

So these nobles who at first sight seeing Isaiah coming in say, What's this fellow doing here? They weren't anxious to let him talk, but he kept on talking. Everybody was listening and they said, Isn't ~~that~~ that grand. He's waving the flag saying exactly what we want to hear him say. But after he's gotten their attention and gotten them relaxed a little this way he goes on and says, "In that day . . ."

Now that phrase "in that day" I should say just a word about. It occurs many times in Isaiah. I have reached the conclusion in examining the various cases when he says "in that day" he means there will be a day when. He can look forward to this event, that event, the other event. "In that day," "in that day"-- maybe he points to something. But we can't tell what he means. It isn't necessarily what he's just been talking about. It means something in the future.

So "in that day the Lord Almighty will be a glorious crown, a beautiful wreath for the remnant of his people. He will be a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment, a source of strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate." And now the nobles who had settled back and thought this is great what Isaiah is giving, let him go on. It is going to encourage his people to stand with us. He's knocking Ephraim which we want to do. Go on. That's fine. Then he gets on to what we've just read of what the Lord is going to do and then they say, What's he bringing religion in here for? Why do we have to listen to this pious drivel that he's giving us now and they begin to get a little restless but they have already begun to settle down and the people are beginning to listen with interest. It's pretty hard now to jump up and put him out of the place.

Having said this, he turns and points to these nobles. He has just told how terrible these Israelites are, these drunkards, these people who are using so much wine. Now he says: "And these also stagger from wine and reel from beer." He points to the people right there: "These also." They have let him talk this far. They can't jump on him now all the sudden. They people are looking and saying, That's right after all. We knock Ephraim for their drunkenness, but our leaders are doing the same thing. "These also stagger from wine and reel from beer" "Priests and prophets stagger from beer and are befuddled with wine; they reel from beer, they stagger when seeing visions, they stumble when rendering decisions. All the tables are covered with vomit, and there is not a spot without filth."

These people are getting pretty upset now. They don't like the way he is talking about them and they begin mumbling among themselves and they say: "Who is he trying to teach? To whom is explaining his message? To children weaned from the milk to those just taken from the breast?" What's Isaiah doing coming in here with this pious drivel? Criticizing us for drunkenness. It's alright to criticize our enemy. What's he doing? Does he think we're just children? "For it is: Do and do, do and do, rule an rule, rule on rule; a little here, a little there." In other words, He's giving baby-talk to us. He's criticizing us. We're men. We can hold our liquor, and we've got our plan and it's going to work. We don't want him talking to us this way. But they have not yet reached the point where they will jump up and throw him out. So they say this and then he answers. They say, You're giving us baby-talk.