

Boast in the Lord

Isaiah 39:1-8

Life Group Discussion – January 20th, 2019

After King Solomon, Israel became divided into two nations. In the north was Israel, and in the South was Judah. There were many kings who ruled both these lands, but none of them could stay faithful to the Lord for their entire reign.

This passage is about King Hezekiah and how he cried out to the Lord for healing. He had a terminal illness and God told him he would die, but he prayed and was healed.

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. (Isaiah 39:1)

The King of Babylon came to see King Hezekiah because he heard of the rumors that he was healed. But instead of telling the King of what God did, he showed him the riches of the nation. Hezekiah thought the King was there to see him, and he did not tell of God's power. Instead of boasting in the Lord, Hezekiah boasted in himself.

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. (Isaiah 39:2)

So what happened? We see in 2 Kings that Hezekiah would have children in his extended life. But his children, especially his son, would be a terrible king and would lead the nation in a terrible path. He did not honor God and led the nation away from the Lord. We see that not honoring and not boasting in the Lord is a scary thing.

So what should we do?

First, pray and ask God what the things are in your life that you are boasting in more than the Lord.

Second, learn to cultivate a life of prayer, not just one during hard times.

Third, being devoted is important.

How do we stay devoted to the Lord? We need to follow what Apostle Paul said in 1 Timothy 4:5, **because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.**

So pray and stay by the Word of God, and you will turn your heart to the Lord. Boast only in Him and He will honor you.

SHARING-----

1. When you look at your life, are there times when you have been like King Hezekiah and boasted in yourself when you should have boasted in the Lord? Share those times.
2. Now is the time to boast in the Lord for what He has done in your life. Share a time when God worked in your life.