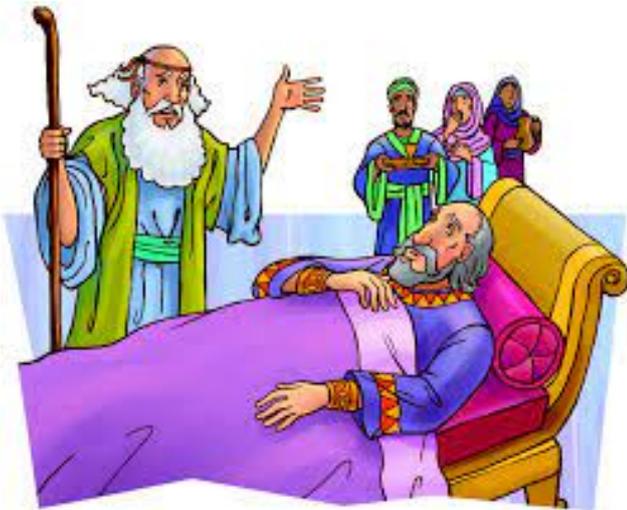


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Hezekiah's Illness and Recovery

38: 1-22



In **Chapters 36 to 39 Hezekiah** is depicted as the representative of the people who discover that **God can be trusted. He will keep His promises and He will redeem His people.** In that sense these chapters form a theological turning point in the book. **Chapters 40 to 66** build on the truth of **God's** trustworthiness. But there are still questions to be answered. **If Hezekiah is the ideal representative of the trusting people, why the captivity? Or, if God can deliver His people from Assyria, why not Babylon? Or, is Hezekiah the promised child of 7:14 and 9:6-7? Chapters 38 and 39** answer these questions and point beyond **Hezekiah to Yeshua Messiah.**¹⁴¹

In those days, the events of **Chapters 38 and 39** actually occurred *before* **Chapters 36 and 37.** The parallel passage for the events in **Chapter 38** is in **Second Kings 20:1-11** and **Second Chronicles 32:24.** **The Ruach ha-Kodesh,** through **Isaiah,** has chosen not to put this in strictly chronological sequence. But why? The reason is that **Chapters 36 and 37** fittingly conclude **Chapters 1-35,** which have a strong **Assyrian** orientation. And also, **Chapters 38 and 39** form a suitable introduction to **Chapters 40-66,** which largely describe **Judah's** future relationship with **the Babylonians.** But there is a theological reason as well.

Chapters 36 and 37 answer the questions posed in **Chapters 7-12. Is God sovereign over all the nations? Can God deliver us from Assyria?** And most importantly, **can God be trusted?** Whereas **Chapters 38 and 39** demonstrate that our trust, faith, and belief in **ADONAI** must be a way of life, not a one-time affair. **They** reveal that the source of our hope cannot lie in sinful humanity. Like **Hezekiah**, given that the best of **God's** people fail, these remaining **chapters** point us towards source of our hope . . . **Yeshua Messiah.**

This **chapter**, then, is the crisis behind the crisis. It presents **Hezekiah** in both a positive and negative light. On the one hand, **he** is still the **Hezekiah** who can submit to **ADONAI** and trust **Him** completely. But on the other hand, **he** is the **Hezekiah** who is clearly human. **The promises, which were made through Isaiah and recorded in Chapters 7 through 12, had not been fulfilled in him and more revelation would be necessary in order to understand to whom they did refer. This man might be given fifteen years by God's grace, but he is only a man, not the Messiah.**¹⁴²