are figurative language describing a certain truth or action that the **Lord puts away sin, blots it out, as not to be seen.**

The word **cast** means **to throw**, it is in the direction behind His back, out of view, blotted out, cancelled out. Hezekiah rejoices "**my sins,**" are gone.

The very fact that Hezekiah records his sins are pardoned, meant there was a time when his sins were not forgiven, a time when he was a condemned sinner, and all his sins were before the Lord.

The Lord has knowledge of man's sin, for He knows all about every person, for He created male and female, upright, without sin, however through disobedience, sin came into the world.

The Lord in describing the sin of wicked nations, in **Hosea 7**, said in **verse 2** "**I remember all their wickedness, now their doings have beset them about: they are before my face.**" He shows that sinners are surrounded by their sins – that is they are clearly seen by the Lord.

No sin is hidden from the divine mind and the knowledge of the all-seeing eye of God. All sin which has not been forgiven, is not put away. He takes note of them all.

The Psalmist said in **Ps 90:8** "**Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.**"

God sees sin as it really is. Make no mistake there is no sin which goes unseen by the Lord, not even secret sin, no matter the effort to hid it, cover every track, God's countenance, looks upon it, and in the light of His holiness all sin is exposed by Him.

That's why the Psalmist said in **Ps 139**, please read the whole psalm, but **v1** "***O lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.***" **v4** "***For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.***" **v7** "***whither shall I flee from thy presence?***"

You may try to cast your own sin before your own back, try and put deeds out of your mind, but they will always be before God, and held against you in the court of heaven.

But when Christ puts away He does so behind His back, out of God's sight, never to stand against you.

Therefore, when the Lord looks upon the sinner with all their sin, He looks upon them in anger and in wrath, **Ps 7:11** "***God is angry with the wicked every day.***"

The sentence of God has gone out against you **John, 3:18** "***he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.***" **v36** "***he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.***"

Hezekiah knew that his personal guilt and rebellion against God, caused a separation a barrier between him and God.

Hezekiah like all men and woman, by nature, have sinned against God's law. All have offended God because all turn to their own way, wilfully rebelling against God's way and word.

Hezekiah like all humanity is cut off from God because of personal sin. He did not love God, obey Him or desire for Him.

Therefore, the only way for sinful men and woman to have sin cast behind Christ's back is to have personal guilt removed, and

the wonderful message in the gospel is, God's just demands been meet.

He has provided pardon, a covering, to have sin forgiven. Paul said in **Romans 5:8** "***But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

You see **God, is Holy**, and His holiness cannot be compromised, and therefore, He cannot sweep sin under the carpet, He must address sin.

He cannot turn a blind to man's sin against Him.

**God is just** therefore; He cannot let sin go unpunished. To do such a thing would go against His own character. Meaning, He would be unjust, He would not be God.

God demanded that the penalty for sin which is death for breaking His law, must be paid either by the sinner or a substitute in the sinner's place. At the Cross of Calvary Christ paid the debt of sin by the shedding of His own precious blood.

Jesus Christ is the sinners substitute, His death satisfied or met God's just demands. He came to pay the debt of the law by living a perfect life in obedience to God's law and then to offer His life as a sacrifice for sin. **2 Corinthians 5:19** "***God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.***"

Hezekiah clearly understood that God's justice being satisfied, was the basis for all his sins put behind God's back.

Believer you have the same blessed assurance, you are born of God's Spirit and washed in Christ's blood.

Your sins are personally cast behind His back. Whatever the sin, however heavy the was burden was, however long guilt followed you around, all is cast behind Christ's back.

David rejoiced in **Psalm 32:1** ***“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.”***

What about you unsaved one, will you come to Christ and have the guilt of all your sin removed, cast behind His back, out of view, otherwise to neglect so great salvation, is to remain in your lost condition, closer the day of damnation.

## ***II SECOND, HEZEKIAH'S SINS WERE CAST BEHIND GOD'S BACK PERFECTLY***

Hezekiah prayed before the Lord ***“for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.”***

Notice again the words, ***“all my sins.”***

Hezekiah as he dwells on what the Lord has done for Him, he rejoices ***“all my sins behind thy back.”*** Every single sin has been forgiven. They were all paid for in full.

It is not some sins put behind Christ's back, it is not just small sins or big sins. His sins were great and innumerable.

It was not just public sins but also private sins. All the sins that are known and all the sins, that have been hidden in secret.

The sins committed this week, this day, are sins which are shameful to speak of, which are disgraceful to think. Sin that we have not even realised that we committed.

Think of the sin of backslidings, fulfilling the lusts of the flesh, coldness of heart, following after our own notions, neglect of scripture and prayer. With all our proneness to wander.

Here is a perfect and complete removal of all sin. All sin paid in full.

My sin has been nailed to His cross and I bare it no more praise the Lord O my soul.

Jesus Christ made a full, a perfect pardon for all my sins. Christ had dealt with "***all my sins.***"

Listen, had Christ only cast some sins away, Hezekiah would still be under the burden and guilt of sin. He would still be heading towards eternal damnation.

Believer, endeavour to get a grip of this great privilege of perfect pardon and never let it go.

May the Holy Spirit seal it home to your heart, that you will never stand trial for those sins, because Jesus cast them behind His back.

The blood sacrifice of Christ is sufficient to do all it was attended to do. It cleanses, it saved, it pardons, it redeems, it atones, it covers sin.

Christ cleared the full account of your sin, He missed nothing. His blood **covers over the guilt of all sin so that it is not seen and it is sent away.**

To the forgiven sinner Christ is longer our Judge to sentence, but our Father to welcome home. We are no longer strangers to God, but the sons and daughters of God.

### **III THIRD, HEZEKIAH'S SINS WERE CAST BEHIND GOD'S BACK PERMANENTLY.**

Once more Hezekiah can focus upon the truth, that when "***for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.***" Then they are removed permanently.



Every sin that ever stood on record in the book of God against Hezekiah has been blotted out once and for all.

From heaven's point of view there was no charge, no crime, no condemnation to bring before Hezekiah because God, had cast all Hezekiah's sin behind His back.

It is very clear that the moment a sinner believes; all his sins are put away—past, present and future!

They are all gone as far as God, the Judge, is concerned. There is not left one sin against any of His people, nor shall there be.

They are permanently casts behind His back, all sin and iniquity are removed altogether, as if it never had existed.

God looks upon you, believer as washed in Christ's blood, and clothed in Christ's garment. He beholds in you neither spot nor wrinkle, nor any such thing.

**Isa 43:25** “*I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake.*”

He forgives sin He blots out sin. The word for “**blotteth**” means **to rub, to wipe off, erase** It signifies a complete removal, a total wipe out. **Jer 31: 34** – “*I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*”

Oh! Believer put away doubt, despair, and distrust. God does not brood over the sins that He has pardoned and has cast behind His back. He has taken the whole mass of our sins and removed them as far as the east is from the west.

God will never recall the sins of the pardoned sinner and punish him for those sins. Because it is against His divine nature, He is holy, and therefore cannot not lie. **There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ**

***Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit***

Oh I plead with you, do not rest your soul on chances, but be certain, like Hezekiah whatever news you receive, news that changes everything, impacts life, you will be able to remember, ***“for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.”***