

15 +

I. Slide1 Intro:

A.

II. Slide2 LIFE EXTENSION & A SUNDIAL (1-11)

A. Slide3a Prophets Prediction (1)

1. Set your house in order, for you shall die - Should **you** prepare for your death?
2. **Procrastination is the devil's toboggan slide to Hell.**¹
3. **Yes Prepare your:** property, physically, a will, finances in order, prepare your lives...but also **spiritually**, salvation?
 - a) **Also**, I encourage you plan out your memorial. Don't have the, "*I don't care, I won't be here mentality.*" That's selfish thinking.
 - b) I have had many people come in *that know they are dying* & go over what they would like to have in their service.
 - c) **What will bring glory to God in your service? What's your favorite worship songs? What's your favorite verse?** (I love using their personal Bible with verses underlined)
4. They say...*if you get swept off your feet, it is time to get on your knees.* And that's what Hezekiah does.

B. Slide3b Passionate Prayer (2,3)

1. Spurg - *Prayer pulls the rope below and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly. Others give but an occasional pluck at the rope. But he who wins with heaven is the man who grasps the rope boldly and pulls continuously, with all his might.*
 - a) This is a very normal prayer to seek to go on living & serving God.
2. Deut.30:19,20 *I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore **choose life**, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days.*

¹ DeHaan, Bread, May 23rd.

C. (3) He was loyal – in 2 Kings 18 he had rooted out idolatry.

1. He was not claiming favor based on good works, but he has an expectation that God does reward those who serve him.

D. (4,5) What quick answer to prayer.

E. Slide3c God + Medicine (7,8)

1. Alongside divine intervention, there was human remedy.

a) Miracles & medicine need not contradict each other.

2. A poultice of figs was used in medicinal treatment in the ancient Near east.

F. Interesting the Bible doesn't differentiate between God's general activity in providence & His special intervention in the miraculous.

G. I believe we should avoid 2 extremes: seeking medical means without prayer or seeking prayer while ignoring medical help.

1. Healing is a mystery and we should not blame ourselves when healing does not occur.

H. Slide3d 4 steps for healing prayer, appropriate for both emotional and physical healing.

1. Listen. Listen to people and listen to God for more discernment.
2. Pray. This is the step of faith. As we come to clearness about what is needed, we invite God's healing to come.
3. Believe. This is the step of assurance. We focus on His trustworthiness and especially on His steadfast love.
4. Give thanks. This is the step of gratitude. Gratitude is often very powerful.

I. Slide3e Ahaz's Sundial (9-11)

J. Hezekiah got to choose if the shadow went forward or backward.

1. Like in Joshua 10:12-14 when the sun stood still for about a whole day.

2. Also, sundial can be steps/stairway...set up to tell time (10 steps back) ma'alot

K. Let's remember God controls the shadows as well as the sunshine.

1. We have no trouble in attributing the **sunshine** to God, **but the shadows?** Do we realize God also controls the **shadows?** The shadow of **sickness**, shadow of **depression**, the shadow of **persecution**, the shadow of **bereavement**, shadow of **death**.
 - a) The sundial of Ahaz proclaimed **God is in the shadow**. **And note**, it doesn't point to the sunset and the night, it points joyously to the sunrise & the morning. **Thank God for the shadows**.
 - b) Ps.30:5 **weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning**.

III. Slide4 **GIVING AWAY THE STORE (12-19)**

- A. If the Hezekiah of vss.1-11 lived by **faith**, **then** the Hezekiah of vss.12-19 lived by **sight**.
 1. Messengers came from Babylon, and Hezekiah showed off all his wealth, **likely hoping for an alliance** against the Assyrians.
 - a) Just when Hezekiah seemed flawless in his devotion to God, he tried to gain a little extra help elsewhere. **And gives a Grand Tour** of his royal riches & armory.
 - (1)This was foolish, **but** pride took over & **discernment** flew out the palace window.
- B. God's message of rebuke came through Isaiah, and His opinion on the matter is clear: **you can't serve 2 masters**. Doing so will only result in the **ultimate demise** of your kingdom.
 1. The sad truth is that Hezekiah was **more faithful** in times of **suffering and distress** **than** in times of **health and blessing**.
 2. **How often do we act the same way?**
 - a) A good reminder that we need to seek God in **all times**, both **bad and good**.
- C. **What was Hezekiah's sin here?** (pride, listening to flattery, trusting in his armory?)
- D. **What could not be accomplished through an army or an illness was accomplished through flattery**. www
 1. If Satan cannot succeed as a **lion**, **then** he comes as a **serpent**.
 2. Prov.27:6 **Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful**.

