



SAVED TO SERVE
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KING HEZEKIAH: FROM DEATH TO LIFE

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will study King Hezekiah's sickness, recovery, and interaction with the Babylonian messengers while making present-day applications for our lives today.
2. **Note:** In 2 Kings 20:1, Hezekiah was sick unto death. In our world today, one disease that most people have been fearful of contracting is the coronavirus. Many have died from it while others are taking extreme measures to prevent themselves from catching it. Like Hezekiah, God has a specific message for each of us today.
3. What was God's message to Hezekiah through the prophet Isaiah? 2 Kings 20:1

4. What are three applications for a house in scripture?
 - a) Matthew 12:43-45 _____
 - b) Genesis 18:19 _____
 - c) 1 Timothy 3:15 _____
5. What was Hezekiah's response after hearing God's message that he would die? 2 Kings 20:2

6. What does a wall represent in scripture? Isaiah 26:1-3; 60:18

7. What was it that compelled Hezekiah to turn his face to the wall seeking after salvation? Jeremiah 31:3; Isaiah 38:9, 17

8. What steps did Hezekiah take as he searched for salvation?
 - a) Isaiah 38:17; 1 John 1:9

 - b) 2 Kings 20:3; 2 Corinthians 7:10, 11

 - c) 2 Kings 20:3; Genesis 17:1; 3 John 4

9. **Note:** God responded to Hezekiah's prayer by saying that He would heal him and grant him fifteen more years of life (2 Kings 20:5,6). Not only did God heal him, but He extended his probation on earth. **Application:** God is for a time holding back the winds of strife and extending our probation so that we will turn our lives to Him and set our houses in order.
10. By what means did God heal Hezekiah? 2 Kings 20:7

11. What sign did Hezekiah ask for to be assured that he would be healed? 2 Kings 20:9-11

12. **Note:** In a previous lesson entitled, "Understanding Temptation," we uncovered the meaning of the word "temptation" in scripture. We also looked at the meaning of God tempting us. To tempt means to prove, to test, to try in the Hebrew Strong's Concordance: number 5254. Deuteronomy 8:2, 3 reveal that God allows us to go through trials so that we can see what is in our hearts.

13. After his healing, how did God prove or try Hezekiah's faithfulness to Him? 2 Chronicles 32:31; 2 Kings 20:12, 13

"In the fertile valleys of the Tigris and the Euphrates there dwelt an ancient race which, though at that time subject to Assyria, was destined to rule the world. Among its people were wise men who gave much attention to the study of astronomy; and when they noticed that the shadow on the sundial had been turned back ten degrees, they marveled greatly. **Their king, Merodachbaladan, upon learning that this miracle had been wrought as a sign to the king of Judah that the God of heaven had granted him a new lease of life, sent ambassadors to Hezekiah to congratulate him on his recovery and to learn, if possible, more of the God who was able to perform so great a wonder.**" {PK 344.3}

14. **Note:** When the Babylonians came, they were open to receive the truth about God and the mystery behind the moving of the sundial ten degrees backwards. However, Hezekiah was prideful and failed to point them to God. Instead, he showed them his riches. So today, there are people not of our faith who are seeking for truth and we should be ready to share our testimony with them along with the principles of the everlasting gospel. Just as Hezekiah's sickness passed, God allowed the coronavirus pandemic to pass. However, will we like Hezekiah fail to improve upon opportunities to share God's Word with others?

15. What messages should Hezekiah have shared with the Babylonians? See below.

a) How to pass from spiritual death to spiritual life - 2 Kings 20:1, 5; John 5:24; Romans 6:3, 4; Galatians 2:20

b) The Health Message - 2 Kings 20:7; Psalm 67:1, 2

c) God's Sign (The 7th-day Sabbath) - 2 Chronicles 32:24; Ezekiel 20:12, 20

16. **Note:** Hezekiah was supposed to share with those in Babylon the principles of the Three Angels' Messages. When opportunity presents itself, we are to share our testimony mingled with the principles of the Three Angels' Messages.

"The visit of these messengers from the ruler of a far-away land gave Hezekiah an opportunity to extol the living God. How easy it would have been for him to tell them of God, the upholder of all created things, through whose favor his own life had been spared when all other hope had fled! **What momentous transformations might have taken place had these seekers after truth from the plains of Chaldea been led to acknowledge the supreme sovereignty of the living God!**" {PK 344.4}

"...Had Hezekiah improved the opportunity given him to bear witness to the power, the goodness, the compassion, of the God of Israel, the report of the ambassadors would have been as light piercing darkness. But he magnified himself above the Lord of hosts. He "rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up." Verse 25. {PK 346.1}

17. Instead of revealing God's truth, what did Hezekiah talk about and show to the Babylonians? 2 Kings 20:13

"What have your friends and acquaintances seen in your house? Are you, instead of revealing the treasures of the grace of Christ, displaying those things that will perish with the using? Or do you, to those with whom you are brought in contact, communicate some new thought of Christ's character and work? Have you always some fresh revelation of His pitying love to impart to those who know Him not?" {ST October 1, 1902, par. 8}

"The story of Hezekiah's failure to prove true to his trust at the time of the visit of the ambassadors is fraught with an important lesson for all. **Far more than we do, we need to speak of the precious chapters in our experience, of the mercy and loving-kindness of God, of the matchless depths of the Saviour's love. When mind and heart are filled with the love of God, it will not be difficult to impart that which enters into the spiritual life.** Great thoughts, noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth, unselfish purposes, yearnings for piety and holiness, will find expression in words that reveal the character of the heart treasure." {PK 347.3}

18. What will happen if we neglect to share Christ with others? Matthew 10:33; 1 Samuel 2:30

19. What happened to the descendants of Hezekiah as a result of his neglect to share Christ with the Babylonians? 2 Kings 20:17; 24:1, 2

20. What power is coming in these last days to besiege God's people? Revelation 13:1; 17:1-3-6; 13:15-17

21. **Note:** Hezekiah showed the Babylonians his gold, silver, precious stones and other items of materialistic value. He recognized that he was rich, (2 Chronicles 32:27) and he manifested pride in his heart.

22. What was the problem with Hezekiah which is also the issue for God's people today? Revelation 3:16, 17

23. What is Jesus offering us so that we will give up our false sense of security and see our need of Him? Revelation 3:18

a) Gold tried in the fire - 1 Peter 1:7; James 2:5; Job 23:10

b) White Raiment - Revelation 19:8; 1 John 2:1

c) Eyesalve - Acts 10:38

24. **Note:** As we buy these traits from God and have a daily experience with Him, we are to share it with others that they may buy of Jesus and experience His salvation before it is too late.

"Every day of life is freighted with responsibilities which we must bear. Every day, our words and acts are making impressions upon those with whom we associate. How great the need that we set a watch upon our lips and guard carefully our steps! One reckless movement, one imprudent step, and the surging waves of some strong temptation may sweep a soul into the downward path. We cannot gather up the thoughts we have planted in human minds. If they have been evil, we may have set in motion a train of circumstances, a tide of evil, which we are powerless to stay." {PK 348.2}

"On the other hand, if by our example we aid others in the development of good principles, we give them power to do good. In their turn they exert the same beneficial influence over others. Thus hundreds and thousands are helped by our unconscious influence. The true follower of Christ strengthens the good purposes of all with whom he comes in contact. Before an unbelieving, sin-loving world he reveals the power of God's grace and the perfection of His character." {PK 348.3}