

that no one will be able to disannul it. His hand is stretched out and no one can turn it back.

### **A Verse Dating A Burden**

Verse 28 reads: "In the year that king Ahaz died was this burden." Some interpreters consider this verse to conclude the previous section, while others think that it begins the following one.

It would be very appropriate to think of verse 28 as finishing the prediction about the destruction of the Assyrian army in the land of Palestine. Isaiah is promising the people deliverance from the terrible results of the wicked plans of Ahaz, which are sure to bring the land into frightful misery. Surely the year in which Ahaz died is a very appropriate time for this burden to be given.

Such an interpretation does not necessarily mean that the entire burden of Babylon was given as early as this. The greater part of it (13:1-14:23) might have been revealed to the prophet after the great prediction of chapter 39, that Judah would be taken captive to Babylon instead of Assyria. Then Isaiah might have been led to put 14:24-27 at the end of the "Burden of Babylon." This passage, given some time before, in the year in which Ahaz died, and now wonderfully fulfilled in the defeat of Sennacherib, might appropriately be placed at the end of the more distant prophecy. The nearer event would serve as an earnest of the certainty of the fulfillment of the later ones. This type of arrangement is not unique in the prophecies. It parallels the statements of the man of God who appeared to Jeroboam at Bethel, as described in 1 Kings 13:1-5, where a prediction of a distant event was followed by one close at hand.

Thus there was a good reason for the insertion of verse 28 here. It shows that the previous four verses, though logically coming after the main body of the burden of Babylon, were written some time before it. They are not a prediction after the event, but a reminder of the fact that God had promised, long before it happened, that He would destroy the Assyrian army in the land of Palestine. The fact that this nearer prediction was so strikingly fulfilled would give added certainty that the later ones will also come to pass. Thus