

*What is time?* THEOPHANY  
(1). "The most Unique King in Human History".

Introd:- (1). Today..TOPIO..Who was he? No, not Melchizedek. He was far above all human history. Not Solomon, wise though he was. Wisdom is not peculiarly unique. Let me introd. you to asking who knew what no other man ever knew..One who had strangest experience of any man..for whom notable miracle arranged..involving even movements of mighty heavenly bodies..for whom solar system rearranged..and who knew how long he had to live. Here he is - HEZEKIAH! Isaiah 38:1-8.

(2). See what God did for this man. a. Warned him of impending death. b. Heard his prayers c. Lengthened his life by 15 years. d. Disturbed normal course of earth, sun..to give mirac. sign. In this way Hez. became unique..the only man who knew when he would die..how long live. ~~We don't.~~  
SURE HOPE

I.Well for us ask diligently..What sort of man did so best?

(a). Simply, clearly..a whole-hearted man of God. Read bit: Great story in II Chron. 29:3-19..Read vs. 3-5...11..18-19. Here is keen zeal for house of God..His WORSHIP.

But more:- Glance down this chapter..see his zeal for the WORD of God. vs25..27...30 Words of David..ordained by David..which were the words of God. Hez. delighted in God's Word. Later on read of his WORKS for God..Until we read this summation..naming this man as unique..II Kings 18:5-7a.

(b). Center of it all was his love for Word of God..and his implicit obedience to that Book. Here is something more.. It is certain Hez. formed a GUILD of men, specially set apart..a guild of men who were copyists, transcribers and transmitters of Holy Writ. They are called "The men of Hez" c/f Prov.25:1. 2 mentioned in II K. 18:18 named Shebna the Scribe..Joab, son of Asaph the Recorder. Busy copying, transcribing, preserving the Word of God..Prob. Isaiah helping and King Hezek. as chief supervisor of "his men".

(c). Internat. Standard Bible Encyclop.."In Hez's age, Israel reached its golden literary prime". Hez himself as Royal Patron of piety and letters. And such a time! IMPERATIVE THAT WORD OF GOD BE COPIED, MULTIPLIED, PRESERVED..10 tribes already gone into captiv. into Assyria..And Judah's days numbered..Only 5 more kings bef. Babylonian exile. So this guild of men worked..bringing together Scriptures..copying..with view to their safe preservation and transmission..to us We owe much of Bible to work of this great king.

(d). And let me mention another strange thing..a curious and yet unmistakable confirmation of Hez's work in the Scrip. Peculiarity very few people know about. HE HAS LEFT A MARK ON GOD'S BOOK! At end of many books of O.T. in Hebrew.. are three capital letters. No Hebrew transcriber or composer

PTM  
 has ever dared to omit them..even though not knowing their mean.  
 Not part of inspired text..mysterious in origin..there they stand  
 in ev. MSS..and even in printed text. Three Heb. letters:-  
 He, Zain, Koph..in English:- H.Z.K... Here they are (Heb. Bible)  
**THESE ARE FIRST THREE LETTERS IN HEB. NAME HEZEKIAH! Initials.**  
 All evidence suggests that after men of Hez. had completed their  
 work of transcribing various Books..Hez. affixed his own sign-  
 manual at end..confirming their work by Royal Guarantee...  
 in much same way that A.V. known today as King James Version.  
 Hez. has left his mark...and witness that he loved the Book!  
GOD BLESSES A MAN OF THE BOOK

II. Time not allow tell more of this man so blessed of God.. ☹

(a). He wrote part of Bible..Psalms..Those called "Psalms of  
 degrees..15 of them..have deep signif. concerning sign God gave.  
 But instead let me draw some vital lessons from record of his life  
FIRST:- That God answers prayer. The godly man can call and count  
 on God. For provision, for deliverance from evil, for protection  
 for life itself. Let Hez. stand bef. us as a man so living that  
 he was never out of calling distance with God, heaven.

SECOND:- The man living for God will live until God's purpose  
 through us is fully achieved. "Fear not". Why not? "I the Lord  
 am with thee whithersoever thou goest". No one can kill God's man  
 ahead of God's time. Geo. Whitefield said: "I am immortal till  
 my work is done". We can be, should be utterly fearless for God.  
Motto then:- "The will of God, nothing less, nothing more,  
 nothing else, and at all costs".

