

2 Kings 20

Verses 1 - 7

In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, came to him and said to him, “This is what the Lord says: ‘Set your house in order, for you are going to die and not live.’”² Then he turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, saying,³ “Please, Lord, just remember how I have walked before you wholeheartedly and in truth, and have done what is good in your sight!” And Hezekiah wept profusely.⁴ And even before Isaiah had left the middle courtyard, the word of the Lord came to him, saying,⁵ “Return and say to Hezekiah the leader of My people, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of your father David says: ‘I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I am going to heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the Lord.’⁶ And I will add fifteen years to your life, and I will save you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will protect this city for my own sake and for my servant David’s sake.”⁷ Then Isaiah said, “Take a cake of figs.” And they took *it* and placed *it* on the inflamed spot, and he recovered.

In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill.

See chart 2005

King Hezekiah 2nd Kings

Ch.	Event	Other	Year
	Hezekiah becomes co-regent		728
17	Israelites deported to Assyria		722
18	Hezekiah King of Judah	12s	715
18	Sennacherib threatens Jerusalem		701
19	The prophet Isaiah sought		701
19	Angel of the Lord kills 185,000 Assyrians		701
20	Hezekiah given 15 more years		701
20	Hezekiah receives envoys from Babylon		
21	Manasseh becomes co-regent	13s	697
	Hezekiah dies, Manasseh becomes king		686

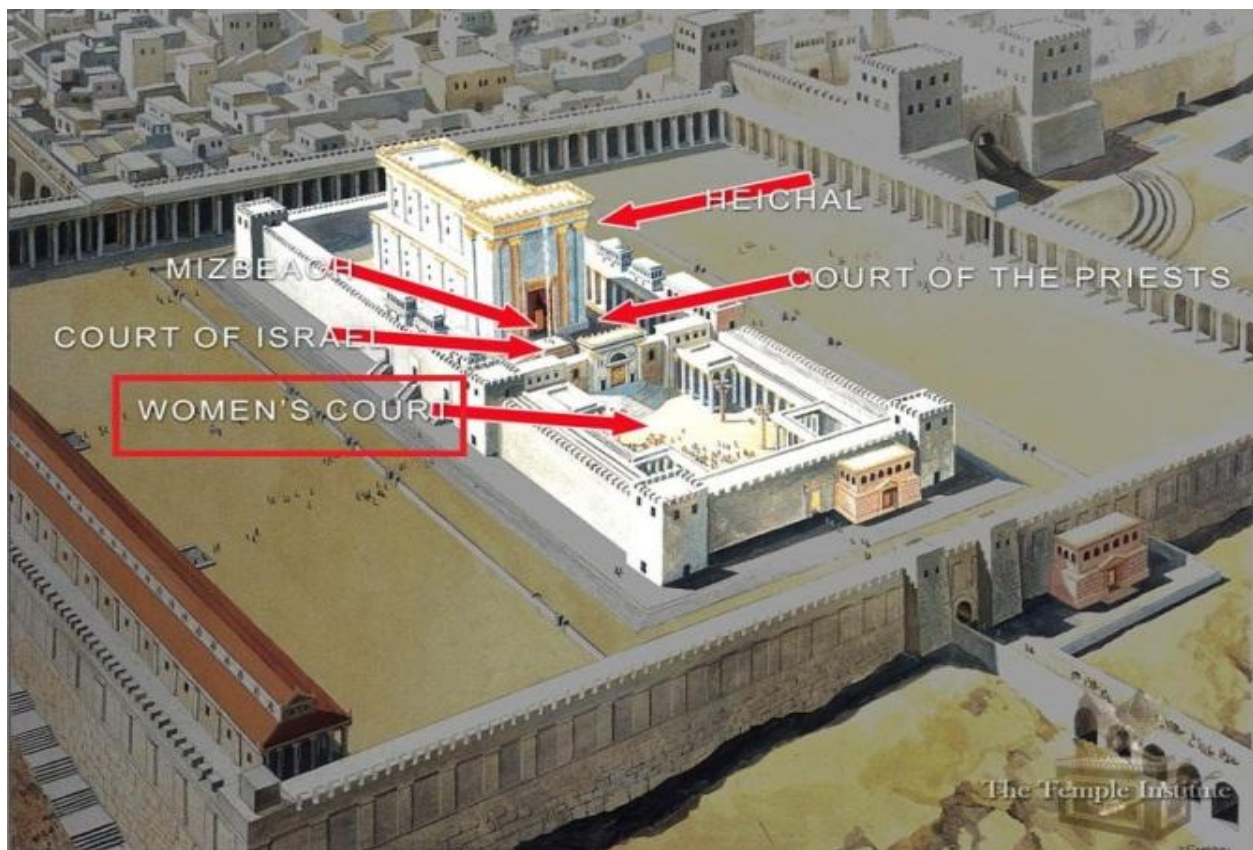
King Hezekiah was given 15 more years after his illness and he died in 686 BC so he must have become ill in 701 BC. This would have been shortly after the Lord delivered Judah from the hand of Hezekiah.

