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difficulty Ahaz does not look to God for help but sends tribute to the ungodly Assyrian emperor and asks for his protection. Ahaz is confident that his clever but ungodly scheme will save him from the two neighboring powers, but God sends Isaiah to meet him in a public place and there assure him that God will protect the kingdom if he will place his trust in Him. The Assyrian alliance can give deliverance from the immediate threat but in the end will bring far greater dangers than those already in view. Isaiah declares that Syria and Israel will not be able to conquer Judah but will themselves perish, and says, "If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established" (vv. 4-9). Verses 10-11 contain the divine answer to the cynical look on Ahaz' face. He is offered proof that he can trust God. In v. 12 Ahaz gives a reply that sounds very pious but is actually an evasion. His words arouse the divine anger, not so much because of what he says as because of the evident tone in which he speaks. In his rejoinder (vv. 13-14) Isaiah expresses a strong rebuke, not simply to Ahaz, but to the entire house of David, of which Ahaz was a very unsatis-