

Isaiah 38:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hezekiah also had said, What is the sign that I shall go up to the house of the LORD?

Analysis

Hezekiah's question "What is the sign that I shall go up to the house of the LORD?" requests confirmation of the healing promise. Asking for a sign isn't necessarily lack of faith but desire for assurance, particularly when the promise seems extraordinary. God graciously provides the sign of the reversed shadow (verse 8) without rebuking the request. This demonstrates that God understands human need for tangible confirmation of promises, especially in desperate circumstances. Asking for signs becomes problematic only when it substitutes for obedience or reveals unbelief.

Historical Context

Requesting confirmatory signs appears throughout Scripture (Judges 6:36-40; 2 Kings 20:8-11). God sometimes grants them graciously, other times rebukes sign-seeking (Matthew 12:39).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. When is asking God for confirmatory signs appropriate versus evidence of unbelief?
2. How does God's gracious provision of signs demonstrate His patience with our weakness?
3. What role should tangible evidence play in confirming faith versus replacing faith?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	חֶזְקִיָּהּ הוּא	מָה	אֹת	כִּי	אֶעֱלֶה
also had said	Hezekiah	H4100	What is the sign	H3588	that I shall go up
H559	H2396		H226		H5927
בֵּית	יְהוָה:				
to the house	of the LORD				
H1004	H3068				

Additional Cross-References

John 5:14 (Parallel theme): Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

2 Kings 20:8 (References Lord): 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?