

# 2 Kings 20:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?

## Analysis

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**And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?**

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

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**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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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## 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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יְהוָה ה' מֵאֵת הַאֲוֹת לָךְ זֶה יִשְׁעֵי הוּא וְאִם  
said And Isaiah H2088 H0 This sign H853 shalt thou have of the LORD  
H559 H3470 H226 H3068

אֲשֶׁר הִדַּבֵּר אֶת יְהוָה ה' יַעֲשֶׂה ה' כִּי  
H3588 will do shalt thou have of the LORD H853 the thing H834  
H6213 H3068 H1697

אִם מַעֲלֹת: עֶשְׂרֵה הַצֵּל הָלַךְ דִּבֶּר  
that he hath spoken go forward shall the shadow ten degrees H518  
H1696 H1980 H6738 H6235 H4609

מַעֲלֹת: עֶשְׂרֵה יָשׁוּב  
or go back ten degrees  
H7725 H6235 H4609

