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leading. Figures of speech are like salt on a dish. A little is good, but if a whole bucketful is poured on the food is ruined.

In the Bible figures of speech are usually quite clear from the context. Thus when Isa 10: 28-32 describes the failure of an imaginary Assyrian attempt to conquer Jerusalem and then declares that the Assyrian empire itself will be destroyed, this prediction is given by the figure of speech of the cutting down of a forest (vv.33-34), and a similar figure is used in the next verse (11:1) to portray the later rise from obscurity of the house of David: "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots." It is obvious that this verse predicts a time when the kingdom of the descendants of Jesse will seem to have been cut down almost to nothing, paralleling the destruction of the Assyrian empire described in the previous verses, but that out of what seemed to be almost destroyed a new branch will grow up and become powerful. This is followed by the prediction of the greatness of the coming Messiah. The meaning of the figurative language is perfectly clear. Vivid-