

## “Giving Credit When It’s Due”

Isaiah 39:1-8

11/23/10

**Introduction:** When a child is tall we usually give credit for his/her height to the parents’ genes. This is also true of other physical characteristics, such as the color of the eyes, type of hair, etc. In other words, we give credit to the parent for the child’s (physical) characteristics because of their close relationship. As a child of God, when we experience good things in life, we should give credit to our Heavenly Father (**James 1:17**). In today’s passage, we will see King Hezekiah’s mind set towards the blessings in his life. Let his story be a reminder that we should give credit when it’s due.

### Verses 1-2

#### Ostentation

Here we see King Hezekiah’s ostentatious attitude. The text tells us that some visitors from the king of Babylon were sent to Hezekiah. The phrase “at that time” indicates this visit was just after Hezekiah’s sickness and recovery. In the previous chapter, Hezekiah was healed of a life-threatening disease. God showed mercy, healed him, and extended his life for 15 more years. Why did the visitors come to Hezekiah? The text tells us that the Babylonian king had heard about Hezekiah’s recovery and wanted to congratulate him on the progress. This would be similar to when we visit someone after his or her recovery from a sickness. The king of Babylon sent letters and a present. With the desire to impress his visitors, Hezekiah showed them his treasures (silver, gold, spices, sword, spears, etc) and other proofs of his wealth and power. It appears that Hezekiah wanted them as allies. As Christians, we should never try to team up with the enemy. Unlike Hezekiah, we need to learn to live for the only true, supportive audience, which is God! People’s impression of us will change based on circumstances and their perception. God is the only one who promises to be *with* us and *for* us at all times (**Psalm 27:10**) (**Romans 8:31**). Hezekiah held nothing back. He showed them his personal belongings and those of the kingdom. He never mentions that his blessings came from God. Let us have prosperity with a purpose (**1 Corinthians 10:31**).

### Verses 3-4

#### Conversation

In these verses, Isaiah the prophet and the king are involved in a conversation. As in the past, God’s spokesperson showed up without being invited to confront the king. Scriptures tell us that this visit was in God’s plan (**2 Chronicles 32:31**).

This was a test to see what was in Hezekiah's heart (**Deuteronomy 8:2**). Do not be surprised when God tests us. We need to ask God to help us **maintain** a Godly attitude in every situation. Did the riches and honor experienced by Hezekiah divert the king's heart? The answer is yes. Hezekiah's pride is seen when he displayed all his treasures and did not mention how God delivered him from his sickness. Remember, a healthy mind is a humble mind. The prophet asks Hezekiah two questions. (1) What did the men say and (2) where did these men come from? Isaiah sees the error in this immediately. Hezekiah does not respond to the first question, but indicates that the men came from a far country, Babylon. Hezekiah's ego got in the way of **sound** thinking. He thought he was important for these men to have come so far to bring him a gift. However, the men came because of what God had done. As a child of God, we should make it a point to share His works in our lives on a daily basis (**Psalm 26:7**) (**Psalm 9:1**). What do people see when they see us? As in Hezekiah's case, do people see our treasures, our possessions (houses, cars, education) and are not made aware of the **source** behind our success? We need to be sure that when others see our life and possessions; they acknowledge and glorify the power (God) behind it. As in Hezekiah's case, God wants to bless us, but when we are blessed, we need to promote Him (**1 Peter 2:9**).

## Verses 5-8

## Revelation

In these verses, we see the revelation. These verses reveal to us that God sent **Isaiah**. He informs Hezekiah of the Babylonian captivity that would come over a century later. Hezekiah's sin of parading his wealth before the visitors backfired. This sin was only part of the ultimate reason for the captivity. The major cause was the corrupt **leadership** of Manasseh, Hezekiah's son. However, we should not give ourselves the glory for the things we have (**Jeremiah 9:23-25**). Hezekiah received good news and bad news simultaneously. At this time, Hezekiah did not have any sons, so the good news was that he would have one someday (vs. 7-“And of thy sons”). Nevertheless, the bad news was that his sons must go into captivity (**2 Chronicles 33:11**). The king gives a surprising response to Isaiah's words (“Good is the word of the Lord”). It is possible that perhaps he acknowledged Isaiah as God's messenger and God's goodness in not **destroying** Jerusalem in his lifetime. Notice Isaiah's faithfulness to God. Even though he was going to deliver bad news to the king, Isaiah obeyed the Lord's command. This Thanksgiving season, whom will we be like? Are we going to act like Hezekiah who was caught up in his pride or like Isaiah who was obedient no matter the consequence? Let us remember to deliver God's message to others and give **credit** to the Almighty God for all our blessings!