

2 Kings 20:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the LORD the third day?

Analysis

And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the LORD the third day?

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	חֶזְקִיָּהּ הוּא	אֶל	יִשְׁעָי הוּא	מָה	אֵת	כִּי
said	And Hezekiah	H413	unto Isaiah	H4100	What shall be the sign	H3588
H559	H2396		H3470		H226	
וְיִרְפֶּה	יְהוָה:	לִי	וְעַל יְתִי	בַּיּוֹם	הַשְּׁלִישִׁי	
will heal	of the LORD	H0	me and that I shall go up	day	the third	
H7495	H3068		H5927	H3117	H7992	
בֵּית	יְהוָה:					
into the house	of the LORD					
H1004	H3068					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 7:11 (References Lord): Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above.

Judges 6:17 (Parallel theme): And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.

Hosea 6:2 (Parallel theme): After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

2 Kings 19:29 (Parallel theme): And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such things as grow of themselves, and in the second year that which springeth of the same; and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruits thereof.

2 Kings 20:5 (References Lord): Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD.