

# 2 Kings 20:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz.

## Analysis

**And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz.**

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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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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

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אָתָּה יְשַׁבֵּן הַלְּבָבִי אֶלָּא הַלְּבָבִי יְשַׁעַת הָאָמֵן וְאֶלָּא  
את H853 שָׁבֵן H413 הַלְּבָבִי H5030 יְשַׁעַת H3068 וְאֶלָּא  
cried H7121 And Isaiah H3470 the prophet H834 unto the LORD H3068 and he brought H7725

אֶלָּא שְׁדָה בְּמַעֲלֹתָיו יָרַד הַשְׁדָה מַעֲלֹתָיו אֶלָּא  
the shadow H6738 H4600 H834 which it had gone down H3381 by H4609 of Ahaz H271

מַעֲלֹתָיו עַשְׂרֵה אֶחָדָה יְתַחַת  
backward H322 ten H6235 by H4609

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 38:8** (Parallel theme): Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down.

**2 Chronicles 32:24** (References Lord): In those days Hezekiah was sick to the death, and prayed unto the LORD: and he spake unto him, and he gave him a sign.

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