



Lesson 145

Hezekiah's Illness and Recovery

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 2 Kings 20:1-11 • Setting: circa 703 BC, in Jerusalem • Main Characters: God, Hezekiah, and Isaiah • Plot: Hezekiah is terminally ill but prays | <p>and recovers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key word(s): “sick unto _____” • Climax: 2 Kings 20:2 <i>Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD...</i> |
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“Set Your House in Order”

- 1) Though this story is positioned after the invasion of Sennacherib mentioned in chapter 19, it possibly occurred before chapter 19. Notice verse 6: “...I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant _____ sake.”
- 2) (v 1) Isaiah, the prophet of God, announced to Hezekiah the grim news: “*Thus saith the LORD, 'Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.'*”
 - a) By setting his “house in order” is meant that he should prepare his _____ for his death.
 - b) Apparently at the time of his illness, he had no _____. (cf. 2 Ki. 20:6; 21:1)

“I Have Seen Thy Tears”

- 3) (vv 2-3) Hezekiah wept and prayed.
 - a) He wept, not only for his own life, but because his kingdom was being threatened and his successor was _____.
 - b) As he prayed, he spoke of how he had walked before God _____.
- 4) (vv 4-7) The LORD answered Hezekiah's prayer even before Isaiah had left the palace.
 - a) The prophet returned with the good news that God had heard the king's prayer and he would heal him, give him _____ more years to live, and deliver his kingdom from the threat of the Assyrians.
 - b) (vv 8-11) Hezekiah was not immediately healed but would be in three days (v 5).
 - i) In his fragile condition, he asked for a confirming _____.
 - ii) Isaiah told the king to choose whether the sun dial's shadow should go forward or backward ten degrees. Hezekiah asked for the shadow to be _____, since it would be completely contrary to nature.

Application

- 5) We can learn much about prayer from Hezekiah:
 - a) Our faith in prayer is strengthened if we have a testimony of _____ with God. Hezekiah prayed “*remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a*

perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight.” We should live so that we can pray in the same manner.

- b) Our faith in prayer is strengthened if we go to God with the _____ he gave us. What Hezekiah prayed in verse three was not only his testifying as to his uprightness, but it was his believing the promise that God made to the line of David:

1 Kings 8:25 Therefore now, LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me.

- 6) Isaiah told Hezekiah's attendants to place a fig poultice on the king's boil, the apparent source of his terminal condition. Notice that, though God promised healing, the prophet did not forbid natural means. Matthew Henry notes, “It is our duty, when we are sick, to make use of such means as are proper to help nature, else we do not trust God, but _____ him.”¹
- 7) The sign of Hezekiah’s promised healing was the going backwards of the sun – a miracle which was noticed even in far away _____, from which ambassadors were sent to enquire about the phenomenon (2 Chron. 32:31). The next time we go through the “valley of the shadow of death” let us think of how God used Hezekiah’s suffering to spread the glory of His name and to pique the curiosity of unbelievers.

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “death” • 1. David’s • 2. a) kingdom; b) son • 3. a) uncertain; b) faithfully • 4. a) fifteen; b) i) sign; ii) shortened • 5. a) walking; b) promises • 6. tempt • 7. Babylon

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

¹ Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.