

statement. Hezekiah made an answer and possibly then Izhiah brought a message to them from God. It is a narative section as compared with the section of direct prophecy or prophetic discourse which preceeds and follows it. So this naturally divides the book into sections, Chapters 1 to 35 and then the narative section 36 to 39 and then the section prophetic discourse in chapters 40 to 60.

Right here a feature of these chapters may be pointed out which is somewhat incidental. This is the fact that most of the material in chapters 1 to 35 begins probably in the reign of Ahiaz. 1 to 35 may be entirely made up of discourses given in the reign of Ahiaz or before or it may be that some of the sections there began to be written in the days of Ahiaz and had parts added to them in the days of Hezekiah. In either case, each main section of the part of 1 to 35 begins in the reign of Ahiaz. Then chapters 36 to 39 describe the events in the reign of Hezekiah and tells the relationship between the prophet and the king during this reign. Chapters 40 to 66 are probably written in the reign of Manassa.

This brings to our attention another difference. We notice that Hezekiah was a righteous king. Naturally then there is a tone of comfort and recognition of God's blessing found in chapters 36 to 39 which contrasts with the tone of frequent rebuke which is found in Chapters 1 to 35, or of recognition of God's punishment as an accomplished fact which is found in chapters 40 to 66; We have the general atmosphere of gloom in the first section, then the more radiant happiness of Hezekiah's day in these chapters and then the background of gloom which follow.