

Psalm 37:23-24

²³ *The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him;*

²⁴ *though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.*

Isaiah 39:1-8

At that time Marduk-Baladan son of Baladan king of Babylon sent Hezekiah letters and a gift, because he had heard of his illness and recovery. ² Hezekiah received the envoys gladly and showed them what was in his storehouses—the silver, the gold, the spices, the fine olive oil—his entire armory and everything found among his treasures. There was nothing in his palace or in all his kingdom that Hezekiah did not show them.

³ *Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah and asked, “What did those men say, and where did they come from?” “From a distant land,” Hezekiah replied. “They came to me from Babylon.”*

⁴ *The prophet asked, “What did they see in your palace?” “They saw everything in my palace,” Hezekiah said. “There is nothing among my treasures that I did not show them.”*

⁵ *Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the Lord Almighty: ⁶ The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your predecessors have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the Lord. ⁷ And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood who will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”*

⁸ *“The word of the Lord you have spoken is good,” Hezekiah replied. For he thought, “There will be peace and security in my lifetime.”*

What does it mean to live a bonus life? As we read through Isaiah 39, we see that Hezekiah recovered from illness and lived extra years or a "bonus" life.

Isaiah 39:1

At that time Marduk-Baladan son of Baladan king of Babylon sent Hezekiah letters and a gift, because he had heard of his illness and recovery.

I too also had moments close to death and now I am living a bonus life. As we read through Isaiah 39, let us see how Hezekiah lived his bonus life.

1. Not High

As we read further to verse 2, Hezekiah's bonus life was filled with riches.

- **Isaiah 39:2**

² *Hezekiah received the envoys gladly and showed them what was in his storehouses—the silver, the gold, the spices, the fine olive oil—his entire armory and everything found among his treasures. There was nothing in his palace or in all his kingdom that Hezekiah did not show them.*

As we read through 2 Chronicles we see how the Lord sent His people to test Hezekiah and how he responded.

- **2 Chronicles 32:31**

³¹ *But when envoys were sent by the rulers of Babylon to ask him about the miraculous sign that had occurred in the land, God left him to test him and to know everything that was in his heart.*

- **Story of Restaurant Owner**

There was one Korean restaurant owner. As he just opened the restaurant for the day, a young girl opened the door. The owner took a look at her and thought she was here to ask for free food. The owner lied to her and said the restaurant isn't open yet. She still came in and said to the owner that it is her father's birthday and would eat quickly. She and her blind father sat down and ordered (2) bowls of soup. As they started eating, the daughter gave more meat to her father and even placed kimchi on his spoon. As the owner was watching them, he felt embarrassed of what he thought and said few minutes ago.

- **2 Chronicles 32:25**

²⁵ *But Hezekiah's heart was proud and he did not respond to the kindness shown him; therefore the Lord's wrath was on him and on Judah and Jerusalem.*

2. Not Far

As we reach through Isaiah, we see Hezekiah was fading from the Lord. Once Hezekiah realized that the Lord sent Isaiah to wake to alert him, we see his reaction in Isaiah 37. The Lord often sent His people to test and alert them.

- **Isaiah 39:3**

³ *Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah and asked, "What did those men say, and where did they come from?" "From a distant land," Hezekiah replied. "They came to me from Babylon."*

- **Isaiah 37:1**

When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and went into the temple of the Lord.

- **2 Chronicles 32:20-21**

²⁰ *King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz cried out in prayer to heaven about this. ²¹ And the Lord sent an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men and the commanders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king. So he withdrew to his own land in disgrace. And when he went into the temple of his god, some of his sons, his own flesh and blood, cut him down with the sword.*

- **Testimony of Corrie Ten Boom**

Cornelia "Corrie" ten Boom grew up in a devoutly religious family. During World War II, she and her family harbored hundreds of Jews to protect them from arrest by Nazi authorities. Betrayed by a fellow Dutch citizen, the entire family was imprisoned. Corrie survived and started a worldwide ministry and later told her story in a book entitled *The Hiding Place*.

After the war, she traveled around the world to share the Gospel in difficult to reach countries such as Russia, Cuba, and China. In one of her trips, she was carrying bibles in her suitcase. There was a surprised search point and she didn't know what to do. She started to pray to her Lord asking to send the angels to help her. When it was time for her to get searched, they said to her..."Granny, you look tired. Let me help you with your luggage."

3. Not Harden

On the last verse of Isaiah 39 and 2 Chronicles 32, we see Hezekiah's heart softened and repenting to the Lord for his actions.

- **Isaiah 39:8**

⁸ *"The word of the Lord you have spoken is good," Hezekiah replied. For he thought, "There will be peace and security in my lifetime."*

- **2 Chronicles 32:26**

²⁶ *Then Hezekiah repented of the pride of his heart, as did the people of Jerusalem; therefore the Lord's wrath did not come on them during the days of Hezekiah.*

- **Story of Stubborn Bear**

Bears aren't the smartest animals. What is worse is that they are stubborn. They only take one path and doesn't deviate, so the hunters can easily find them. The hunters sometimes hang stones on the trees and as the bear pass, it would hit the head. Instead of ducking or heading to different path, the bear steps back and runs faster to the same rocky path. It hits the head again and dies.

- **2 Chronicles 32:33**

Hezekiah rested with his ancestors and was buried on the hill where the tombs of David's descendants are. All Judah and the people of Jerusalem honored him when he died. And Manasseh his son succeeded him as king.

- **Story of Ship Collision**

In 1986, there was a major collision of two ships in the Black Sea. Hundreds of people died and after the investigation was over, they realized the reason for the collision. Instead of mechanical failures, they

found out the two captains were both stubborn and didn't communicate their path correctly. As soon as realized they were about to collided, it was too late to make any changes. It was their stubbornness and their harden hearts that led to this tragedy.

- **Proverbs 28:14**

Blessed is the one who always trembles before God, but whoever hardens their heart falls into trouble.

In Summary

We are all living a bonus life due to our Lord and His Son. As we live, we must...

- **Not Go High**
- **Not Go Far**
- **Not Have Harden Hearts**