

8 Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of A'ahz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down.

Home Readings

[Furnished by the International Bible Reading Association]

M. Hezekiah's Prayer. Isa. 38. 1-8.

Tu. Thanksgiving. Isa. 38. 9-20.

W. Another record. 2 Kings 20. 1-11.

Th. Encouragement to pray. Matt. 7. 7-12.

F. The Lord heareth. Psa. 34. 11-22.

S. Prayer of the afflicted. Psa. 102.

S. A present help. Psa. 46.

Time.—Perhaps B. C. 701, shortly before our last lesson. **Place.**—The king's palace in Jerusalem.

The Lesson Hymns

New Canadian Hymnal, No. 52.

The Lord's our Rock, in him we hide:

A shelter in the time of storm!

Secure whatever ill betide:

A shelter in the time of storm!

New Canadian Hymnal, No. 44.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,

Let me hide myself in thee;

Let the water and the blood.

New Canadian Hymnal, No. 45.

Jesus, Lover of my soul,

Let me to thy bosom fly,

While the nearer waters roll,

While the tempest still is high:

Questions for Senior Scholars

1. *Hezekiah's Illness* (v. 1).—What nation was hostile to Judah when King Hezekiah was taken ill? When Hezekiah's recovery seemed impossible what message did he receive? Who was the messenger? What can you recall concerning him?

2. *Hezekiah's Prayer* (v. 2, 3).—Is there any petition in this prayer? What is the difference between prayer and petition? What sort of a man had Hezekiah been? What was his purpose in reminding God of his loyalty. Why did Hezekiah's life seem to be of unusual importance to Judah at this juncture?

3. *God's Promise of Recovery* (v. 4-6).—How soon was Hezekiah's prayer answered? (2 Kings 20. 4.) What promise was made him concerning his life? What promise was made

him concerning the Assyrian invasion? What promise was made him of a sign?

4. *God's Promise of a Sign* (v. 7, 8).—Had Hezekiah asked for any sign? (2 Kings 20. 8-10.) Was he justified in asking for a sign? Have we a right to expect signs? If not, why not? How many descendants of David had preceded Hezekiah on the throne of Judah? To what frightful sin was Judah tempted through all these reigns? What had Hezekiah firmly set himself to do? What reform measures did he successfully inaugurate? Are we to regard his recovery as a fulfillment of the promise that the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much? How and why did Hezekiah's view of death differ from that of Paul? (Comp. 2 Tim. 4. 6-8.)

Questions for Intermediate Scholars

1. *The Distressed King* (v. 1-3).—How long had Hezekiah been king of Judah? What very important event made it seem necessary for such a king as Hezekiah to live? What message did Isaiah bring to his king? To whom did the king appeal in his distress? How did he hope to gain the favor of God in his prayer for his life? What shows that he was very much troubled over the thought of dying?

2. *The King's Prayer Answered* (v. 4-8).—What title did the Lord give himself in his second message to Isaiah for the king? What reasons did the Lord give for answering Hezekiah's prayer? How many years did the Lord add to the king's life? What more was given to the king than he had asked for? How was Hezekiah assured that this cure was from the Lord in answer to his prayer?

Questions for Younger Scholars

What great king had come to take Jerusalem? *The king of Assyria*. What happened to Hezekiah? What word did the Lord send him? Who by? What did the king do? What did he pray to the Lord about? How did the Lord an-

swer him? What did he promise the king? What else besides the adding to his life fifteen years? What sign was given him? Did the king get well? How many years did Hezekiah live after this illness?

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