distant Assyria, the great aggessive powerful empire across the desert in the east.

Ahaz asks Tiglath-pileser the king of Assyria to protect him from the attack of his

northern neighbors, promising in return to do homage to Tiglath-pileser. Isaiah

rebukes this scheme. He says that in the situation in which Ahaz found himself

he should have looked to God for help rather than to the distant powerful Assyrian

aggressor,   He declares that God will protect the people in the immediate situation,

but that the scheme of Ahaz will result in destroying the buffer state and bringing the

great Assyrian aggressor directly against Judah. As a result Isaiah declares the

Assyrians eventually will attack Judah itself. However, he says God will protect

his city even like birds flying, and will cause that no damage may come to it from

the Assyrian attack.

     We read details of the history in the books of Kings and of Chronicles and

also in the historical section of the book of Isaiah which runs from chapter 36 to 39.

We learn that the Assyrian king did actually attack Syria and Israel and within a

few years conquered both of them and incorporated them in the Assyrian empire.

Ahaz did homage to him and for a time Judah was little damaged. However, a few

years later when the son of ꓘ Ahaz, the godly king Hezekiah, was reigning, the

Assyrian king decided to attack Judah itself. Sennacherib ~~attacks the king~~ came against

Hezekiah and it looked as if its doom was certain. However, Isaiah's marvelous

prophecies made about twenty years before were fulfilled. We read in Isaiah 37

that in the night of the Lord killed thousands of the Assyrian troops and the Assyrian

king was forced to return to his home city without having conquered Jerusalem.

     Hezekiah was succeeded by his wicked son Manesseh. God's wonderful

promise had been fulfilled and the people had been delivered from the attack of the

great Assyrian aggressor. However, the nation as a whole has not turned away from

its sin, and when Hezekiah died, his son who succeeded him was one who had no