

Isa 5-9

to follow the coming of the king of Assyria. What Ahaz has planned as deliverance from the minor nations to the north will actually result in

bringing the mighty Assyrian right next to his own land. ^{(3) was conquered} The exile is described, which we know came to Israel ^{(2) within} within the next few years, and which

^{(b) Assyrian armies soon extended their raids} extended across the border some distance into Judah. The emphasis here is upon the ^{resulting} general devastation of the land, rather than to lay any particular

stress upon the involvement of Judah in it. In verses 17 to 25 Isaiah vividly describes a ^{the resulting situation} time of depopulation, a time in which ^{rather} agriculture will be greatly

decreased for lack of manpower. The land will become briars and thorns, ^{covered with} and there will not be much use of plows. ^{in a land that} What was formerly closely cultivated

land will now be left ^{to} for cows and bees. There will be plenty of butter and honey, but ^{little} not of anything that requires much of man's labor to produce. This

^{condition} condition of devastation is right ahead; it does not sound like a promise of comfort, ^{it is a description} but rather a declaration of the difficulty and trouble that ^{will} is coming

as an important result of the scheme which Ahaz thought so clever.

The full fruition of the alliance ^{which} Ahaz made is shown in the historical section of the Book of Isaiah, in chapters 36 to 39. There we find an Assyrian army overrunning most of Judah and threatening Jerusalem itself.

Hezekiah has to reap what his father Ahaz has ^d sown. It is striking to note that when the emissary of the Assyrian king calls upon Jerusalem to surrender,

he stands at the very place where Isaiah ⁽²⁾ had delivered God's rebuke to Ahaz ^(only) for his sinful scheme and his lack of trust, a few years ^{earlier} before (cf. 36:2 with

7:3).

In succeeding chapters of the Book of Immanuel the prophet's vision continues to oscillate between the present distress and the glorious future that Immanuel ^{ultimately} will bring.