

Isaiah 38:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD,

Analysis

Hezekiah's response "Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall" depicts private, intense prayer. Facing the wall removes distractions, focusing entirely on God. This physical posture demonstrates desperate seeking of God's face. The immediacy "then" shows Hezekiah's instant turn to prayer upon hearing the death sentence. Rather than despairing or seeking human solutions, the king brings his crisis directly to God. This models appropriate response to devastating news—immediate, focused prayer.

Historical Context

Turning toward the wall in sickbed prayer was customary for privacy and concentration. Hezekiah prays toward the temple direction, aligning with Solomon's prayer (1 Kings 8:44-45).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does physical posture in prayer reflect our heart's intensity and focus?

2. What does immediate turn to prayer teach about priorities during crisis?
3. How do we cultivate the instinct to pray first rather than panic or problem-solve first?

Interlinear Text

אָלָּה וַיַּתְפִּלְתָּהּ וְזַהֲזֵבָהּ

turned Then Hezekiah

his face

אָלָּה

H413

פָּנָים יְרָא

H7023

פָּנָים לְ

H7023

אָלָּה וַיַּתְפִּלְתָּהּ וְזַהֲזֵבָהּ

H413

לְהַזְבָּהּ:

unto the LORD

H3068

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 91:15 (Parallel theme): He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Psalms 50:15 (Parallel theme): And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Matthew 6:6 (Prayer): But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

1 Kings 8:30 (Prayer): And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.