

Did this come true while Hezekiah lived? No; but one hundred years after.

#### Words with Little People.

God tried Hezekiah that he might know all that was in his heart, and he found that he was proud of his beautiful palace, his gold and silver, his jewels, his fruitful lands, and his power. If he had only obeyed three little words in Jer. 13, 15, he would not have been so foolish. If we would be and grow like Jesus we can't be proud. Jesus *knows every thing*. He could do every thing, everything was his, but he laid all his honors at his Father's feet. He chose fishermen for his companions, took little children in his arms, with a towel washed his disciples' feet. O no, you cannot be like Jesus if you are proud. See Prov. 16, 18.

#### THE LESSON CATECHISM

[For the entire school.]

1. What did the Lord say by Isaiah to Hezekiah when he was sick? "**Thou shalt die.**"
2. When Hezekiah had prayed and wept, what did the Lord then say? "**I will heal thee.**"
3. What sign did Hezekiah have that the Lord would heal him? **The going back of the shadow.**
4. Who sent letters and a present to Hezekiah when he heard that he had been sick? **The king of Babylon.**
5. What did Isaiah foretell to Hezekiah? **The captivity of Israel.**

#### CATECHISM QUESTION.

42. What are the actual privileges of baptized adults?

They are made members of the visible Church of Christ; and their right, as penitent believers, to the blessings of the Christian covenant, is sealed to them.

#### ANALYTICAL AND BIBLICAL OUTLINE.

##### Prayer and Answer.

#### I. PRAYER.

1. **In trouble.** *Sick unto death.* v. 1.  
"Is any...afflicted? let him pray." Jas. 5, 13.
2. **To God.** *Prayed unto the Lord.* v. 2.  
"He shall call upon me... answer." Psa. 91, 15.
3. **Bold.** *Remember now.* v. 3.  
"Come boldly unto the throne." Heb. 4, 16.
4. **Earnest.** *Wept sore.* v. 3.  
"Humble yourselves... sight of the Lord." Jas. 4, 10.

#### II. ANSWER.

1. **Immediate.** *Above Isaiah was gone out.* v. 4.  
"At the beginning of... supplications." Dan. 9, 23.
2. **Direct.** *Word of the Lord came.* v. 4.  
"Fear thou not... I am with thee." Isa. 41, 10.
3. **Abundant.** *Heal... add... deliver.* v. 5, 6.  
"Thou hast delivered my soul." Psa. 116, 8.
4. **Attested.** *The shadow... backward.* v. 11.  
"Impossible with men... possible with God."

#### THOUGHTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

##### Prayer and the Divine Government.

1. Trouble, sickness and death come to God's servants as they come to the rest of the world. Because a man is good is no reason why he should expect exemption from the ills of life. v. 1.
2. In time of trouble we should pray to God, earnestly, humbly, yet boldly, telling all our griefs to him who is ready to hear our cry. v. 2, 3.
3. Our prayers are heard by the Lord, and our tears are seen by him. We do not pray into the air; there is a personal God who listens to our cry. v. 4, 5.
4. Our prayers have some relation to the divine government of the universe. They may not control nor alter its working, but they enter in as a part of the plan. If Hezekiah had not prayed he would have died; he prayed, and life was lengthened. v. 5, 6.

5. God always gives more abundantly than we ask. Hezekiah asked for nothing, but only showed his sorrow; God gave him life, health, deliverance, promise. Let us not fear to tax God's liberality. v. 5, 6.

6. God answers our prayer through means. If the lump of figs had not been applied, according to Isaiah's direction, Hezekiah would still have died, notwithstanding the promise. We need to unite faith and effort in our prayers. v. 7.

7. God shows us that in prayer we come to one who is absolutely almighty, and can do what seems impossible. All his almightiness is pledged to answer our prayer. v. 9-11.

#### English Teacher's Notes.

The story recorded in the passage for to-day is mentioned three times over in the Scriptures: in Kings, Chronicles, and Isaiah, and told in detail twice. It was evidently one which had made a deep impression, and was well known and remembered, besides being full of important lessons, not only for Israel at that juncture, but for all people, through all time.

The prayer of Hezekiah was for a lengthening of earthly life. This is a thing into which most can enter. The love of life is natural to all, and especially to the young. Yet we might be inclined to ask why such a good man as Hezekiah was filled with grief at the approach of death, and why he ardently desired and so earnestly prayed for recovery.

First, we must remember how little was revealed before Christ came, either of the state of the righteous dead or of the resurrection and the future life. The resurrection is indeed distinctly pointed out in many passages of the Old Testament, besides being assumed throughout. But of a state of blessedness for the spirit when severed by death from its earthly tabernacle little was known. It is from the New Testament we learn that to be "absent from the body" is, for those who are in Christ, to be "present with the Lord," that for such "to die is gain," that they who "die in the Lord" "rest from their labors" and are "blessed." Even to a pious Israelite a long life seemed the great thing to be desired, and the words of the "Preacher" sum up the usual idea of death in those times: "There is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither thou goest." Eccl. 9, 10.

Secondly, we must look at the special promises of long life that had been made to the obedient. These are numerous and marked (see D. ut. 4, 40; 6, 2; 11, 9, 21; Psa. 91, 16; Prov. 3, 2; 4, 10; 9, 10, 11; 10, 27). We have no use to accuse Hezekiah of boasting or presumption when he said, that he had "walked before" the Lord "in truth and with a perfect heart." He was but pleading that he had fulfilled the conditions to which the blessings of a long life had been attached. And surely in this he showed his faith in God's promises.

Thirdly, we must notice the circumstances in which he was placed. "In those days" seems to infer that it was at the time his kingdom was in imminent peril from the Assyrians, that he was