

Sermon Outline

“The Failure of the Righteous King”—Daniel Chew

Sermon Text: Isaiah 39

1. Hezekiah’s confidence in the blessings of God
 - a. Hezekiah blessed by God in riches and wealth
 - i. Boasting and showing them everything (v. 4)
 - b. Hezekiah just healed miraculously by God
 - i. The sign of the sun, an astronomical phenomenon c.f. 2 Chron. 32:31; Is. 38:7-8
 - ii. Babylon and her wise men and diviners
 - c. Evangelism through the occasion of the sign?
 - d. Evangelism through blessings?

2. Hezekiah’s trust in earthly princes and alliances
 - a. Geopolitical scheming against the common enemy Assyria
 - i. Babylon as a backwater statelet under Assyrian domination, under Sennacherib
 - ii. Babylon sacked and destroyed by Assyria, even forcing the king Merodach Bal’adan to flee
 - iii. What’s wrong with allying against a common enemy?
 - b. Idolatry
 - i. Hezekiah rejoicing over the Babylonian envoys (v. 2)
 - ii. Trusting in politics and in earthly strength
 - iii. Babylon is no threat, since they are far away (v. 3)

3. Judgment on Hezekiah

- a. Loss of wealth
- b. Loss of country
- c. Disgrace and curse upon children
- d. Judgment premature?
 - i. Only under Manasseh will Judah be destined for destruction
 - ii. A heart issue
- e. Hezekiah's reaction
 - i. Outward humility
 - ii. Inward selfishness (c.f. 2 Ki. 20:19)

4. The promise of the perfect righteous king

- a. The failure of righteous King Hezekiah marks (literarily) the end of Isaiah's prophetic role for Israel's present
- b. Is. 39 as the end of the first part of Isaiah
- c. In contrast to Isaiah, the coming king will be different
- d. Jesus Christ, the suffering Savior, succeeding where Hezekiah failed