

July 25 Answers

- 1) Not long after God delivered Jerusalem from Sennacherib's army, Hezekiah became deathly ill. He was only **39** years old at the time, and he again cried out to God for help. God heard his prayer and saw his **tears**, and God not only healed him, but performed a miracle to confirm his recovery. Truly, there is nothing too hard for God! Sadly, Hezekiah's story does not end on this note of triumph. Like his great-grandfather Uzziah, he had a problem with **pride**. Hezekiah had become immensely wealthy over the course of his reign, and the recent Assyrian invasion had not done any serious damage to his net worth. Indeed, after God's miraculous rescue of Jerusalem, "many were bringing gifts to the LORD...and choice presents to Hezekiah...so that he was **exalted** in the sight of the nations" (2 Chr 32:23). All the praise and attention went to Hezekiah's head, and it wasn't long until "his heart was **proud**" (2 Chr 32:25). So God decided to give him a **test**. When the ambassadors from **Babylon** came to inquire about his miraculous healing, God stepped back to see how Hezekiah would respond. Instead of giving the glory to God, he threw open the doors of his **treasuries** and bragged about his **wealth** and resources. This shows us that prosperity is far more dangerous than hardship, for acclaim can quickly lead to pride. God rebuked Hezekiah through Isaiah, and he repented (2 Chr 32:26), but God's promised wrath was only delayed. If Hezekiah had accepted his early death, he never would have fallen into pride. This leaves us with the impression that God's way is best, even if it means great **sacrifice** on our part. Better to submit to God's will than to have our own way and live to regret it.