

A MAN NAMED

Hezekiah

~ Facing The Challenges of Life ~

THE PROPHET ISAIAH

(II Kings 19:1-37; Isaiah 37:1-38)

King Hezekiah had a special relationship with a man of God, Isaiah the son of Amoz. This prophet enjoyed a ministry to royalty much as other prophets had known before him: Samuel with Saul and David; Nathan with David and Solomon; Shemaiah with Rehoboam; Azariah and Hanani with Asa; Jehu the son of Hanani with Jehoshaphat the son of Asa; and Elisha with several kings. Preachers are called to help people fulfill God's plan for their lives. I Corinthians 3 teaches us that preachers of the Word of God are given to us—our own lives and ministries are “the big thing.” Their ministry is merely to help us fulfill ours.

“Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.” (1 Corinthians 3:21-23)

Really, Ephesians 4 teaches the same thing:

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Preachers are important in our lives because our lives are important to God. And the preacher can help our lives be what they ought to be. He can help us do what we ought to do, just as Isaiah helped Hezekiah.

1. He prayed with him.

Read about this in II Kings 19:1-7 or Isaiah 37:1-7. You will notice, of course, that both passages tell the story of the king sharing his burden with the prophet in almost the same words. It appears that I and II Kings were written by a series of prophets, and it is certainly possible that Isaiah himself wrote II Kings 19, and also included the story in his book of prophecies.

When Hezekiah had his back to the wall, and the demands of Sennacherib to which he could not in good conscience comply seemed to spell certain doom for his city and his kingdom, he put on the garb of mourning and sought the Lord in prayer. And he asked for help. He sent messages to ask his preacher friend to join him in prayer. Of course Isaiah agreed, and he assured the king that God was going to hear their prayers. Let's notice things about their partnership in prayer.

- A. There are times we need to pray. See in verses 1 through 3 how desperate Hezekiah was, and how desperate his situation was. However also see 2 reasons he could expect God to answer him: (1) he needed help, and God always cares when His servants need His help (v. 3); (2) God's honor was at stake (v. 4).
- B. There are real advantages in asking somebody spiritual to join you in praying for a certain thing. After describing the situation, Hezekiah made this request of Isaiah (v. 4):

“... wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that is left.”

Jesus said,

“... if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:19-20)

A key to getting a prayer answered is to discern what God would be pleased to do. The Spirit of Christ has come to help us know what to pray—note Matthew 18:20 and study Romans 8:8-11, 14-16, 24-27. When two join in prayer, it is easier to discern what the

Spirit of Christ is saying about how to pray because His influence is on two minds. When two minds “*agree . . . as touching*” the thing for which to ask, it is evidence that the Lord is leading them. It’s always better, if possible, to get somebody to pray with you. A godly preacher is a good choice in this case. Do you call on a preacher to pray with you about matters of serious concern? It’s a good idea.

2. He gave him messages from God.

What a valuable friend the prophet Isaiah was to Hezekiah! We know from the Book of Isaiah that the prophet knew very well the king’s father, grandfather, and even his great-grandfather. He had seen Hezekiah grow up, and was perhaps an important influence in his turn to godliness. It’s a wonderful thing to have a friend who gives you messages from God. That’s what prophets did. The whole Bible was written by prophets like Isaiah who wrote down the very Words of God.

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” (II Peter 1:20-21)

Today, we have no prophets that can say, as Isaiah did, “*Thus saith the Lord*” (vs. 6 and 20), and then give new revelations directly from God’s mouth. However, we do have preachers of the written Word who faithfully tell us what God has said in the Bible. We all need to stay close to God’s preachers, hearing and heeding what they tell us from Scripture.

“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. . . . Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” (Hebrews 13:7 and 17)

Study the messages Isaiah gave to Hezekiah during this time of crises. We

find them in II Kings 19:6-7 and also in verses 14 through 34.

3. He shared the joy of victory with him.

Verse 35 is thought of as a strange verse because of its ending:

“. . . and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.”

Of course the first “*they*” refers to the Israelites and the second “*they*” means the Assyrians! This is a great verse of victory: divine deliverance, answer to prayer, glory to God. When you pray with a preacher, counsel with a preacher, and then see God work, it is a great experience, and one that will draw you close to him. Let’s do these things with the praying Bible preachers in our lives. Let’s let God use them to do good in our lives.