

an absurd prediction at the time it was made. It has a very logical place in the book of Isaiah here, a place right before the new passage of comforting the people because the exile is not to be forever but God is to deliver them sometime. So it has a logical place here. Whether chronologically it came toward the end of Hezekiah's reign or whether it came earlier in the reign is something that we have no way of knowing. ~~THESE~~ Most scholars think that it was previous to Sennacharib's invasion that Meredith Baladan and Hezekiah had made common cause in fighting against Sennacharib. We know from Sennacharib's ~~ix~~ inscription that he did conquer ~~xxxx~~ Babylon and he did actually ~~destroy~~ destroy it. It says that he annihilated the city and reduced it to a heap of ashes. Of course, we know that he was using extreme language in that because in the next generation it was a ~~city~~ very fine city ~~again~~ again, but he evidently wrought a tremendous amount of damage in it. He had it completely at his mercy. It is very different from what happened in Jerusalem where he only succeeded in setting Hezekiah up like a bird in a cage in Jerusalem.

This name, Meredith Baladan, is mentioned on the inscriptions of the Assyrian tombs and of the Babylon tombs. So the name is corroborated well. The name recalled here in the Bible and completely forgotten otherwise until these inscriptions were discovered.

Now let us go on to number 4, the reign of Mennaseh. The reign of Mennaseh, we are told, was an extremely wicked reign. It was a reign in which the people completely turned away from God. The King Mennaseh forgot God, tried to put Him out of his mind, and also all sort of wicked abominations were ~~per~~ performed in the land during this extremely long reign. Mennaseh was king ~~of~~ for over fifty years. So we have a very long period in which wickedness was on the throne and little attention was paid to God's Word or to God as a rule. According to Jewish tradition Isaiah was martyred in this reign. There is a Jewish tradition which says that Isaiah was followed by the persecutors of Mennaseh in order to destroy him and that he fled from him into the woods and hid in a ~~hollow~~ hollow tree.