

southern kingdom is entitled to this name.

The godly in the land of Judah who were followers of Isaiah and loved his wonderful teachings and glories in the grand promises of eventual blessings that Isaiah had given at many places in the early part of his book, knew that Isaiah's predictions of doom were sure to be fulfilled. They were part of the nation and knew that they were implicated in its sin. While they were, did everything they could to back up Isaiah in his protest, they saw that their protests were of no avail, and as the darkness of the reign of Manasseh's⁶ settled around them, they knew that exile was absolutely sure. Isaiah had declared that the exile of Judah would come, not from the Assyrian force but from the Babylonian. Therefore, they knew that the exile would not be immediate, for Babylon must first gain supremacy. However, they knew that it was sure to come.

Exile was no new idea to these people. They had seen their brothers to the north taken off into exile, thousands of the people of the kingdom of Ephraim had been carried away like cattle, thousands driven hundreds of miles across the desert, a few had escaped and made their way to the southern kingdom and from them the people had heard grueling stories of the terrible suffering of those who were taken into bondage by the Assyrians. The godly knew that the people of their own kingdom of Judah would eventually suffer similar misery at the hands of the Babylonians.

(g.17) A century passed after the ~~death of~~ time when Isaiah made most of his predictions. Then the Assyrian empire fell a prey to the attacks of a people further east, the Medes, and of the Babylonians who had by this time gained their freedom. Now Babylon became supreme and it was not many years before Isaiah's predictions were fulfilled and the Babylonian forces attacked Jerusalem, destroyed the city, and ~~ca~~ drove great multitudes of the people into captivity far across the desert