² Then he turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, saying, ³ “Please, Lord, just remember how I have walked before you wholeheartedly and in truth, and have done what is good in your sight!” And Hezekiah wept profusely.

Hezekiah knew he was a good man, not perfect, but someone who believed in the Lord and tried to keep the precepts of law.

⁴ And even before Isaiah had left the middle courtyard, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ⁵ “Return and say to Hezekiah the leader of My people, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of your father David says: “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I am going to heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the Lord.

See pic 2010



The middle court or the Woman's court stood between the Court of the Gentiles and the Court of Israel (the Court of the Men).

⁶ And I will add fifteen years to your life, and I will save you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will protect this city for my own sake and for my servant David's sake.

The additional 15 years was a blessing but Hezekiah made a very foolish decision during that time. We will read about that decision shortly.

⁷ Then Isaiah said, "Take a cake of figs." And they took it and placed it on the inflamed spot, and he recovered.

Did the figs have anything to do with his healing? Yes they did, just as the washing in the Jordan River seven times was part of the healing process when Naaman was healed.

See 2 Kings 5:13 - 14

¹³ Then his servants approached and spoke to him, saying, "My father, had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more *then*, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean?'" ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, in accordance with the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

God has told us what we need to do to be saved from our sin. If we ignore any part of His command for any reason, should we expect Him to grant us the gift of life?

Verses 8 - 11

⁸ Now Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "What *will be* the sign that the Lord will heal me, and that I will go up to the house of the Lord on the third day?" ⁹ Isaiah said, "This shall be the sign to you from the Lord, that the Lord will perform the word that He has spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten steps or go back ten steps?" ¹⁰ So Hezekiah said, "It is easy for the shadow to decline ten steps; no, but have the shadow turn backward ten steps." ¹¹ Then Isaiah the prophet called out to the Lord, and He brought the shadow on the stairway back ten steps by which it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.

⁸ Now Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “What *will be* the sign that the Lord will heal me, and that I will go up to the house of the Lord on the third day?”

Was it wrong for Hezekiah to ask for a sign? He was a man of faith and it seems that he should have accepted what the prophet said without a sign. But neither Isaiah nor the Lord reprimands him for doing so.

⁹ Isaiah said, “This shall be the sign to you from the Lord, that the Lord will perform the word that He has spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten steps or go back ten steps?”

The fact that Isaiah was prepared to offer a specific sign seems to suggest that the Lord had told Isaiah that Hezekiah would ask for a sign and He had given him instructions on what to say to the king.

It’s also interesting that God gave Hezekiah the choice.

¹⁰ So Hezekiah said, “It is easy for the shadow to decline ten steps; no, but have the shadow turn backward ten steps.”

Was Hezekiah right about one being easier than the other? If the movement happened quickly in either direction, it would be a huge miracle in either case.

¹¹ Then Isaiah the prophet called out to the Lord, and He brought the shadow on the stairway back ten steps by which it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.

The stairway acted like a sun-dial. Time had to reverse in order for this to take place. Did this reversal in time happen quickly or did it follow the time frame it would normally take if it were declining? If so, the king would have been watching this miracle for quite a while.

This miracle is somewhat like the one performed by God during the time of Joshua.

See Joshua 10:13

**¹³ So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped,
Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies.**

Is it not written in the Book of Jashar? And the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and did not hurry to go *down* for about a whole day.

Verses 12 - 15

¹² At that time Berodach-baladan, a son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah, because he heard that Hezekiah had been sick. ¹³ And Hezekiah listened to them, and showed them all his treasure house, the silver, the gold, the balsam oil, the scented oil, the house of his armor, and everything that was found in his treasuries. There was nothing in his house or in his entire realm that Hezekiah did not show them. ¹⁴ Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah and said to him, “What did these men say, and from where have they come to you?” And Hezekiah said, “They have come from a far country, from Babylon.” ¹⁵ *Isaiah* said, “What have they seen in your house?” So Hezekiah answered, “They have seen everything that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasuries that I have not shown them.”

¹² At that time Berodach-baladan, a son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah, because he heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

He was the king of Babylon from 721 - 710 B.C. and once again between 703 - 702 B.C.

See chart 2015

Generations	Kings of Babylon	Reign	Years
	Nabu-mukin-zeri	731-729	
	Tiglath-pileser III	728-727	
	Shalmaneser V	726-722	
	Marduk-apla-iddina II	721-710	
	Sargon II	709-705	
	Sennacherib	704-703	
	Marduk-zakir-shumi II	703	
	Marduk-apla-iddina II	703	
	Bel-ibni	702-700	
	Assur-nadin-shumi	699-694	
	Nergal-ushezib	693	

The name of this king that appears in the bible does not match with the recorded name we find in secular history.

