

To go out there and to examine the fortifications and to see how safe they would be for these two other nations to attack them. While he is on this inspection trip Isaiah comes to him and begins to talk. That puts Ahaz in a tough spot. He doesn't want to bother with Isaiah. The important thing is to make these fortifications strong. The important thing is to train his men to fight in order to hold back these two nations that are attacking until something happens. It is not explained here but we deduce it from the statements in this chapter.

Ahaz has secretly sent to the king of Assyria that great aggressive power that is beyond Aram(?) and beyond Israel and he has said to him, You come and deliver me from these two nations/ You come and I will do fealty to you; I will give your tribute. We are going to be safe because the king of Assyria is going to come and help us, but he is not going=== he is not telling the people that. He's telling the people we will get out there and fight and drive these people back, but his hope is to hold them back till the king of Assyria comes. In that situation Isaiah comes to him and greets him there and Isaiah says (v. 4) "Be careful, keep calm; don't lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood--because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram." He says, the Lord says it won't take place. The Lord says if you will stand firm in your faith God will protect you. Within 65 years Ephraim will be shattered to be a people.

Ahaz says, I don't care what happens in 65 years; long before that they will have conquered us and carried me off to be a prisoner if we don't push hard with this preparation here. Get rid of this fellow who is wasting my time and keeping the people from working as they should with these foolish pious utterances. So Ahaz wants to get rid of him but he doesn't want to irritate the people who believe in Isaiah as a great prophet.

Isaiah--it is evident from his face as we can deduce from the statements-- that Ahaz is disgusted and wants to get rid of Isaiah. He doesn't look happy at all about Isaiah's promises that these nations won't succeed in their attack. So the Lord says again to Ahaz (v.11), "Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." Why did Isaiah say that? Obviously Ahaz' face showed that he wasn't interested. He wanted to get on with the important work he had there (and get rid of Isaiah). But the people believe Isaiah is a great prophet and Ahaz does not want to displease the people, those who revere Isaiah. So Ahaz makes a very godly, pious speech (v. 12). Ahaz says, I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test." Beautiful statement! Why ask for a sign. We can trust God without that. It is perfectly obvious from the look on his face and what we know about him that he's just trying to get rid of Isaiah. So Isaiah speaks out in anger: "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also?" What a strong rebuke he gives. Ahaz would certainly get rid of him if the people did not think highly of Isaiah and he doesn't dare move vigorously against him.

Isaiah continues (v.14), "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign." He promises a miracle. Ahaz says, I won't ask for a miracle. Isaiah says, Will God will give you one anyway.. He says, The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel." God is not going to be satisfied forever with having such an ungodly sicon in the house of David as this man Ahaz., leading the people of God. God is going to bring His own representative to the House of David, the Lord Jesus Christ. And the proof of it will be that miracles will occur and he will be born of a virgin. So he gives this wonderful promise of the virgin birth. God is going to protect His people and God is going to send His Son to be the head of the House of David. He rebukes Ahaz, He rebukes the whole House of David. He continues. He refers to Ahaz' secret plot.