

Syria beyond Israel was much stronger than Israel and now Syria and Israel have united in order to compel Judah to be subject to them. In a situation like this one Ahaz was faced with a difficult problem. We find it described in II Kings 16. We read there what Ahaz did. Rezin, king of Syria, and Pekah, son of Amaliah, king of Israel, came to Jerusalem to war. They besieged Ahaz but they could not overcome him. That is to say, their first great attack failed to carry it by storm. Now ~~wax~~ they settle back again for another attack. Isaiah tells us about it in chapter 7. He says that the heart of Ahaz and the hearts of his people were moved like the leaves of a tree in the wind. They were smitten with fear. This great alliance against them which was apt to overwhelm them. So we read in verse 7 of ~~chap~~ chapter 16 and also in Chronicles and also in Isaiah that under this situation Ahaz thought of a terrible idea. We read in verse 7 that he sent messengers to Tiplath Bilezer, king of Assyria, saying, "I am thy servant, thy son, come up and save me out of the hands of Syria and out of the hadd of the king of Israel which rise u p against me. He was now a good friend of the king of Assyria because the king of Assyria would help him. I remember back in 1914 everybody I know at that time was talking about the terrible Czar of Russia and the cruelty of Russia and the awful treatment that the people received from this wicked abselute regime of the Czar of Russia. Then the war came on and the Russians were our allies with the British and the French against the Germans and pretty soon I began to hear people say, "We have misunderstood the Russians. They are not really as bad as ~~txa~~ we thought they were. They are much more democratic than we thought. They are pretty good people." The reason being, of course, that they were against Germany. The same thing happened in this last war. Roosevelt denounced them as imperialists for their attack on Finland and yet soon afterwards he was sending them lend-lease and declaring that they were great collaborators for the war for democracy. Well, it is exactly the situation here. Here is the king of Assyria across the desert, one who has absolutely nothing in common with Judah but there are two buffer states in