

Isaiah Lesson 39

Isaiah Chapter 39

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Introduction: Last week in chapter 38 of Isaiah we covered mainly history without much prophecy. The account was of the sickness and miraculous healing of Hezekiah. The final portion of the chapter presented a prayer or perhaps a psalm by Hezekiah regarding this crisis in his life.

This short lesson gives us the record made of the folly of Hezekiah in revealing the treasures of his palace and kingdom to Babylonian ambassadors. Isaiah promptly rebukes him for this and foretells that the day was coming when the Babylonians would strip the kingdom of its wealth and carry off his descendants as captives. This chapter is virtually identical to II Kings 20:12-19.

I. Envoys from Babylon

Isa 39:1 At that time Merodachbaladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah: for he had heard that he had been sick, and was recovered.

Isa 39:2 And Hezekiah was glad of them, and shewed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.

Isa 39:3 Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country unto me, even from Babylon.

Isa 39:4 Then said he, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All that is in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them.

Isa 39:5 Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts:

Isa 39:6 Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.

Isa 39:7 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of

the king of Babylon.

Word of the illness of Hezekiah had reached the ears of the new king in Babylon. After learning of his illness, He sent letters of condolence and a gift to him. Assyria had been the major 'super-power' in the Middle East, however, Babylon was growing stronger by the day and a new power was rising. Babylon was not yet a menace to Judah, however, it would eventually overthrow Assyria and become the dominant power in the Middle East. Recall that the letters and gifts were delivered by emissaries of the king of Babylon.

Hezekiah foolishly revealed to his Babylonian guests, the whereabouts and worth of all his riches including all that belonged to his kingdom. In so doing, he put the nation of Judah at risk. They became a future target of Babylon. Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country, even from Babylon. Isaiah was sent by God to confront Hezekiah for his folly. The prophet came and questioned Hezekiah about the visitors he entertained.

The prophet was concerned and with authority from God asked: What have they seen in thine house? The king admitted that he had shown all that he had.

(1) It may be that he did so to impress his pagan guests.

(2) It may be that he thought that it would be to his benefit to show that he could pay others to protect his kingdom.

(3) Whatever his reason was, it was clearly displeasing to God.

The prophet told the king that everything in his palace along with the entire wealth of Judah would someday be carried to Babylon as spoils. The king had placed his country, his family, and himself in jeopardy of conquest. Though more than one hundred years would pass before this was accomplished, the descendants of Hezekiah and his royal dynasty would someday be servants and eunuchs in the court of Babylon.

The sense of the word translated eunuchs is unclear. It may refer to men who have been castrated. The word also has the sense of being in service to someone such as an official in a government. This certainly was true in the case of Daniel and his comrades.

Isa 39:8 Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. He said moreover, For there shall be peace and truth in my days.

Hezekiah could only reply that God's Word was good. What else could he say? However, Isaiah replied to him, Is it not good, if peace and truth be in my days? Would not it be better if peace and truth were in his days rather than turmoil and deception? This ends the first section of the Book of Isaiah.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.