

~~xxx~~ a problem which it is, and in such cases it is very wise to list all the possibilities. Now in this case if this is all we know about Hezekiah, we could immediately say there are two ways of taking this. One is that he is rejoicing over the fact that they are not going to be captives to the great enemy, Assyria, but that there is a period of time yet before the terrific captivity comes. Or you could take it as a rather selfish attitude of saying, "Oh, well, just so it doesn't come in my day. That's all right. I'm not concerned." You could take it either of the two ways. This is all you know about it. Then you go on and you interpret other actions of Hezekiah in the light of each of these two interpretations and see which fits best with the ~~Scripture~~ <sup>statement</sup>. As you go through you notice that Hezekiah was the Godliest of all the kings of Judah, at least there was no one more Godly than he. You find he was the man with a tremendous interest in the work of the Lord and in the welfare of His people. You find that he was a man of whom Isaiah spoke very highly. Therefore when you find one sentence which taken out of context could be interpreted in a very derogatory way to him, you recognize that there is a possibility that he spoke out of character on one instance. Most people do. Most people ~~xxx~~ occasionally fall into wrong motives and wrong attitudes.

Yes in view of what we know of Hezekiah that seems extremely unlikely. It is just like the statement Ahaz made where he said, "I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord." In the mouth of Hezekiah that ~~would~~ would have been a lovely statement. Hezekiah didn't have to say it. Hezekiah wasn't offered the sign in those days. In most cases he didn't need one. Hezekiah accepted the word of the Lord. Hezekiah had many signs, many reasons, to believe in the Lord. Ahaz was not interested in the Lord's subjects. As our Lord ~~xxx~~ said, "Even though one arose from the dead, it would not convince many who were set against him." So that it is true that taking these two verses alone they have been interpreted very often in a way that is out of harmony with the life of Hezekiah. I don't think that ~~xxxxx~~ interpretation is justified. Now an interesting question is this. Is chapter 39 the last chronologically in the ~~xxx~~ events described between 36 and 39? An immediate argument against the necessity of considering it