

INTRODUCTION

I don't know anyone who has never been ill.

"Disease" - not easy; not at ease; our ease has been dissed; "dis" is the opposite of.

Hezeiah's sickness is told 3 times: (2 Kings 20; 2 Chronicles 32; Isaiah 38)

(2 Kings 18:5) He was one of Judah's greatest kings.

Ascended the throne at age 25. Encouraged by Isaiah, he inspired a religious revival.

(2 Chron. 29:5) cleansed the temple. (chpt. 30) Passover held.

(31:20-21) a glowing summary is given of his work.

Then, at age 39, becomes ill, and Isaiah sends this message (Isaiah 38:1-3).

1) THE PRAYER - (Isaiah 38:2-3) "Remember now, O Lord, ... "

(v10-15) Hezekiah writes about his illness, reflects on it, tells what he thinks.
Prayers and tears are understandable responses to disease.

2) THE PROMISE - (Isa. 38:4-5) "... I will add unto thy days fifteen years"

Why did God do that?

1. (v5) "heard thy prayer, saw thy tears" (Psalm 39:12-13; Psa. 56:8)
2. In praying, he lays out his case to God; however, just because we are nice guys, it does not obligate God to say, "Yes."
3. (v5) "Thus says the Lord, the God of David ... " tells us that God keeps promises.
(v6) God saw the future. (2 Kings 19:34)

3) THE PRESCRIPTION - (v21) "a lump of figs"

When you are ill, don't leave doctors and medicine out of the picture.

Ultimately, all healing is from God. (Ex. 15:26) "... none of these diseases ...
for I am the Lord that heals."

4) THE PRAISE - still writing about his time of illness: (v17-20)

Even while ill, Hezekiah gives this testimony of praise to God.

A reminder for us - while ill, when recovered (if God's will), praise God.

5) THE PROBLEM - (2 Chron. 32:25) "Hezekiah did not repay according to the favor ... "

The story is told in (Isaiah 39:2, v5-7)

Hezekiah dies, son Manasseh rules, does wickedly, and Babylon comes in.