

purposes. "Blessed are all they that wait for him."

The word translated wait three times in this verse always means to wait earnestly for something or to expect something. God is looking forward to the time when he can be gracious to them and to have mercy upon them. He does not do it now because it would not be possible in view of their sin and of their insolent attitude of dependence on Egypt or dependence on themselves and their own power and wisdom. They however, who wait for him and who look forward with expectancy and have trust in that which he will do, they are to receive the blessing.

In view of this I think the difficulty of the therefore to a large extent disappears.

I would suggest interpreting verse 19 in the light of this situation -- that it apply to what is going to happen when Jerusalem is isolated because Sennacherib has conquered all the cities around. First for a moment let us look again at evidence from archaeology fitting in with the statements in Isaiah (also in Kings and Chronicles) that Sennacherib took all the fenced cities of Judah. One of the great pictures which has been found in Sennacherib's palace is ^{the} a picture showing his conquest of the great Judean ~~city~~ city of Lachish, the second great ^{est} city in Judah. ~~This picture~~ ^{This} His pictures show the great effort to which he went to conquer this city and the tremendous amount of booty which was ~~brought~~ brought out with him when he took the people of it captive. He was so proud of this that he set up the picture in his palace in Nineveh. It illustrates vividly the fact that all of Judah except Jerusalem was conquered. The people were in desperate straits, They knew what had happened to Israel a few years before. When Samaria was taken, the great mass of the people of Israel were led off into captivity, and they expected that they also would be led off into captivity. But verse 19 begins with a gracious promise that the people in Zion shall dwell, or there is a dwelling ~~literally~~, in Jerusalem. Here is a strong declaration of hope for the people in the situation immediately before them. They are not to be taken into captivity as had happened to the