

2 Kings 20:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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. 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

אֲנִי ה	יְהוָה ה	זָכֹר	אֵת נָ א	אֲשֶׁר ר	הִתְהַלַּכְתִּי כְתִי	
I beseech	thee O LORD	remember	H4994	H853	H834	now how I have walked
H577	H3068	H2142				H1980
לִפְנֵי יְיָ	בְּאֵמֶת	וּבְלֵב ב	שֶׁל מ	וְהָטוּב		
before	thee in truth	heart	and with a perfect	that which is good		
H6440	H571	H3824	H8003	H2896		
בְּעֵינֵי יְיָ	עָשָׂה יְתִי	וַיִּבֶךְ	חִזְקִיָּהוּ הוּ	בְּכִי י	גְדֹל:	
in thy sight	and have done	wept	And Hezekiah	H1065	sore	
H5869	H6213	H1058	H2396		H1419	

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 13:22 (Parallel theme): And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.

Nehemiah 13:14 (Good): Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof.

Nehemiah 5:19 (Good): Think upon me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.

Nehemiah 13:31 (Good): And for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.

Luke 1:6 (References Lord): And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

1 Kings 8:61 (References Lord): Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.