

Jan 5-8

The Results of Ahaz' Scheme

We can well imagine the thoughts of Ahaz as he heard this prediction. In verse ¹⁴fourteen, he felt that here was treason--a ^{prediction that} declaration of another king ^{might} to take his place. ^{yet} However, it was nothing to get greatly excited about, because the coming king was not even born as yet, and who could know when He would be born? Isaiah had not stated the time when He would come. Verses 15 and 16 suggest that He might be born immediately. They take His life, if born immediately, as a measuring stick, and apply it to the present time. However, the note of rebuke is almost forgotten in the declaration that God is going to deliver His people.

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By this time, Ahaz is feeling better. After all, this is a declaration that they are going to be victorious against these kings to the north. This may help the morale of the people, provided that it does not make them overconfident. Ahaz is certain, anyway, that it is true, in view of his secret treaty with Assyria. His present desire is to strengthen the defenses, so as to hold off the invader until the Assyrian king comes. He knows that before long the armies of this powerful aggressor will attack Israel and Syria from the rear, and Judah will be safe. We can imagine him as relaxing now, and waiting as patiently as possible for Isaiah to stop talking, so that he can go on with his defense inspection.

Verse 17, however, is not particularly pleasing to him. Isaiah says that the Lord is going to bring grievous days, days worse than any since the disruption of the kingdom, "even the king of Assyria." Ahaz wonders how Isaiah comes to refer to the king of distant Assyria. Could Isaiah possibly have heard ~~any news of the fact~~ that secret arrangements had been made with this distant power? The rest of the chapter describes the results which are

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