

a thousand years before had been very powerful and very influential but which at this time was a subject city with little ~~power~~ power beyond its own immediate vicinity often revolting against Assyria but never succeeding in gaining freedom. The prediction which Isaiah gave was ~~one~~ which must have certainly astounded Hezekiah or anyone in Judah to imagine that not the great aggressor of Assyria but the comparatively unimportant city of Babylon would be the place to which the people of Judah would be taken as captives, the place which would conquer and destroy their nation. Hezekiah showed his faith, however, in immediately accepting the word which Isaiah gave. "Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, this is the word of the Lord which thou hast spoken." He immediately accepted it. He showed no incredulity, no hesitation, no denial, as was shown by his father Ahaz when Isaiah brought predictions to him. Then he went on to take what comfort he could from it. It is true that God has said they will be taken captive by this Babylon, but Babylon is now an insignificant city. Assyria is the great force. If Jerusalem is to be taken captive to Babylon, then as long as Assyria remains dominant, the captivity will not yet come. So he said, "For their shall be meat and fruit in my day." For our present generation this exile is not yet going to come. It is Babylon, not Assyria, to which they are going, and for the present there is peace and safety.

(Question) It could, if you had only these ~~words~~ words. The thing of it is that any sentence which anybody says, you have to know something more than the immediate sentence to know just what it means. In almost any sentence which one of you says or that I say there is an inclination in the tone. There is an approach, there is a context, there is your knowledge of the whole general situation. Words ~~xxx~~ which in one context sound in one particular way, sound another way in a different context. With almost sentence there are two or three possible ways to take it, but there is only one true way, and that way must be learned from the context. If you don't know much of the context, you often have