

EPISODE NO. 197

2 Kings 20:1-11

God Extended the Life of King Hezekiah

1 At that time, Hezekiah became very sick. He almost died. The prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, went to visit him. Isaiah told him, “This is what Yahweh says: ‘You are going to die. So, you should give your last instructions to everyone. You will NOT get well.’ ”

2 Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall and prayed to Yahweh. He said, 3 “O Yahweh, please remember that I have always obeyed you and have given myself completely to you. I have done what is right in your sight.” And, Hezekiah wept bitterly.

4 But before Isaiah had left the middle courtyard, Yahweh spoke His Word to Isaiah: 5 “Go back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of My people: ‘This is what Yahweh, the God of your ancestor David, says: “I have heard your prayer. And, I have seen your tears. Listen, I will heal you. Three days from now, you will go up to the temple of Yahweh. 6 I will add 15 years to your life. I will save you and this city from the king of Assyria. And, I will protect the city for Myself and for My servant David.” ’ ”

7 Then Isaiah said, “Make a paste from figs.” So, they made it and put it on Hezekiah’s tumor. And, he got well.

8 Hezekiah asked Isaiah, “What will be the sign that Yahweh will heal me? What is the sign that I will go up to the temple of Yahweh on the third day?”

9 Isaiah said, “Yahweh will do what He says. This is the sign from Yahweh to show you: Do you want the shadow to go forward ten steps? Or, do you want it to go back ten steps?”

10 Hezekiah answered, “It is easy for the shadow to go forward ten steps. No, let it go BACK ten steps!”

11 Then Isaiah the prophet called to Yahweh. And, Yahweh brought the shadow BACKWARD ten steps. It went back up the stairway of Ahaz that it had gone down!