

and strength to go ahead the way that he knew to be right. So he followed evil courses. His reign was an evil reign. In the sight of God whether you are weak and follow evil ~~advice~~ advice or whether you are strong and go ahead in an evil direction may not make much difference in the results. But certainly it can't help but make a difference in the personal attitude toward you. Zedekiah had a very different attitude toward Jeremiah from what Jehoiakin had. Jehoiakin wanted to destroy Jeremiah. He didn't like such preaching as Jeremiah gave. The good nobles who his father Josiah had put in power protected Jeremiah. Now Nebuchadnezzar had taken many people captive to Babylon including these good nobles and the men who were second in rank to Jehoiakin, the wicked king had put in, now were the leading nobles and they were evil and Zedekiah was so afraid of these evil nobles he didn't dare lift his hand. He would secretly talk to Jeremiah and ask Jeremiah what he should do and give every evidence of wanting to follow the word of the Lord ~~as~~ as Jeremiah gave it to him. He would say, "Don't say anything to these nobles. Don't let on to them what we have been talking about. I don't know what would happen to me if they caught on ~~xxxxxxx~~ that I'm really interested in what you have to say." The result was that Zedekiah's actions were ~~xxxx~~ evil and the results of his reign were evil. He himself ended up having his eyes put out and being carried out ~~xxxxxx~~ as a blind captive to Babylon because he wanted to do what was right and didn't have the courage and the strength to stand up for his convictions and oppose the evil men whom his brother had put into power.

(Question) I would say that I don't recall any particular statement in which Jeremiah praises Zedekiah for it. ~~It~~ I was basing it upon what was told of how Zedekiah treated Jeremiah and what we are told that he said. Not on any judgment that he bases it on but simply on the way that Zedekiah acted toward Jeremiah. Zedekiah tried to keep Jeremiah from being killed.

(Question) Well, that is a matter of interpretation but the other interpretation may be wrong. The other interpretation appears to me to be warranted.

(Question) I would just say it impresses me the other way.