

An Answer and a Sign

2 Kings 20:1-11 (cf. 2 Chronicles 32:24, Isaiah 38)

1. The _____ of Prayer (v. 1-3)
 - a. In light of a _____ situation
 - i. The _____ illness of the king
 - ii. The _____ of it all
 1. _____
 2. _____
 - b. In light of a divine _____
 - i. Kindness of _____ talk
 - ii. Proclamation of an appointment with _____
 - c. In its _____ (like the Psalms or a lament)
 - i. Statement of _____ fidelity
 - ii. Accompanied with _____
2. The _____ of the LORD (v. 4-7)
 - a. An _____ response
 - i. To the prayer and _____ of the man
 - ii. To the heart of the matter
 1. _____ day cure
 2. _____ year extension
 - iii. To the greater need of _____ His people
 - b. An _____ for mercy?
 - i. _____ interceding for Sodom
 - ii. _____ interceding for Israel in Exodus 32
 - iii. _____ interceding for his own child
3. The _____ of God's Word (v. 8-11)
 - a. Hezekiah's _____ for a sign
 - i. Not _____ – its own fulfillment is a sign
 - ii. Nonetheless – God _____ grant a sign
 - b. Yahweh's power is _____!

Hezekiah's Writing after His Recovery

*I said, In the middle of my days I must depart;
I am consigned to the gates of Sheol for the rest of my years.
I said, I shall not see the LORD, the LORD in the land of the living;
I shall look on man no more among the inhabitants of the world.
My dwelling place is plucked up and removed from me like a shepherd's tent;
Like a weaver I have rolled up my life;
He cuts me off from the loom;
From day to night you bring me to an end;
I calmed myself until morning;
Like a lion he breaks all my bones;
From day to night you bring me to an end.*

*Like a swallow or a crane I chirp; I moan like a dove.
My eyes are weary with looking upward,
O Lord, I am oppressed; be my pledge of safety!
What shall I say? For he has spoken to me, and he himself has done it.
I walk slowly all my years because of the bitterness of my soul.*

*O Lord, by these things men live;
And in all these is the life of my spirit.
Oh restore me to health and make me live!
Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness;
But in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction,
For you have cast all my sins behind your back.
For Sheol does not thank you, death does not praise you;
Those who go down to the pit do not hope for your faithfulness.
The living, the living, he thanks you, as I do this day;
The father makes known to the children your faithfulness.*

*The LORD will save me, and we will play my music on stringed
instruments all the days of our lives, at the house of the LORD.*

Isaiah 38:10-20

Quote on Praying after God's Declarations

“It may seem surprising that Hezekiah had the gall to so much as ask Yahweh to reverse his clear word. I am not smart enough to know if Hezekiah acted solely on instinct here or partly on reason. But there have been others who apparently thought that Yahweh's hard word may not be his last word but rather a call to prayer for new mercies. Sometimes what sounds like a final decree is a subtle invitation.”

(Dale Ralph Davis, *2 Kings: The Power and the Fury*, 2005, p. 301)