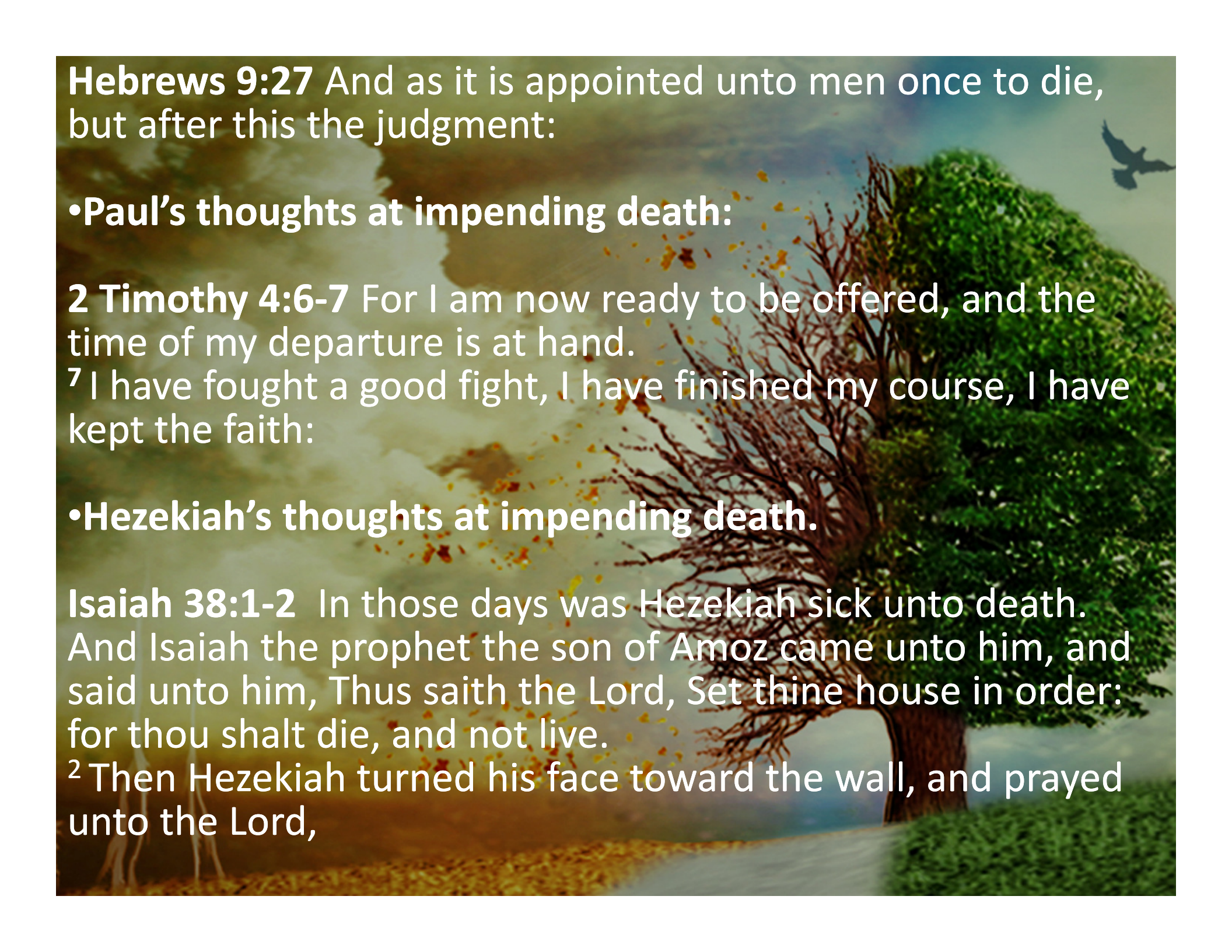


A surreal landscape featuring a tree that is half-dead and half-living. The left side of the tree is bare and brown, while the right side is lush and green. A path leads from the bottom left towards the tree. The sky is a mix of green and blue, with several birds flying. Red leaves are falling from the tree. The text "WHEN LIFE RUNS OUT" is written in white, underlined, across the middle of the image.

WHEN LIFE RUNS OUT

A landscape scene featuring a large, leafy green tree on the right side. The ground is covered with fallen yellow and orange leaves, suggesting autumn. In the upper right corner, a dark silhouette of a bird is in flight against a light, hazy sky. The overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

•**Paul's thoughts at impending death:**

2 Timothy 4:6-7 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

•**Hezekiah's thoughts at impending death.**

Isaiah 38:1-2 In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.

² Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the Lord,

I. HEZEKIAH'S PRAYER. [Memories of opportunities taken.]

A. His Private Life:

Isaiah 38:3a Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee **in truth**

Ephesians 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God;

B. His Mental Life:

Isaiah 38:3b Remember now, O Lord, I beseech thee, how I have walked before theewith **a perfect heart**,

Psalms 37:4-5 Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. ⁵ Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Romans 7:22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

C. His Public Life:

Isaiah 38:3c Remember now, O Lord, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee..... and have **done** that which is good in thy sight.

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

II. HEZEKIAH'S WRITINGS. [Memories of opportunities lost.]

Isaiah 38:9 The writing of Hezekiah king of Judah, when he had been sick, and was recovered of his sickness:

A. No More Praising God.

Isaiah 38:18a For the grave cannot **praise** thee

Praise: (yä·dä'): Expression of warm approval, admiration; to regard with wonder.

B. No More Celebrating God.

Isaiah 38:9b death cannot **celebrate** thee.

Celebrate: [hä·lal'] To observe with ceremonies of respect; make a boast.

C. No More Hope in God.

Isaiah 38:9c they that go down into the pit cannot **hope** for thy truth.

Romans 8:24-25 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? ²⁵ But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, **hope**, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

D. No More Teaching about God.

Isaiah 38:19 The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall **make known thy truth.**

Ephesians 6:3-4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Hebrews 8:11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

Psalms 90:10,12 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.....

¹² So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.