

A Lifetime Record – 09 11 05

- Joshua Daniel

II kings, chapter 20: In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, thus saith the LORD, set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.

Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying

I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

Turn again, and tell Hezekiah, the captain of my people, thus saith the LORD, the god of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up into the house of the lord.

I will add unto thy days fifteen years: and I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

You know my dear people when we are walking before the Lord, after all there is nothing which we can hide. What am I going to hide from him? Can I put on some kind of show? You are supposed to be something else on the platform. No no no. when you stand on the platform there is only one thing you need to be mindful of. God is here and I cannot lie before him. That's all. Other things, other little things, all the trappings which go with all the big show today in Christian work, all that doesn't mean a pittance, it's worthless. Here is a record of a life time. I have done that which is good in your sight. You know David said, I have done that which is evil in thy sight. Against thee, thee only have I sinned and have done this evil in thy sight. And here Hezekiah says, I have done good in your sight. My dear friends, we are always thinking of the volume isn't it? And some people can be so ecstatic about the volume of work that they are turning out. It's not volume. It's quality. What I do for the lord I shall do it perfectly. What I shall do with my inward motivation, I shall be clean and correct before the lord. It's the motivation.

To give every man according to his works. The motivation! Which direction do you want to take in your heart, that is the motivation. When your motivation is right you have nothing to fear. You have no need for any cover up. You don't need any show. Nothing of the sort. Lord I have done that which is good in your sight. Now the lord heard his prayer and even before the messenger could go away the word of the lord came again to Isaiah saying go and tell that his life is extended by fifteen years. And seventh verse: And Isaiah said, take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered. And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, the eighth verse please: what shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the lord the third day?

Here is a dying man and he was told in three days you will go up to the house of the lord. I find that when an employer calls a man, oh, he's ready to go. When the lord calls a man and say, hey, cross the continent or something! Oh it's tough. The weather man says the weather is going to be very treacherous and every kind of excuse. I don't have the money to make that trip, this that and the other will come up with thousand excuses. How is that? You know I said to the lord, Lord, I want a consciousness amongst us that we are not talking about meeting a friend or meeting a man or meeting the president. We are talking about meeting the living god. Give us that consciousness. Now my dear friends, we get so little sometimes from our worship or our meetings or our retreat just because we do not see the one with whom we have to do. Now what is the kind of request that was made here you know, it's a most amazing request. How, what sigh shall I be given about my healing and going into the temple of the house of the lord? Ninth verse: And Isaiah said, this sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?

And Hezekiah answered, it is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: but let the shadow return backward ten degrees.

Here is the sun casting a shadow and the shadow gets longer as the sun goes down. King Hezekiah said I want that lengthening shadow to be shortened which means, let the sun go back ten degrees. Now he was dealing with god and he can ask that. It's nothing beyond god to be able to do that. If the lord wants to give me a sign, this is the sign I want; that this lengthening shadow as the sun sets come right back. That was it. And it happened. Only once Joshua stopped the sun while he waged the battle and here is the

other place and as scientist have been trying to compute and say hey how long has this cycle been maintained? They have found these hours and this day missing. There you are, if you are dealing with god, should it be such a problem? Yes, normally if you are dealing with a president or a prime minister, he would laugh at me if I asked him for a sign like that. He would say you must be out of your head to even say such a thing. But when you are dealing with god, that's the point. That's what strikes me as being so unrealistic. We talk about god but we talk about a very small sub human god. A god who cannot even do what a human can do. That I feel is highly insulting to god. That's why when I think of the lord, I think of Moses, the terms in which he saw god at work. Why don't we ask him like that? Why don't we ask him for bigger things? You know I was writing an article for the magazine and I was tempted to say the command of god is for us to reach the millions. But there are 6 billion in the world today. How can say million when there are 6 billion? I can't. when god has commanded us to take the good news to every creature, why do we think in terms so restricted? You know only as far as our human eye can see. You know if our love is confined only to what one can see, think of a blind man and he has five children, completely blind, of course there are many people like that. He has never seen the face of his child. You mean to say he doesn't love one of them because he says, I don't know what the face looks like? No. we don't see certain faces. We are geographically limited and in other ways we are limited. But before god our expectation should be different. If we are talking about god they should be different. If we are talking about my purse or my ability or my strength or my wisdom, you are talking very narrow way because very narrow, very small. Here is Hezekiah I want nothing less than this and god did it for him. Oh my dear friends let us look to the lord and let him be lord and let our eye be really fixed on the lord so that we receive something which is in keeping with the lord.