

Isaiah 38:17 Surely it was for my benefit I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back.

Hezekiah wrote a letter after his illness and recovery. Although still weak, Hezekiah is thankful. He is saying "God, you did this for my benefit. I am beginning to see a purpose for my suffering." There always is! Think about our times of suffering, what did we learn? It can lead to vile bitterness or to wonderful spiritual growth and a deeper faith that leads to transformation.

Hezekiah realized that he had been rescued from a pit with no bottom. You might say that is quite a jump from agonizing circumstances to restoration and thankfulness. Isn't that exactly what God has done for you and me? In poetic terms, "I was sinking deep within when the master of the sea heard my despairing cry, from the waters lifted me – now safe am I."

The Lord has remembered my sins and your sins no more. Psalm 103:12 tells me "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sins from us." This memory verse is the story of redemption, the faithfulness of God and thanksgiving for He has released us from the miry clay and set my feet upon a rock and established my goings (Psalm 40:2)

Destruction in Hebrew is "Shalon". Peace is "Shalom". We have gone from "Shalon" to "Shalom".