



Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL

October 11
2013

In Bible Study this week, we are beginning Isaiah chapter 38. We'll read about Hezekiah's deadly illness and his divine healing. Our memory verse this week is taken from this chapter:

“But in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back” (Isaiah 38:17b).

Here, in context, Hezekiah is praising the Lord for saving his life from physical death. He ties this to God casting all his sins behind his back, connecting the illness that nearly claimed his life to the sins he had committed in life. We can see from his song that Hezekiah looked on death as a terribly dismal end that cut him off from God.

What a blessing that we who are Believers in Jesus Christ have been ransomed from separation from God!

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Our sins are truly cast behind our backs in life and in death, if we confess our sins and repent of them, through the atoning blood of Christ's sacrifice—He stood in our place and took our guilt upon Himself, receiving the punishment due to us. He rose again and now intercedes before our Holy, Heavenly Father on the behalf of those who accept His sacrifice and allow Him to take the responsibility of their guilt upon Himself. Thus, He tasted death for everyone:

“But we see Him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone” (Hebrews

2:9).

Because of God's mercy and grace in sending Jesus as our Savior, we shall never taste the death that Hezekiah feared so much, as Jesus promised in John, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death” (John 8:51).*

In the next verse (Isaiah 38:18), Hezekiah appeals to God to save his life, because he argues that the dead do not thank Him or praise Him—only the living can do that:

“For Sheol does not thank you; death does not praise you; those who go down to the pit do not hope for your faithfulness. The living, the living, he thanks you, as I do this day” (Isaiah 28:18-19).

Hezekiah saw death as an end to his ability to praise and thank God, for he and all mankind would share the same fate of “sleep” in Sheol. Praise be to God that we are under the New Covenant of Jesus' blood and have assurance that we will be with the Lord at the moment of our death, praising Him in eternity.

Our thankfulness and praise to the Lord does not end when we die, and we will thank Him eternally for our salvation by Jesus Christ, just as we see a picture of in Revelation:

“And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, ‘Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed’” (Revelation 15:2-4).