

# Isaiah 38:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I said in the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave: I am deprived of the residue of my years.

## Analysis

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Hezekiah's lament "I said in the cutting off of my days" uses "cutting off" (Hebrew *damah*) suggesting premature death. The phrase "gates of the grave" (*sheol*) personifies death as a walled city with entrance gates—once entered, no exit exists. "I am deprived of the residue of my years" expresses grief over unfulfilled life expectancy. This honest expression of distress models that believers can voice disappointment to God about apparent injustice while still trusting Him.

## Historical Context

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Sheol in Old Testament thought was the shadowy realm of the dead, separated from the living and from vibrant relationship with God (Psalm 6:5).

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How can we honestly express grief and disappointment to God while maintaining faith?

2. What does premature death represent as loss, particularly in Old Testament perspective?
3. How do we process the pain of apparently unfulfilled potential and shortened life?

## Interlinear Text

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<span style="font-family: serif;">בְּשַׁעַר</span> <span style="font-family: serif;">אֵלֶּה</span> <span style="font-family: serif;">אֵלֶּה</span> <span style="font-family: serif;">אֵלֶּה</span> <span style="font-family: serif;">אֵלֶּה</span>	<span style="font-family: serif;">בְּדִמְנֵם</span> <span style="font-family: serif;">יְמֵי</span> <span style="font-family: serif;">יְמֵי</span> <span style="font-family: serif;">יְמֵי</span> <span style="font-family: serif;">יְמֵי</span>	<span style="font-family: serif;">אָמַרְתִּי</span>	<span style="font-family: serif;">לְשָׁאָל</span>
<span style="font-family: serif;">H589</span> <b>I said</b> H559	<span style="font-family: serif;">H1824</span> <b>in the cutting off</b> H3117	<span style="font-family: serif;">H1980</span> <b>of my days</b> H8179	<span style="font-family: serif;">H3499</span> <b>to the gates</b> H8141
<span style="font-family: serif;">לְ</span> <b>of the grave</b>	<span style="font-family: serif;">לְ</span> <b>I am deprived</b>	<span style="font-family: serif;">לְ</span> <b>of the residue</b>	<span style="font-family: serif;">לְ</span> <b>of my years</b>

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 102:24** (Parallel theme): I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days: thy years are throughout all generations.

**2 Corinthians 1:9** (Parallel theme): But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:

**Psalms 107:18** (Parallel theme): Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death.

**Job 7:7** (Parallel theme): O remember that my life is wind: mine eye shall no more see good.