THIRD:- As extra 15 yrs were special gift of God to Hez..so are  
 the days we ourselves may yet live on earth. Clearly taught here  
 God gives ev. hour..His personal gift. What then shall I do with  
 it? Count life in terms of opportunity to serve God. I must  
 "redeem the time". Nothing really worth living for apart from  
 the will of God. Time for X'n people to wake up to this!

FOURTH:- Per. most vital of all. Hez. knew how long he had to  
 live. ~~WE~~ WE HAVE NO SUCH KNOWLEDGE. Not know remaining days many  
 or few. Time for ev. one of us..today..to "set thine house in  
 order" (Prepare. Least voice say to us.."Thou fool, this night  
 thy soul shall be required of thee". God says "Now is the accept  
 time". H.S. says "Today, if ye will hear His voice.")

*yet we can know future - by the Book - Man of Book know future* →  
Conclus:- 1. Would you be blessed of God..cared for..preserved?  
HERE IS LESSON OF THIS UNIQUE KING..."Take the Book..Believe it..  
 obey it..set house in order by it". Have you begun?

GOSPEL..John 3:16. Be wise. Turn to the Saviour ..TODAY. There  
 is no tomorrow. Come.

LESRIEVIEW, JURY 25/63

Nassau. Wm - June 14/63

Edm. F.B.C. - May 5/63

Bethel Bap. B. Bloor - Calgary - May 17/63

HIGH RIVER - (with Chow) - Feb. 24/63

Monrovia July 11/65

Bethel College - Edmonston - May 24/68

Bethel College - Edmonston - Apr. 12/70

Bethel Bap. B. Bloor - Calgary - May 17/63

Bethel Bap. B. Bloor - Calgary - May 17/63

Yet there is other evidence of his keen int. in the Word of God. There is matter in Psalms that often baffled Bible students..Psalm 120-134..the 15 Psalms following that glorious 119th (all about the Bible)..all begin with title "A Song of Degrees". Great discussions rage as to what meant by that. Great speculations! In this Heb. Bible def. article is inserted "~~THE~~ A Song of THE Degrees" as though very well known to Hebrews.

NOW:- Most signif. that only other use of word "degrees" is in ref. the history of Hezekiah! The DEGREES on the great sundial of Ahaz. What like? Elaborate, conspicuous, an edifice well-known..a royal structure..flight of steps up to a high gnomon..marker..whose shadow fell on these steps one by one. These steps were the "degrees" marking the progress of the day. c/f Picture from India of one like.. The Heb. word for "degrees" lit. means "Steps..grade-marks". And we have fifteen psalms called by this title..almost certainly commemorating the 15 years added to Hez. life.. and signified on the "degrees" of the sundial of Ahaz. And ten of these Psalms are anonymous..And shadow went back TEN degrees! These Psalms also carefully arranged.. for in five groups..three each..In each, first is about TROUBLE..2nd about TRUST..3rd about TRIUMPH. So like exper. of Hez..sick..praying..preserved.

(X) NOTE FURTHER:- Agreed by scholars that Hez. had much to do with shaping Book of Psalms into present form. Moreover Hez. himself was Psalm writer. Isa. 38:9-is one of psalms or songs he wrote..when recovered of his sickness..and shadow went back..And here also ref. to a set of songs composed by Hez..vs.20. Very likely these are the ten anonymous Psalms among the 15 "Songs of Degrees".

→ Men of Book knows the future! What is it? Listen to it:- I Cor. 15:51-52...I Thess. 4:13-...Is it sure? Yes..but still not seen. This is SURE HOPE..future tense of faith..Certain, but to be waited for in faith..confidence. What will this do for us? Just exactly what God wants I John 3:2-3. Within the next day..hour..minute..I may well be ushered into King's presence. PURIFY!  
Illus:- Italy..garden..meticulously tended. How often? 3 or 4 times. Hear from him? No, orders from steward in Milan. Yet care for it so..must expect him tomorrow. "Today sir, Today!".







