

man to say, "I'll be true to you" and go ahead as they had in the past. So they fought desparately and they took a three- year seige to overcome Jerusalem. But after a long and bitter seige Jerusalem was taken and utterly destroyed. The rest of the people were carried off into captivity.

Now we should mention right here in the minute that remains to us the prophet Ezekiel. Ezekiel was taken captive probably at the same time that Jehoiakin was taken captive--at the end of Jehoiakin's reign. ~~Zedekiah~~ ^{Ezekiel} was in the exile and there in exile the people said, "God is going to take us back to Jerusalem soon. God is going to give us the victory." Ezekiel said, "No. God is going to destroy Jerusalem." So Jeremiah in Jerusalem was saying, "God is going to destroy the city" and Ezekiel in the exile was saying, "God is going to destroy the city " and in the eyes of the people both of them were traitors.as you can well imagine. ~~We seem~~ They seemed to be strengthening the enemy, strengthening Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon and opposing the natural aspirations of the ^{own King} ~~Lord's~~ people. After all, all they had to do was to give the message God gave to them. Isaiah said that God will protect Jerusalem. Jeremiah and Ezekiel said that God will destroy Jerusalem. They both were giving the truth. At Isaiah's time it was God's will ~~that~~ to protect the city. At this time it was his will to destroy the city. The prophet may be patriotic in some periods. He may seem to be a traitor in others. After all, he is loyal to a higher Power, not to a nation but to God. He has to give the message that God gives him. That is where Ezekiel fits into the history and this completes the account of the last ~~part~~ century of Judah and it takes us to a point where we will devote our ~~next two~~ first two weeks of the next year in looking ~~at~~ a little at the archeological evidence bearing on this section of the history. We'll look at that in systematic order having thus looked at the history in relation to it.

(Question) His prophecying was in the reign of Zedekiah.