

So Isaiah goes to see him and Isaiah assures him that this will not work. Ch. 7 which has that wonderful promise of the coming of Christ has as the most stressed thing in the ch. this thought that King Ahaz instead of trusting God is working out this clever scheme to get the king of distant Assyria to come and attack these other nations from the back. Then after he does that that Judah will be safe. Isaiah says to him, This will not work. He makes the wonderful promise that Ahaz will eventually be superceded. God will ~~xxxx~~ send His own leader for the house of David, the Lord Jesus Christ, the virgin born one.

But then the latter part of the ch. tells what is going to happen. The end of v. 17 says, He will bring the king of Assyria, and it describes how the Assyrian forces will overcome most of the land of Israel and they will put them into a very difficult situation, taking ~~n~~ most of the people into exile and greatly depopulating the land.

That's the general start of this wonderful section in ch. 7-12. Ahaz' alliance with Assyria, bringing Assyria to help him instead of trusting the Lord. Just like the U.S. did a few years ago when we faced Hitler, and instead of standing against all unrighteousness we made alliance with Russia. Since Russia was against Hitler we worked with Russia. The result is today we have a far greater danger with Russia than we ever had from Hitler. We used exactly the same plan the same system that Ahaz did here and that God so rebuked him for and the whole nation eventually had to suffer.

When you look over here at ch. 28 we do not have the background explained at all. So when I first began to study that ch. I found it very difficult to get an idea of exactly what it was dealing with. But as I went through the ch. I found clues here and there and as I put these clues together I saw how the background of it is the same as that of ch. 7 and when you have that in mind everything in the ch. falls into place. So with that in mind ch. 28 is not difficult to understand.

You find as you go through it there is evidence it starts with a banquet. It starts with a banquet where the prophet is speaking and there are some vv. in it that are the answers of the people to him. So chs. 7-12 the prophet is rebuking king Ahaz and he is showing how God is going to repalce this king who is trusting the arm of flesh and refusing to follow God, with His own wonderful king the Lord Jesus Christ. In this section that same thought is there but the emphasis is more on not the king himself but the leaders of the nation--the various nobles. So I reached the conclusion that ch. 28 deals with a groups of nobles that are having a banquet. A large group of Judean nobles who are the close confidants of the king. They are holding a big banquet of celebration. They are not explaining to the oridnary person what they are celebrating. They are not making this clear to them; it is still a secret that Ahaz has made an arrangement with Assyria to come to them.

In ch. 7-12, at the beginning of ch. 7 we found that Isaiah could not go into Ahaz' palace and talk to him. Isaiah went out to meet him where he was having a defense inspection, and he wanted to be on good terms with the people so he could not say, Isaiah, you old fool; get out of the way I've got to go on with my inspection. But the general attitude of ch. was that he had to get Ahaz' attnetion in a situation where Ahaz could not just brush him aside.