

Survey of Isa. 7-12, 28-35

June 15, 1972

does apply to situations in our own day very definitely. But it was originally given in relation to situations in the prophets day, and it is much easier to understand if we have those situations in mind. So during this first part of our time, I want to remind you of this historical background of these sections. Now there are other parts of Isa. that have some other features of historical background in mind. But these are features that are particularly important for the understanding of this-section of Isaiah. So I've mentioned here; Kings of Judah. And King Ahaz is one who is very very important in this part of Isaiah.

Ahaz, I trust most of you remember, was a man who seems to have had no interest in the Lord or in following Him. He was anxious to put on a form of godliness in order to have a good impression on those of his people who were believers, but he was strictly political minded and desirous of maintaining the strength of his kingdom and of having people work together for that purpose. He paid little attention to God's commands or to God's purposes, and most references to Ahaz in the Bible go under the heading of rebuke.

Then there is Ahaz' son, Hezekiah who enters in comparatively little into our discussion today. But Hezekiah was a godly man who tried to follow the Lord, and when H. was King the great Assyrian attack came, and God delivered Israel from this Assyrian attack in the days of H. and comforted and encouraged H.

Then I mention Manasseh here - H's son who took after his grandfather, only went way beyond him. M. reigned for half a century, and his reign was as wicked as any reign in the history of Israel. Some think that Isa. lived into M's reign tho there is no specific mention of it in the Bk. of Isa., and that Isa. suffered martyrdom under M. I only mention him here to show that as showing the darkness that closed in after the period at which we will look today. The darkness closed in and Isa. saw it coming coming. And the godly people seeing this coming tend to become greatly discouraged, and Isa. therefore has wonderful messages of blessing and encouragement for them.

Then I mention here two kings of Israel. One of these is Pekah who was reigning