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20 In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.'" ² Then he turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, saying, ³ "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done *what was* good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. ⁴ And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ⁵ "Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD. ⁶ And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David.'" " ⁷ Then Isaiah said, "Take a lump of figs." So they took and laid *it* on the boil, and he recovered. ⁸ And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "What *is* the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up to the house of the LORD the third day?" ⁹ Then Isaiah said, "This is the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing which He has spoken: *shall* the shadow go forward ten degrees or go backward ten degrees?" ¹⁰ And Hezekiah answered, "It is an easy thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; no, but let the shadow go backward ten degrees." ¹¹ So Isaiah the prophet cried out to the LORD, and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down on the sundial of Ahaz.

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1. Snatched from the Jaws of death

- a. There is much debate over the timing of this event
 - a1. Some place it before Sennacherib's invasion where Hezekiah was lifted up in pride (2 Chr. 32)
 - a2. Some place it before the visit of the Babylon visitors
- b. Hez. had taken the throne at age 25 & was dying at 39
 - a1. He grieved that he was dying before his time (Ps. 90)
 - a2. He reminded God that he had been faithful
- c. Isaiah informed Hez. that he would die (Is. 38-39)
 - a1. Ex. 20:12 longevity of life is not guaranteed
 - a2. Isaiah informs Hez. that he would be given 15 years
- d. Hez. asked for a sign (as King Ahaz was offered a sign (Is. 7)
 - a1. This seems to be a lack of faith
 - a2. Hez. chooses for the shadow to retreat 10° on steps
- e. Another debate: was this before Manasseh was born (712 BC)
 - a1. To keep David's line going, Hez. needed a son
 - a2. Manasseh ruled for 55 years & was very wicked
- f. The fig poultice was a typical remedy, but God & not the figs cured Hez. (garlic cloves = old remedy to draw out infection)

2. Not so secret king

- a. After Hez. recovered (lives to 54), he feels empowered
 - a1. God had blessed him with much wealth
 - a2. Again, Hez. exalts in his newness of life
- b. Wellbeing often leads to overconfidence & sense of power
- c. Lk. 12 God often tests us with blessings (praise or pride?)

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¹² At that time Merodach-Baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick. ¹³ And Hezekiah was attentive to them, and showed them all the house of his treasures—the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory—all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

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 d. When emissaries from Babylon visited Hez. they brought gifts
 - a1. They heard that he had been sick
 - a2. This had to happen in the brief period that MB was not fighting Sennacherib (703-702 BC)
 - a3. Hez. shows visitors all his wealth (pride & glory)
 - a4. Hez.'s foolish action made his kingdom a target

3. The folly of kings

- a. Isaiah visits & asks Hez. what he had shown the Babylonians
 - a1. Hez. tells him that he showed them everything
 - a2. Hez. does not realize how foolish he was

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¹⁴ Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah, and said to him, "What did these men say, and from where did they come to you?" So Hezekiah said, "They came from a far country, from Babylon." ¹⁵ And he said, "What have they seen in your house?" So Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that *is* in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them." ¹⁶ Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁷ 'Behold, the days are coming when all that *is* in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD. ¹⁸ 'And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.'" ¹⁹ So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD which you have spoken *is* good!" For he said, "Will there not be peace and truth at least in my days?" ²⁰ Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah—all his might, and how he made a pool and a tunnel and brought water into the city—are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? ²¹ So Hezekiah rested with his fathers. Then Manasseh his son reigned in his place.

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 b. Isaiah informs Hez. that Babylon would come & take it all away
 - a1. It would not happen in his day, but during the days of one of his offspring (Zedekiah; 586 BC)
 - a2. Hezekiah is relieved that it would not be in his day, but seems unconcerned that his offspring would suffer
- c. Isaiah probably used Hez.'s actions to proclaim a prophecy, rather than imply that Hez. was the cause of the invasion
 - a1. God tried to bring Judah to repentance for the next century before He sent them into exile
 - a2. Of the last 8 kings, only Josiah was righteous
- d. Hezekiah, though imperfect, had led a revival & strengthened Jerusalem (built walls & 1,777' water tunnel to Siloam Pool)
- e. Hezekiah was given an honorable death