

LIVING ON BORROWED TIME (Part 1)

Recently I heard two different comments that reflect a worldly view of dying: Living on Borrowed Time and Losing the Fight to a Disease. Since I have heard these views through-out my life, I have a different perspective of them as a spiritually advancing believer.

Living on Borrowed Time meant surviving a potentially fatal experience in life. There is an example of this concept in the life of King Hezekiah, the 13th King of Judah (715-686 BC) (2 Chron.29-32).

You might recall that King Hezekiah was part of a Spiritual Awakening in Judah. His pastor-teacher was Isaiah (Isa.38).

He was given a spiritually mature believer's description in (2 Chron.29:2) - "He did right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done." This is not a reference to his genetic father nor to his heavenly Father but to his spiritual father role model (2 Chron.28:27).

(2 Kings 18:5) "He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel; so that after him there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor among those who were before him." (13th of 20 kings)

This lesson will study <u>three aspects</u> of Living on Borrowed Time.
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1. Hezekiah became king at the age of 25, reigned 29 years and died t the age of 54. (2 Kings 18-20).

At the peak of his career, he learned that he had a fatal disease. "In those days (18:13, 19:35-36) Hezekiah became mortally ill. Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, came to him and said to him, 'Thus says the Lord,' 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.'" (2 Kings.20:1; Isa.38:10, 12, 16)

PRINCIPLE:

HE WEPT BITTERLY BECAUSE HE LOST HIS SPIRITUAL COMPOSURE (SHOCK). TO RECOVER, HE MUST REVERSE HIS CONCENTRATION AND THINK DOCTRINAL RATIONALE REGARDING GOD'S NEW DIRECTIVE WILL AND CYCLE IT BY FAITH INTO HUMAN EXPERIENCE (2 TIM.1:10; .4:6-7; 1 COR.15:55-57).

Don't miss the point that this occurred in the 14th year of a 29 yr. reign (Isa.38:10). God is ahead of His Directive Will. Don't turn it into a problem.

What happened that changed this **deadline**? How does this fit with God's appointed time to die?

(Heb.9:27) "And inasmuch as **it is appointed for** men to die once and after this comes judgment."
(Eccl.3:2; John 14:29; Job 5:24)

2. "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." (James 5:16b)

Hezekiah was a spiritually mature believer who had built his life on the power of prayer. In the sixth year of his reign, the northern kingdom fell to Assyria (2 Kings 18:10-12). In the 14th year of his reign, Assyria attacked Judah (2 Kings 18:13; 19:1, 14-19).

(2 Kings 19:19) “Now, O Lord our God, I pray, deliver us from his hand that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, O Lord, are God.”

(2 Kings 19:20) “Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah saying, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Because you have prayed to Me about Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard you.’”

(2 Kings 19:35) “Then it happened that night that the angel of the Lord went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and behold, all of them returned home, and lived at Ninevah.”

In the midst of great victory, he was diagnosed with a terminal illness and told to put his house in order. While trying to evaluate the new Directive Will of God regarding death, he prayed and wept bitterly

(2 Kings 20:1-2) “Remember now, O Lord, I beseech You, how I have walked before You in truth and with a whole heart and have done what is good in Your sight. And Hezekiah wept bitterly.”

His prayer was answer through Isaiah.

(2 Kings 20:4) “Before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court, the word of the Lord came to him saying.” “I will add fifteen years to your life, and I will deliver you from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I **will** defend this city for My own sake and for My servant David’s sake.” (2 Kings 20:6)

THIS IS THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF LIVING ON BORROWED TIME.

3. King Hezekiah was healed by God as a result of his and Isaiah’s prayers and medical treatment. (2 Kings 20:5-7).

Hezekiah asked for a sign of complete healing (2 Kings 20:8). Isaiah gave him the sign from the Lord.

(2 Kings 20:9) “This shall be the **sign to you from the Lord**, that the Lord will do the thing that He has spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten steps or go back ten steps?” [Note the question and miracle] (1 Cor.1:22)

The Hebrew word for steps is maalah. It can mean steps, stairway, or degrees

It is an important point that Hezekiah got to pick whether the ten steps were to go forward or backward.

(2 Kings 20:10-11) “So Hezekiah answered, ‘It is easy for the shadow to decline ten steps; no, but let the shadow turn backward ten steps.’ Isaiah the prophet cried to the Lord, and He brought the shadow on the stairway back ten steps by which it had gone down on the **stairway of Ahaz.**” (2 Kings 16:10-19; 18:1)

Professor Totten of Yale University discovered that one day was missing in the astronomical calendar. (Joshua 10:12-13 and 2 Kings 20:8-11) (Isa.38:5-8) combined make-up this missing day (23 hours 20 minutes 40 seconds).

(I.S.B.E, vol.2, pg.842) “In the restoration of the second temple by Herod, 15 steps led from the court of the women to the court of Israel, and on these steps the Levites during the Feast of Tabernacles were accustomed to stand, in order to sing the fifteen ‘songs of degrees’ (Psalms 120-134). At the head of these same steps In the gateway, lepers who had been cleansed from their disease presented themselves to the priests.”

While Hezekiah was walking through the valley of the shadow of death, God miraculously healed him by sovereign will. He was childless until the last 12 years of life (son was Manasseh) (2 Kings 21:9-16).