- E. (12) This is the 1st, *Got Well card*.
- F. (14,15) Get the facts first - Prov 18:13 *Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.* Prov 18:15 *Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge.*
- G. (15) **My wealth. My accomplishments.** [uhh, most was from Solomon?]
1. His problem wasn't only **swelling boils**...but **swelling pride**.
 2. **Hez, how could you?**...I was this foolish though...
 - a) **Los Alamitos story:** I invited in the thieves who returned my 914 Porsche rims **into** my apartment...**they came back & robbed us.**
- H. (19) The Babylon invasion was still **100 years off**.
- l. Instead of **repenting**, he was **relieved** it wasn't going to be *in his day*.
 1. **How shortsighted can a man of faith become?**
 2. **He had no concern for the future of his people?** (He sure had a concern for his **future** a chapter earlier!!!)

IV. Slide5 **15 YEARS IS UP (20,21)**

- A. When is *answered prayer* a **bad** thing? Worth the xtra 15 Hez?
1. **During his extra 15 years guess who was born? Mannaseh**
- B. Now God had **purposes** to extend his life, & I'm not saying not to ask for extended life... I'm saying, if he **doesn't** answer, understand there's *the bigger picture*.
1. **Trust him to order your days. Trust him, your times are in His hands.**
 2. He always does what is best for us. *Sometimes that is life, sometimes that is death.*

V. Slide6 **HEZ'S JOURNAL ENTRY (Is.38:9-20)**

- A. (9) This is recorded just after his recovery.
- B. (10) Death is pictured as passing through a gate.
1. Hezekiah saw being taken too early **as** being robbed of earthly blessings.
- C. (11) No more fellowship on earth w/God & with his fellow man.

D. (12-14) 4 similes: *Death is like...*

1. **Tent** – Life can be swiftly rolled up.
2. **Fabric** – (earthly perspective) Death is so finale (cut me off).
3. **Lion** – God is like a Lion...crushing pain.
4. **Birds** – Hezekiah's crying & moaning.

E. (15) God speaks in pain. And God is the author of *this* specific pain.

F. (16) This illness was for my good.

1. i.e. *my spirit finds life in them too.*
2. God's illnesses are always **purposeful**. They are apart of the **divine** plan.
3. *God had one Son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering.* Augustine
4. **Rick Mossa's wife Kathy heart transplant** back 13 years ago was given *an extension of life*. [she told Rick: when I wake up, I'll either see **your face** or **Jesus' face** & either 1 is good for me]

G. (17a) Anguish can bring **peace** (or **benefit's**, niv)

H. (17b) The completeness of forgiveness of sin.

1. Always better than restoring our **health**, **is** forgiving our **sins**. **So...**
 - a) **Slide7a** God puts our sins **out of Sight** (Philip Hacking)
 - (1)Is.38:17 *For You have cast all my sins behind Your back.*
 - b) **Slide7b** God puts our sins **out of Reach**
 - (1)Psalm 103:12 *As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*
 - c) **Slide7c** God puts our sins **out of Mind**
 - (1)Jer 31:34 *For I will forgive their iniquity, & their sin I will remember no more*
 - d) **Slide7d** God puts our sins **out of Existence**
 - (1)Micah 7:19 *you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.* niv
 - (a) *Oh to know, that our sins are forgiven & forgotten.*

I. (19,20) Difficult experiences should give us a **new appreciation** for **life** & a **new desire** to **live** for the Lord.

1. A vow to **praise Him** (19). A vow to **sing** (20).