

[1-2] in **days**, the **those**, (there) **became sick**, Hezekiah, **to die** (20:1)

[7-9]** and (there) **came** to him, **Isaiah**, son of Amoz, the **prophet**

[10] and he **said** to him

[10]** thus **says** YHWH

[3] **give charge** to your house

[4-5] because, **to die**, you, and you **shall not live!**

[1] and he **made to turn about**, his faces, toward the wall

[2-3] and he **prayed** to YHWH, **saying**

[1] **please**, YHWH –

[2] **remember**, **please** –

[4-6] which I **have walked** before You in **truth** and with a **heart**, **whole**

[7-8] and the good in Your eyes (**two**), I **have done**

[9-10] and (there) **wept**, Hezekiah, a **lamentation**, **great**

--- minor paragraph break ---

[3] and it **happened** –

[1-2] Isaiah **had not gone out** (from) the **court**, the **middle**

[4-5] and (the) word of YHWH **was** to him, **saying**

[3-4] **turn back** and **say** to **Hezekiah**, ruler of My people

[6-8] thus **says** YHWH, **God** of David, your **father** –

[9] I **have heard** your prayer

[10] I **have seen** your tears

[1] behold, I **am healing**, to you!

[1-2] in **day**, the **third**, you **will go up** to house of YHWH

[2] and I **will add** upon your **days**:

[3-7] **five-of-ten** [**fifteen**] **year** 10

[3-5] and from hand of king of Assyria, I **will deliver you** and the **city**, the **this**

[6-8] and I **will defend** over the **city**, the **this**, for the sake of **Myself**

[9-10] and for the sake of **David**, My **servant**

[5] and (there) **said**, Isaiah

[8] **let** them **take** a lump of figs

[9-10] and they **took** (it) and **placed** (it) upon the boil

[1] and he [**Hezekiah**] **lived**

[2] and (there) **said**, Hezekiah, to Isaiah

[3]* **what (is) (the) sign** –

[1] that (there) **will heal**, YHWH, to me

[4-5] and I **will go up** in **day**, the **third**, (to) house of YHWH? 3 Elements

66 Elements

100 Elements

This is a translation and a study of an excerpt from 2 Kings 20:1-11.

Following the PebbleCounting hypothesis, a numbering system appears to be inherent in the Ancient Hebrew and consistently used in this excerpt, as it is in other books of Scripture.

This study is freely available at pebblecounting.com, along with studies/translations of other books of Scripture. If you haven't had a chance to watch it, the "Intro to PebbleCounting" video is a good place to begin.

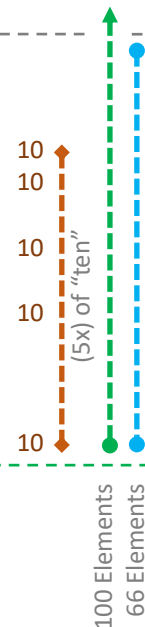
English translation, font coloring, arrangement of subject columns and literary sets, literary element counts, notes and tables, and the PebbleCounting hypothesis: © Steve, 2025. Update: September 20, 2025.

**Initial element numbers are based upon the completeness and flow of literary sets in this local context. For Isaiah, the beginning of his literary set occurs in chapter 19 and appears to fit accurately with literary elements there. For YHWH, the initial element of this passage appears to be the tenth due to Him speaking. The sequencing of beginning/ending points for tenfold sets could shift, but the local counts would remain the same. For Hezekiah, the initial fivefold set fits closely with the theme of death. From there, Hezekiah's subject column flows with tenfold and fivefold sets.

"what (is) (the) sign" | The local context appears to be structured around two instances of "sign." These are separated by three elements describing Hezekiah's coming back from certain death. This literary threefold forms a reflection point in the passage with a span of 66 elements on each side, as shown with purple and cyan lines.

2 Kings 20:1-11

[6] and (there) **said**, Isaiah
 [1] this, to you, (**is**) the **sign** from with YHWH
 [2-3] that (there) **will do**, YHWH, the word which He **spoke**:
 [2] **shall** (there) **go forward**, the shadow, **ten** of steps
 [3] or **turn back** **ten** of steps?
 [4] and (there) **said**, Hezekiah
 [5-6] it **is easy** for (the) shadow **to extend** **ten** of steps
 [7-8] no, because, **let** (there) **turn back**, the shadow – **backward** – **ten**
 of steps!
 [7-8] and (there) **called**, **Isaiah**, the **prophet**, to YHWH
 [4] and He **turned back** the shadow by steps –
 [9] which, it **had gone down** by steps of Ahaz –
 [10]* **backward** – **ten** of steps!



“backward – ten of steps” | The turning back of time is, from Isaiah’s perspective, not as “easy” for God. From Isaiah’s perspective, both forward and backward adjustments are equally options for this sign.

The sign is to confirm that Hezekiah will go up to the house of YHWH on the third day. Hezekiah’s restoration to vitality on the third day may be a foreshadowing of the resurrection of Messiah on the third day. It is also a local parallel to the theme of restoration on the third year, from 2 Kings 19:29 (also featuring a “sign”).

In the layout of the passage, the writer may use a literary hundredfold measure to reach backward to the place where God promises to heal Hezekiah in this manner. Follow the green dashed line for this measure. The measure points to the place where Hezekiah’s certain death is overturned. This design may be a literary echo of Genesis 3. There, a hundredfold measure reaches from the turning back of time (Gen. 3:24) back to the cause of this judgment. Adam and Eve had sinned, “and there were opened, eyes (two) of two of them.” There, Adam and Eve first turn to fig leaves, then to “a tree,” to hide. There, certain death was a topic. See comments, Gen. 3.

Here, the hundredfold measure reaches from the turning backward of time, back to the turning forward (the “extending” or “adding”) of the time of Hezekiah’s lifespan:

- The turning backward is by ten steps. The measure develops in the passage with five instances of special number 10 being carried in the right-hand margin: *five of ten*, as it were (brown line, above).
- The turning forward of Hezekiah’s lifespan is “five-of-ten” [*fifteen*] years.
- As a literary device, the combination of a literary (5x) of “ten” with “five-of-ten” may substantiate the *ten of ten* = 100-fold measure.

In Genesis and elsewhere in Scripture, this study has found the number 15 to be a number for faith: a faith that prevails step-for-step over adversity, by trusting in the names of God. Though Hezekiah might be questioned for his health-and-wealth focus here (see, e.g., 2 Chron. 32:24-25), the present context appears to honor his faith with a full, earthly, reward.