

Series: Back Roads of the Bible: Little Known Stories, Big Biblical Truths

Scripture: Isaiah 38:1-20 In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover."

²Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD,³"Remember, LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

⁴Then the word of the LORD came to Isaiah: ⁵"Go and tell Hezekiah, 'This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will add fifteen years to your life.⁶And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city.

⁷"This is the LORD's sign to you that the LORD will do what he has promised: ⁸I will make the shadow cast by the sun go back the ten steps it has gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.'" So the sunlight went back the ten steps it had gone down.

⁹A writing of Hezekiah king of Judah after his illness and recovery:

¹⁰I said, "In the prime of my life
must I go through the gates of death
and be robbed of the rest of my years?"

¹¹I said, "I will not again see the LORD himself
in the land of the living;
no longer will I look on my fellow man,
or be with those who now dwell in this world.

¹²Like a shepherd's tent my house
has been pulled down and taken from me.
Like a weaver I have rolled up my life,
and he has cut me off from the loom;
day and night you made an end of me.

¹³I waited patiently till dawn,
but like a lion he broke all my bones;
day and night you made an end of me.

¹⁴I cried like a swift or thrush,
I moaned like a mourning dove.
My eyes grew weak as I looked to the heavens.
I am being threatened; Lord, come to my aid!"

¹⁵ But what can I say?

He has spoken to me, and he himself has done this.

I will walk humbly all my years
because of this anguish of my soul.

¹⁶ Lord, by such things people live;
and my spirit finds life in them too.

You restored me to health
and let me live.

¹⁷ Surely it was for my benefit
that I suffered such anguish.

In your love you kept me
from the pit of destruction;
you have put all my sins
behind your back.

¹⁸ For the grave cannot praise you,
death cannot sing your praise;
those who go down to the pit
cannot hope for your faithfulness.

¹⁹ The living, the living—they praise you,
as I am doing today;
parents tell their children
about your faithfulness.

²⁰ The LORD will save me,
and we will sing with stringed instruments
all the days of our lives
in the temple of the LORD.

Message: The Stairway of Ahaz...A Stairway of Prayer

1. The Setting and the Site:

- The Time:
- The _____
- _____ conditions; a _____ change (2 Kings 18:3-7)

2. The Situation:

- an unexpected _____ (Isa 38:1)
- a typical _____ (Isa 38:2, 9-14a) :
- a _____ plea (Is. 38:14b-15):
- a _____ answer (Is 38:4-5, 16-17) (2 Kings 20:7)

- an _____ occurrence (2 Kings 20:8) (Isa 38:7-8)

3. The Soul-ution: _____!

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- (Is 38:18-20)
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A Message for Me...