whole and seen in relation to their context than when taken by themselves. It is

the purpose of the present volume to try to give some idea of the structure of this

passage, to given an appreciation of the situation with which it ~~began~~ begins, to

show its development, to give an introduction to certain principles which are

different from those of most compositions, and particularly of most modern writings

in order that the reader may thrill to the marvelous development of this beautiful

section of the book of Isaiah.

2. Historical Background of the book of Isaiah.

Before looking into the content of this section it is important that we have

a little idea of the time when it was written and the situation that would be in the

minds of its first readers. ~~This~~ Without this knowledge of situation it is impossible to under-

stand the passage correctly, ~~without~~

Isaiah began his ministry at a time when the Judean kingdom seemed to be

at a rather high point. Its relations with its neighbors were good and although it

was surrounded by larger and more powerful nations, there seemed to be no immediate

menace to its future. Isaiah begins in his very first chapter with rebuking the people

for their sin. He says that God declares that He has brought up children and they

have rebelled against Him. He calls them a sinful nation, a nation of evildoers.

In passage after passage, Isaiah rebukes the people for their sin, warns them that

if they continue in their sin, God will punish them for it, even sending them off

into distant exile and destroying their beautiful cities. These rebukes on sin

and threats of coming judgment are common in the first two-thirds of the book of

Isaiah and also in its last six.

Soon we find Isaiah participating in a definite political development which

has repercussions in the passages beginning with Isaiah 7 and with Isaiah 28.

Ahaz the ungodly king of Judah finds himself menaced by a coalition of Israel and

Syria, two stronger nations to his north. In order to meet this threat, he sends to