

LIVING ON BORROWED TIME

INTRODUCTION:

Recently two different Christians made the comment that they were LIVING ON BORROWED TIME.

Since I have heard this saying all of my life, I knew what they meant by it. They have survived some fatal experience in life. Is there an example of this saying in the Bible that makes it a doctrinal truth?

There is an example of LIVING ON BORROWED TIME in the Bible – King Hezekiah (2 Kings 20).

Six points about Hezekiah:

1. King Hezekiah (Yahweh is strength) was the 13th King of Judah (Reigned: 715-686 BC).
2. He walked with God (2 Kings 20:3; Isaiah 38:30; Genesis 6:9-references Noah)
3. He was one of four great reformers: Asa (3rd king); Uzziah (10th king); Hezekiah (13th king); and, Josiah (16th king).
4. He was given a premonition of death (2 Kings 20:1).
5. His pastor-teacher was Isaiah (2 Kings 20).
6. He prayed and was given 15 additional years (Kings 20:2-6).

We will examine 2 Kings 20:1-11 by the following five homiletical points:

- Mortally Ill – 2 Kings 20:1; 2 Chronicles 32:24-26
- Memory Lane – 2 Kings 20:2-3; Isaiah 38:3; 2 Chronicles 32:5- maybe 31:20?
- Miracle – 2 Kings 20:4-7; 2 Chronicles 32:24; Isaiah 38:10-20
- Message – 2 Kings 20:6-7; Isaiah 38:4-6
- Movement of Time – 2 Kings 20:8-11 (staircase of Ahaz); Isaiah 38:7-8

“Having no heir at the time, Hezekiah prayed that his life might be spared. He was granted a 15-year extension of life and died a natural death peacefully (CB687).” (Unger Bible Dictionary, page 481)

King Hezekiah was healed by prayer and medical attention (2 Kings 20:2, 7).

He asked for a sign of complete healing and chose the shadow to go back ten steps (2 Kings 20:8-11; Isaiah 38:7-8; 1 Corinthians 1:22).

Professor Totten of Yale University discovered one day missing in the astronomical calendar – Joshua 10:12-13 and 2 Kings 20:8-11 (Isaiah 38:5-8) combined make up this missing day (23 hours, 20 minutes and 40 minutes).

“In the restoration of the second temple by Herod 15 steps led from the Court of the Women to the Court of Israel and on these steps the Levites, during the Feast of Tabernacles, were accustomed to stand in order to sing the 15 “Songs of Degrees” (Psalms 120-134). At the head of these same steps in the gateway, lepers who had been cleansed from their disease presented themselves to the priests” (ISBE, page 842).

Hezekiah became king at the age of 25 (2 Kings 18:2) and died at the age of 50 (715-690 BC) when he was at the peak of his career he learned that he had a fatal illness. He was only 35 and this news shattered his world (2 Chronicles 32:27-28 – talks of his wealth; 2 Kings 20:3).

<p style="text-align: center;">This lesson will study six aspects of a believer’s preparation for death while LIVING ON BORROWED TIME.</p>

1. **He had lived a righteous life and was a great reformer for God** (2 Kings 18:3-4, 20:2-3; Isaiah 38:3). He struggled with the idea that God had let this happen to him (2 Kings 18:57 – 20:3).
2. **Hezekiah was a spiritual believer who had built a life of prayer** (James 5:16; 1 John 5:14-15) – prayer answered (2 Kings 19:14-21; 20:4-6; Isaiah 38:14-21).
3. **He had a premonition of his impending death** (2 Kings 20:1-3; 2 Chronicles 32:24; Isaiah 38:1). “Put your house in order because you are going to die; you will not recover.” (2 Kings 20:1)
4. **For the church-age believer, the sting (kentron), pain, anguish of death has been removed by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus** (1 Corinthians 15:55-57; 2 Timothy 1:10).
5. **Faith in the doctrine of dying grace gives the spiritually advancing believer confidence and courage to face death with a Divine outlook** (Psalm 23:4; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8; Philippians 1:21-23; Romans 8:38-39; 1 Thessalonians 4:13; Job 5:24; John 14:1, 27-29).
6. **A believer’s death is the sovereign decision of the omniscience of God** (Hebrews 9:27; Ecclesiastes 3:2; Psalm 31:15, 116:15; Romans 14:8).
 - Elijah (2 Kings 2:1)
 - Moses (Numbers 27:12-13)
 - Hezekiah (2 Kings 20)
 - Jesus (Hebrews 2:9-10; John 21:9 – talks of cooking fish)
 - Paul (2 Timothy 4:6)

What about you?