

verse 28 can very reasonably be considered as the conclusion to verses 24-27.

In many Bibles verse 28 is placed at the beginning of a new paragraph which includes the rest of the chapter, making it the beginning of the next section instead of the end of this one, and causing the following verses to be misunderstood.

Philistia Told Not to Rejoice

We have already observed that Isaiah 14:29-32 deals, not with Palestine as a whole, but with Philistia, as correctly translated here in the American Standard Version, and elsewhere in both the King James Version and the American Standard Version. The fact that verse 28 precedes this section has misled many interpreters into taking that verse as the introduction to this section instead of recognizing that it actually refers to the giving of the previous prediction of the downfall of Sennacherib's army (vv. 24-27). This leads them to take the statement in verse 29, "the rod of him that smote thee is broken," as referring to the death of King Ahaz. They then try to find among Ahaz' descendants men to correspond to the next two elements of the verse.

This interpretation is impossible for the following reasons:

1. The verse says "the rod of him that smote thee is broken." This sounds more like a reference to the loss of a king's army than to the death of the king himself. It would better fit the destruction of Sennacherib's army than the death of Ahaz.
2. There is no evidence to suggest that the Philistines would think of Ahaz as one who smote them. On the contrary, 2 Chronicles 28:18-19 tells us that the Philistines themselves had smitten Ahaz.
3. The next two elements of the verse would make Hezekiah a cockatrice (American Standard Version adder) and Manasseh a fiery, flying serpent. To anyone who knows the character of Hezekiah it is immediately apparent how absurd it would be to speak of this godly man as a cockatrice.
4. Verse 31 speaks of the future destruction of Philistia as coming from the north. Judah was not north of Philistia but east. The armies from Mesopotamia