

Isaiah 38:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.

Analysis

God's response as 'the God of David thy father' invokes covenant promises to the Davidic line, assuring continuity of messianic hopes. The addition of fifteen years demonstrates both divine sovereignty (knowing the future) and responsiveness (hearing prayer). The 'sign' Hezekiah requests (v. 7) shows that seeking confirmation of God's promises is legitimate faith, not doubting unbelief.

Historical Context

The fifteen added years (701-686 BC) allowed Hezekiah to father Manasseh (born c. 698 BC) who, despite later wickedness, continued the Davidic lineage leading to Christ. This demonstrates how God's micro-providences serve macro-purposes.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do God's covenant promises to your spiritual forefathers encourage your faith today?
 2. When has God's 'yes' to your prayers served purposes larger than your immediate need?

Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 7:17 (References God): For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Psalms 56:8 (Parallel theme): Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?

Psalms 116:15 (References Lord): Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

Luke 1:13 (Prayer): But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

Psalms 147:3 (Parallel theme): He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

2 Corinthians 7:6 (References God): Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

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