

Isaiah 39 – Hezekiah and the Babylonian Envoys

The Visit from Babylon (Isaiah 39:1–2)

“At that time Merodach-Baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that he had been sick and had recovered. And Hezekiah was pleased with them, and showed them 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.”

After his miraculous recovery, Hezekiah received visitors from Babylon. Instead of pointing them to the living God who healed him, Hezekiah proudly displayed his wealth and resources. What could have been a testimony to God’s power became an exhibition of personal pride.

This scene reminds us of a danger we all face: when God blesses us, we can either use it as a platform for His glory or as an opportunity to showcase ourselves. Pride often slips in unnoticed.

Isaiah’s Rebuke (Isaiah 39:3–7)

Isaiah confronted Hezekiah with two piercing questions:

- *“What did these men say? And from where did they come to you?”*
- *“What have they seen in your house?”*

Hezekiah answered honestly: everything had been exposed. Nothing was hidden.

Isaiah then delivered a sobering prophecy:

“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... And they shall take away some of your sons... and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.” (Isaiah 39:6–7)

What Hezekiah flaunted would one day be plundered. His descendants would suffer humiliation and exile. The seed of Babylon’s conquest was sown in this moment of pride.

Hezekiah’s Response (Isaiah 39:8)

“So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, ‘The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good!’ For he said, ‘At least there will be peace and truth in my days.’”

Hezekiah’s reply is shocking. Instead of mourning the future judgment, he seemed relieved that disaster would not come during his lifetime. It reveals a short-sightedness: he cared more about peace in his own day than about the generations to follow.

Practical Applications

1. **Guard Against Pride** – Hezekiah’s mistake was subtle but serious. Instead of magnifying God, he magnified himself. We must remember that every blessing—health, wealth, influence, or opportunity—comes from God and is meant for His glory.
2. **Use Opportunities to Testify** – The envoys from Babylon could have heard about the greatness of the Lord who healed Hezekiah. Instead, they saw treasures. How often do we miss chances to point people to Christ because we are more eager to talk about ourselves?
3. **Think Generationally** – Hezekiah cared about peace in his day, but ignored the cost for the next generation. God calls us to live not only for ourselves but also to pass down faith and truth to our children and those who come after us (Psalm 78:4–7).
4. **Beware of Short-Term Comfort** – We are tempted to say, “As long as I’m okay, that’s enough.” But discipleship means carrying a cross daily and caring about the eternal impact of our lives on others.

Closing Invitation

Hezekiah’s pride led to consequences far beyond his own life. Our choices ripple into eternity. Pride always robs God of glory and leaves us empty. The only lasting hope is in Jesus Christ.

He came humbly, lived sinlessly, died sacrificially, and rose victoriously. He calls each of us to turn from sin and self and to trust Him as Savior and Lord. Scripture says, “*God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble*” (James 4:6).

Will you humble yourself today? Set your house in order by repenting of sin and giving your life fully to Jesus Christ. Don’t wait for tomorrow—now is the time. And for those who already believe, choose to trust Him daily, giving Him glory in every blessing and every trial.

Live every day to make Him known, so that future generations will not only know of your treasures but of your Savior.