

Put Your House In Order!

"1 In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover." 2 Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, 3 "Remember, LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. 4 Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him: 5 "Go back and tell Hezekiah, the ruler of my people, 'This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the LORD. 6 I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David.' " 7 Then Isaiah said, "Prepare a poultice of figs." They did so and applied it to the boil, and he recovered. 8 Hezekiah had asked Isaiah, "What will be the sign that the LORD will heal me and that I will go up to the temple of the LORD on the third day from now?" 9 Isaiah answered, "This is the LORD's sign to you that the LORD will do what he has promised: Shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or shall it go back ten steps?" 10 "It is a simple matter for the shadow to go forward ten steps," said Hezekiah. "Rather, have it go back ten steps." 11 Then the prophet Isaiah called on the LORD, and the LORD made the shadow go back the ten steps it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz." (2Kings 20:1-11)

Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover! That was the message of God to Hezekiah through the prophet Isaiah. But after a while God resent Isaiah with another message, *'This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the LORD.'* This is something if you will be going to put it in reality would not be acceptable in the eyes of people. They will say 'How the same God change the message?' Most probably if this would be happening today the people would be questioning the man that God used to send His message.

Why God allow that sickness to come to the life of Hezekiah? Is it discipline or judgment? Is there another purpose for that? Did the Lord do that so in healing Hezekiah the name of the Lord would be glorified? These thoughts are good but the Scripture would reveal to us the purpose of God.

Hezekiah, *"4 He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.) 5 Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. 6 He held fast to the LORD and did not stop following him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses. 7 And the LORD was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him." (2Kings 18:4-7)* He did marvelous things to the Lord; he removed the bronze snake that the people till that day were worshipping and stood with the Lord against the King of Assyria and indeed the Lord was with him and prosper him.

Then why this sickness came into Hezekiah life? We read that he cried to the Lord when the prophet Isaiah proclaimed to him God's message. He cried to God and said to Him, *"3 I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore."* (2Kings 20:3) You may say that God wanted Hezekiah to pray and cry to Him so it will be shown to us the power of prayer and that God as He answer prayer His name will be glorified in the life of His people.

However there is certain thing God want to say and reveal and that is why God allowed such sickness in Hezekiah life. King Hezekiah said to the Lord, *"I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart."* Hezekiah is the only one in the Scripture that he said to God about himself that he has a perfect

heart. Therefore let us see if he really has a perfect heart as he claim to be, and then we will understand the real purpose of God of allowing that sickness to come into His life.

Isaiah was with King Hezekiah in all his terrible times with the King of Assyria; he prayed and encouraged the King with the deliverance of the Lord. Even in his sickness, Isaiah was with Hezekiah in all the process of healing and recovery till Hezekiah was restored back to his normal health and was able to go to the temple of God.

There are certain sins and shortcoming that will not be appear and discovered in people's life till they pass into certain circumstances, then that sin will be exposed. The Life of Hezekiah was full of marvelous deeds to the Lord as the Scriptures testified. But that does not mean that Hezekiah does not need perfection. And even if his heart was perfect according to certain circumstances and standards that does not mean that he does not need further perfection. Spiritual growth and perfection is a process, and we are called to grow and to be changed from glory to glory, *"18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."* (2Corinthians 3:18 KJV) Every event, rebuke, trial, sickness or whatever hardship God allow into your life is to perfect you. Even when he exposes to you your sins His purpose to you is to cause you to repent and ultimately would be perfected.

Let us read what Hezekiah prayed to God and what he testified and promised God to do as God healed him and granted him fifteen years more to live: *"9 A writing of Hezekiah king of Judah after his illness and recovery: 10 I said, "In the prime of my life must I go through the gates of death and be robbed of the rest of my years?" 11 I said, "I will not again see the LORD himself in the land of the living; no longer will I look on my fellow man, or be with those who now dwell in this world. 12 Like a shepherd's tent my house has been pulled down and taken from me. Like a weaver I have rolled up my life, and he has cut me off from the loom; day and night you made an end of me. 13 I waited patiently till dawn, but like a lion he broke all my bones; day and night you made an end of me. 14 I cried like a swift or thrush, I moaned like a mourning dove. My eyes grew weak as I looked to the heavens. I am being threatened; Lord, come to my aid!" 15 But what can I say? He has spoken to me, and he himself has done this. I will walk humbly all my years because of this anguish of my soul. 16 Lord, by such things people live; and my spirit finds life in them too. You restored me to health and let me live. 17 Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back. 18 For the grave cannot praise you, death cannot sing your praise; those who go down to the pit cannot hope for your faithfulness. 19 The living, the living—they praise you, as I am doing today; parents tell their children about your faithfulness. 20 The LORD will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the LORD."* (Isaiah 38:9-20) The testimony of Hezekiah, the prophet Isaiah included in his book to give glory to the Lord.

