

REMINDERS

II Kings 20:1-7

Here God reminds us about death and deliverance.

I. GOD'S REMINDER (1)

- Death is certain!

A. LIFE AND DEATH ARE IN GOD'S HANDS

1. Bad news comes
 - Hezekiah became mortally ill
2. Good times do not last
 - Hezekiah was at the pinnacle of popularity - See II Chron. 32:22-23
3. Younger people die
 - Hezekiah is only 39 (cf. 18:2)

B. SET YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER

1. Be ready for the end
2. Have your relationships in order
 - Consider spiritual, family and financial relationships

II. HEZEKIAH'S REMINDER (2-3)

- Going to God is essential

A. HE PRAYED (2)

1. He called on God!
2. His immediate response was to withdraw and go to God! - See James 5:13
3. App: How do we respond to bad news, suffering or death notices?

B. HE PLEADED (3a)

1. He asks God to review the record
2. He recalls a faithful life
 - a. His walk: In truth with a whole heart
 - b. His deeds: Good
 - c. His awareness: Having done these in your sight
 - d. His merit: My life had meaning!

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C. HE WEPT (3b)

1. Praying and weeping are not incongruent
2. Sources of sorrow
 - a. A sickness that resulted in death especially for someone younger, was considered a sign of God's divine displeasure - See Prov. 10:27
 - b. He had no heir at this time - cf. 21:1

III. ISAIAH'S REMINDER (4-7)

- *God is gracious!*

A. AN IMMEDIATE ANSWER (4-5a)

- Hezekiah did not have to wait long for an answer; it came right away

B. AN ENCOURAGING ANSWER (5b)

1. God's Perception
 - God heard the prayer and saw the tears
2. God's Promise
 - a. Healing: "I will heal you"
 - b. Strengthening: In three days he would be going to the House of the Lord

C. AN "ABOVE-AND-BEYOND" ANSWER (6)

1. Fifteen years added to his life
2. Deliverance from the king of Assyria
3. Defense for the future
4. Far more than expected! - See Jer. 33:3 and Eph. 3:20

D. A "HUMAN MEANS" ANSWER (7)

1. God sometimes uses normal means (figs) and not just supernatural ones
2. Hezekiah recovered

CONCLUSION:

Hezekiah's story ends well

- By God's grace his scrape with death was avoided

What if it had ended in death?

- See verse 3

What should we keep in mind as we consider our walk with God?

1. Death is certain (1)
2. Going to God is essential (2-3)
3. God is gracious (4-7)

Are there things that we need to remember to get in order?

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