

GOD IS AWESOME!

The Man Who Was Given New Life

“I will add fifteen years to your life.” 2 Kings 20:6

If you have ever prepared for a long vacation you know how important it is to plan things very carefully. You will have to be certain to take enough of all the right clothes with you. Shoes, hats, pajamas and jackets have to all be packed and ready. You might also want to take a toothbrush, some games and snacks and maybe a few books as well. There are dozens of things that go into trip planning.

For Christians, life is much like planning for a vacation. It means preparing ourselves for the moment when we will leave this earth and enter eternal life in heaven. But how can we prepare for that?

All vacations have a starting date. We mark it on a calendar. It's the day the vacation begins, the day everything must be in order and ready to go. Life, however, gives us no calendars. God keeps our calendar. We don't even know what he has planned for us tomorrow.

Hezekiah was a good king in the Bible. Sadly, he was about to die when he was only 39 years old. One day he became very ill and God came to him and said, “You are going to die; you will not recover” (2 Kings 20:1). Those words must have frightened Hezekiah. Then God said, “Put your house in order.” God was telling Hezekiah he should prepare for his death. Hezekiah folded his hands and prayed to the Lord with tears streaming down his cheeks, “Remember, LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes.”

No doubt your dad tries hard to keep the house you live in in order. Broken windows need to be repaired. Sometimes houses need to be repainted. And maybe leaky roofs need to be replaced as well. But that is not what the Lord meant in his words to Hezekiah. God was speaking about Hezekiah's spiritual house. The Lord was speaking about Hezekiah's relationship with the Lord. Did he truly love the Lord with all his heart? Had he asked God for forgiveness? Was he sorry for his sins? Had he tried to live a life pleasing to the Lord? Was he confident that the Lord would take him to heaven? These were all questions God wanted Hezekiah to think about.

Maybe it is sometimes good for us to also check our spiritual houses. Have we been faithful to Jesus? How long has it been since we talked with him in prayer? Have we been kind to our neighbor and shown love for those around us? Have we obeyed our parents and been kind to our brothers and sisters? Sometimes it's good to sit back and ask ourselves these questions.

By an awesome miracle, God promised Hezekiah that he would live fifteen more years. He was given fifteen additional years to serve the God he loved.

We don't know when God will call us home to be in heaven with him. Only God knows that. Yet while we live here on earth, we continue to serve him and to be his faithful children. First Samuel 12:24 says it so well, “Be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.”