

2 Kings 20:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.

Analysis

In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 20: God's mercy and human presumption. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. The prophetic ministry served as God's primary means of covenant enforcement, calling both kings and people to faithfulness. In Judah's later history, we see both genuine reforms and deep-rooted corruption, revealing that external religious activity cannot substitute for heart transformation.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 20 takes place during Hezekiah's reign in Judah, late 8th century BCE, around 715-686 BCE. The chapter's theme (Hezekiah's Illness and Recovery) reflects the historical reality of genuine religious reform under

Hezekiah, including trust in God that resulted in miraculous deliverance from Assyria. Archaeological evidence from this period includes royal inscriptions, administrative documents, and material culture that corroborate the biblical account while providing additional context for understanding the political and social dynamics at work.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 20 regarding god's mercy and human presumption?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's character, particularly His justice, mercy, and faithfulness to covenant promises?
3. In what practical ways should this text shape contemporary Christian thinking about faithfulness, worship, and obedience to God?

Interlinear Text

בָּמָּ יוֹם	הָיָה הָיָה	חֲזָקִי הָיָה	מָתָּ	אָלַי וָיָבָא	
In those days	H1992	sick	was Hezekiah	for thou shalt die	came
H3117		H2470	H2396	H4191	H935
יִשְׁעִי הָיָה	בֶּן־	אָמּוֹז	הַנָּבִיִּא	אָמַר	אֵלַי יוֹ
Isaiah	the son	of Amoz	And the prophet	to him and said	
H3470	H1121	H531	H5030	H559	H413
					H3541
אָמַר	יְהוָה	צִו	לְבֵיתִי	כִּי	מָתָּ
to him and said	the LORD	in order	Set thine house	H3588	for thou shalt die
H559	H3068	H6680	H1004		H4191
וְלֹא אֶתְּ	תִחְיֶה:				
H859	H3808	and not live			
		H2421			

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 2:27 (Parallel theme): For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

2 Kings 19:20 (References Lord): Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, That which thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard.

2 Samuel 17:23 (Parallel theme): And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father.

Philippians 2:30 (Parallel theme): Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.