In addition, the name of this king is slightly different in 2 Kings and Isaiah.

2 Kings 20:12

¹² At that time Berodach-baladan, a son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah, because he heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

See Isaiah 39:1

At that time Merodach-baladan son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah, for he heard that he had been sick and had recovered.

However, the only difference in the two names is the first letter of the king's name.

¹³ And Hezekiah listened to them, and showed them all his treasure house, the silver, the gold, the balsam oil, the scented oil, the house of his armor, and everything that was found in his treasuries. There was nothing in his house or in his entire realm that Hezekiah did not show them.

Oops.

¹⁴ Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah and said to him, “What did these men say, and from where have they come to you?” And Hezekiah said, “They have come from a far country, from Babylon.”

This is when the king probably got a lump in his throat and he began to wonder what harm might come from this misstep.

Did his advisors give him a word of caution about doing this or suggest a limited view of the king's riches?

¹⁵ *Isaiah* said, “What have they seen in your house?” So Hezekiah answered, “They have seen everything that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasuries that I have not shown them.”

This kind of mistake is hard to understand but when a king has been successful in their reign for many years and been delivered from an enemy in a spectacular fashion (the death of 185,000 Assyrian soldiers) it would be easy to let ones guard down and believe that nothing bad will overtake you. His advisors may have thought the same.

Verses 16 - 19

¹⁶ Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the Lord: ¹⁷ ‘Behold, the days are coming when everything that is in your house, and what your fathers have stored up to this day, will be carried to Babylon; nothing will be left,’ says the Lord. ¹⁸ ‘And some of your sons who will come from you, whom you will father, will be taken away; and they will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.’” ¹⁹ Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of the Lord which you have spoken is good.” For he thought, “Is it not *good*, if there will be peace and security in my days?”

¹⁶ Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the Lord: ¹⁷ ‘Behold, the days are coming when everything that is in your house, and what your fathers have stored up to this day, will be carried to Babylon; nothing will be left,’ says the Lord.

If we assume the year is about 700 BC and we know the destruction of Jerusalem will take place in 586 BC then this event will not take place for another 114 years.

See chart 2020

2nd Kings timeline Part 3

Ch.	Event	Other	Year
18	Hezekiah King of Judah	12s	715
18	Sennacherib threatens Jerusalem		701
19	Angel of the Lord kills 185,000 Assyrians		
20	Hezekiah given 15 more years		
20	Hezekiah receives envoys from Babylon		
21	Manasseh king of Judah	13s	697
21	Amon king of Judah	14s	642
22	Josiah	15s	640
23	Jehoahaz king of Judah	16s	609
23	Jehoiakim king of Judah	17s	609
24	Jehoiachin king of Judah	18s	598
24	Zedekiah king of Judah	19s	597
25	The fall of Jerusalem		586

18 ‘And some of your sons who will come from you, whom you will father, will be taken away; and they will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.’”

His “sons” here means the 4th and 5th generation of Hezekiah. We know two of his sons who were kings of Judah were imprisoned by the King of Babylon but there were other sons that became officials in the palace of the king.

See chart 2025

Southern Kings and their successors			
	King	A son reigned after his father except in 4 cases	How the king died
10	Jotham		Natural Death
11	Ahaz		Natural Death
12	Hezekiah		Natural Death
13	Manasseh		Natural Death
14	Amon		Overthrown by his servants
15	Josiah		Killed by Pharaoh Neco
16	Jehoahaz		Imprisoned by Pharaoh Neco
17	Jehoiakim	Son of Josiah	Bound & a donkey's burial
18	Jehoiachin		Imprisoned by king of Babylon
19	Zedekiah	Son of Josiah & uncle of Jehoiachin	Imprisoned by king of Babylon
NA	Gedaliah (Governor)	Not a descendant of David	Ishmael & 10 men kill him

Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of the Lord which you have spoken is good.” For he thought, “Is it not good, if there will be peace and security in my days?””

When Hezekiah was told that he was going to die he prayed to the Lord and wept but when he is told that his descendants will be taken to Babylon he is glad to hear that the destruction of Jerusalem will not take place in his lifetime. People of faith can be amazingly self-centered at times.

Someone might argue that since his descendants would work for the King of Babylon that Hezekiah didn't need to be overly concerned about this news. However, these sons of Hezekiah would no longer have the temple to worship at and their beloved city of Jerusalem would lie in ruins for 70 years. This should have been a day of sadness and repentance but that was not the case.

Verses 20 - 21

²⁰ Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah and all his might, and how he constructed the pool and the conduit and brought water into the city, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? ²¹ So Hezekiah lay down with his fathers, and his son Manasseh became king in his place.

See video 2030 The pool of Siloam

<https://www.levickfamily.com/8.56.html>

See video 2035 Hezekiah's tunnel

<https://www.levickfamily.com/8.57.html>