

chronologically last is the fact that it is logically last. That is to say, there is abundant reason for putting 39 at the end of these four chapters. 39 is where the great prediction of future exile is given. The previous chapters deal with God's blessing ^{of deliverance} at that time. This one looks on to the distant future. So you can say it is altogether possible that this chapter telling of God's prediction of future exile is placed at the end of that section so as to introduce most logically and naturally chapter 40 and the succeeding chapters with the declaration with the coming end of the exile. So since there is such a good logical reason for putting 39 after 36 to 38, we immediately say that there is a little less reason to be at all sure that chronology is the reason for it. I think that we must say that we do not know ~~what~~ whether this ~~embassy~~ embassy from Meredith Baladan came before the other chapters or afterwards. Most archeological scholars believe that it was before Hezekiah revolted against Sennacharib that Meredith Baladan sent his embassy to him and that the real purpose of the embassy was to get Hezekiah to join with him in ~~revisiting~~ revolting against Sennacharib. That is a good conjecture. I think that there is strong reason for suspecting that it may be true that actually there is no reason to be certain of it. It may chronologically be the last thing in the list. We have no reason to be sure it is. There is at least as much reason to think that chronologically it may ~~not~~ come earlier. Now we will continue tomorrow.

The embassy of Meredith Baladan to Hezekiah is described in chapter 39 of the book of Isaiah. This embassy is there described in order to tell us about the marvelous prediction which God gave of the fact that it would be Babylon rather than to Assyria that the people of Judah would be taken to captivity. After this happened it was a full century before Babylon was in a position to even think of taking another land into captivity. Babylon was trying to get freedom from ^{As} Syria even as Judah was at this time. It seemed that utterly impossible ~~not~~ and