And let us read here what happened after Hezekiah recovered from His sickness: *"12 At that time Marduk-Baladan son of Baladan king of Babylon sent Hezekiah letters and a gift, because he had heard of Hezekiah's illness. 13 Hezekiah received the envoys and showed them all that was in his storehouses—the silver, the gold, the spices and the fine olive oil—his armory and everything found among his treasures. There was nothing in his palace or in all his kingdom that Hezekiah did not show them. 14 Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah and asked, "What did those men say, and where did they come from?" "From a distant land," Hezekiah replied. "They came from Babylon." 15 The prophet asked, "What did they see in your palace?" "They saw everything in my palace," Hezekiah said. "There is nothing among my treasures that I did not show them." 16 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD: 17 The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your predecessors have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD. 18 And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood who will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon." 19 "The word of the LORD you have spoken is good," Hezekiah replied. For he thought, "Will there not be peace and security in my lifetime?" (2Kings 20:12-19) Hezekiah and without wisdom, received wicked people whom he does not know and brought them into his palace and treasures and showed them everything. He did that*

not only because his lack of discernment but out of boasting and showing off to them. Hezekiah wanted to glorify himself to others. What God had blessed him with Hezekiah used to boast, instead of giving glory to God. Why he did like that? The gift that the wicked king of Babylon sent had blinded his eyes; it seems that he is so shallow and really need to be corrected and perfected. He exposed his personal and private life to wicked people. He might not even show the Prophet Isaiah his treasures and riches. Many of the Christians they make their personal life so transparent to wicked people because they are giving them gifts and flatter them with talks and letters. But those same Christians are hiding from the church leaders and the people of God who pray for them and help them to come out from difficult situations in time of trials. They hide from the true people of God because they don't want to be corrected.

In **2Chronicles 32:31** the word of God tells us the following: ***“But when envoys were sent by the rulers of Babylon to ask him about the miraculous sign that had occurred in the land, God left him to test him and to know everything that was in his heart.”*** Those people from Babylon they came to Hezekiah to ask him about the miraculous sign that had occurred in the land, but Hezekiah did not speak about the Lord but boasted with what he has. You may ask why Isaiah did not go and warned him before meeting them? God wanted that to happen in this way so that what is in Hezekiah's heart will be exposed. Certain sins and bad attitudes are only exposed in certain situations.

Hezekiah showed no discretion, and he showed selfishness as he used the word my, ***“They saw everything in my palace,” Hezekiah said. “There is nothing among my treasures that I did not show them.”*** He was thinking that what he has is for him and not for the Lord. Many think that what God gave them is for them to enjoy and forget or put aside the purpose of God in their lives.

God at that instance sent the prophet Isaiah to rebuke Hezekiah in order to show him his sin to correct him. ***16 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD: 17 The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your predecessors have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD. 18 And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood who will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”*** The rebuke of God to Hezekiah it showed him that he is only thinking about himself and careless about his descendants and the next generation to come.

Hezekiah was not carrying the mind of Christ like the prophet Isaiah whose heart was with the Lord and thinking wholeheartedly about the next generation. Instead of humility Hezekiah was a showing off man. He promised God to humble down when God healed him and his testimony was written in the book of Isaiah, ***“I will walk humbly all my years,” (Isaiah 38:15)*** But when Isaiah rebuke him here he did not humble down. This how he answered the Prophet Isaiah, ***“The word of the LORD you have spoken is good,” Hezekiah replied. For he thought, “Will there not be peace and security in my lifetime?” 2Kings 20:19*** Hezekiah showed no repentance at all! Previously when Isaiah informed him at the bed of death that he will die, Hezekiah humble down, but now since he has plenty and in good health and God had already answered his prayer and he is living in peace and no threat around him, he did not humble down before the Isaiah and repent. Many they will not humble down when they are corrected and rebuked for their sins as long as they are materially sound and are doing good and no threat around their lives. Or might be Hezekiah was relying on his previous achievement to boast off. That is not enough and will not replace the perfection in heart and walk with God. Do not be deceived about your previous achievement in the ministry. If God now is judging your heart and thought and want you to repent, there is no way for you than to humble down and accept to be refashioned by the potter hand.

With such boastful attitude of Hezekiah it shows clearly that Hezekiah's heart is not perfect yet in God's standard and need further correction to be perfected. In **2Kings 20:19 KJV** Hezekiah answered Isaiah in this way: ***“Then said Hezekiah unto Isaiah, Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken . And he said , Is it not good, if peace and truth be in my days?”*** Isaiah, the faithful man of God, was sent by God to Hezekiah to lead him in the right way in the process of perfection in heart and walk. But Hezekiah boasted over Isaiah and rely on what God had given him from treasures and peace to boast over Isaiah as he said ***‘Is it not good, if peace and truth be in my days?’*** Many Christians when they are

corrected they will boast with their material things thinking that their jobs, money, treasure are God's approval. God give material things in order to lead you to repentance. Take heed of the message and be earnest and repent.

Hezekiah's sin that God exposed in order to correct was selfishness; he was not thinking about how to preserve His descendant and the next generation to live in God's ways. His pride and boasting refused him the correction. The illness that God allowed to happen in his life is only to let him know that his house is not in order (the next generation is not secure). Spiritual wrong doings and short coming of parents and church leaders and non willingness to repent and be corrected put their descendants and the next generation in stake.

“Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover.” Is the voice of God to you to repent, to quit selfishness and start to think the things of God. The Lord gave Hezekiah fifteen years more to correct himself and to work it out that the future of his children and the next generations will be secure but his selfness and his pride hinder him from doing that. He chose to enjoy life with what God gave him and refused that his heart and walk with God be perfected.

My Dear and Beloved: “Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover.” Is the message of God to you! Heed God's voice and listen to instruction. All what you receive from God and what you have belongs to Him and for God's purpose. ***“I Finally, brethren, farewell . Be perfect , be of good comfort , be of one mind , live in peace ; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.” (2Corinthians 13:11)*** As you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from my selfishness, the boasting and the showing off. Lord I humble myself before you and before your word and message. Lord thank you for the gift of life that you gave to me. Lord I commit my life to live and serve your will and purpose. Lord build me up and perfect me in the way that you want me to be. Uphold me in your grace and let your blessing flow into my life. This is my prayer in Jesus name. Amen.

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