

HEZEKIAH'S PRAYER

Hezekiah Turns to God

Read Isaiah 38:1. Imagine being Hezekiah. Your father was a wicked king. Since you've been king, you have tried to serve the Lord, clean up the temple, and get rid of idols. You also have issues trying to relate to foreign kings and keeping your people together and strong against the attack of foes. Suddenly, you are struck down with a terrible illness. The prophet Isaiah comes to you with a very short message of bad news. You are going to die soon.

What was Isaiah's message to Hezekiah?
(Isaiah 38:1)

What did Hezekiah do in reaction?
(Isaiah 38:2-3)

The LORD heard Hezekiah's prayer. He sent Isaiah back to Hezekiah to tell him that He would add years to his life and deliver him and Jerusalem from the Assyrians. He even proved it to him with an earthly sign. What was that sign? (Isaiah 38:7-8)

There are some things that we just can't understand, like the shadow going backward! Miraculous medical healings are hard for doctors to explain, yet they happen. These can only be explained by God's mercy and grace. God's forgiveness and love for Hezekiah and for us are also great examples of God's mercy and grace.

What did Hezekiah do (vv. 9-20)?

Think about your own life. What can you do to show gratitude to God? What things do you still want to accomplish before God takes you to heaven?

REVIEW

mercy—

justice—

Prayer

The prayer of Hezekiah is a wonderful example of faith in action. Sometimes, we get uncomfortable with prayer because we don't think we are doing it right. Prayer is communicating with our heavenly Father in a very natural and individual way. Read the following verses to see what they tell us about prayer.

John 14:13-14

Romans 8:26

Luke 11:9-11

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Red for RIGHT NOW. What is going on that concerns you? A test, an illness, an accident, a sin, a fight with a friend.

Orange for OTHERS. Who do you know that needs prayer? Parents, siblings, relatives, teachers, classmates, friends.

Yellow for YES! What blessings and joys make you say "Yes!"? What are you thankful for? A win, a good grade, a home run.

Green for EARTHLY petitions. Snow, rain, flowers, pets.

Blue for BEHAVIORS. What behaviors do you need to repent? Are there things you need help changing?

Violet for VICTORY. Thank God for His victory over sin, death, and the devil.

Although there is no particular formula for prayer, there are different types of petitions that may be included in our prayers.

Think of a rainbow . . . ROYGBV.

REMEMBER

"Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Psalm 50:15