

Ahaz has got a clever scheme to protect himself but he says it is like a bed that is too short and the covers are too narrow. It won't protect him. You are not safe in it at all. You try to pull it up over your head and your feet stick out. You try to tuck it in ~~under~~ under your feet and your shoulders stick out. It just will not accomplish what you want and so the great part of the early part of Isaiah, notably chapters 28 and chapter ~~29~~ 7, is the greatest sort of rebuke of King Ahaz for his clever scheme by which he thinks that he is going to put out the big powers against each other and protect his land and Isaiah says really he is putting the Assyrians right next to him and bringing terrific danger and trouble to him. ahead. It is always that way when we try in forgetfulness of God to ~~use~~ use our clever scheme to advance our purposes without paying attention to Him. In the end we are worse off than we were before. It is only as we trust Him and follow Him that we get real lasting strength. *end of 23.*

We were concerned with the reign of King Ahaz. We called that number "2", Ahaz of Judah. We noticed that Ahaz was faced with a coalition with the two kingdoms to the north and facing this coalition he decided on a very clever move. He would make alliance with a wicked power, a wicked power which was more different from him by far than the people of Israel. Exactly the same situation as the British making an alliance with Russia which was far more different from them than Germany in order to fight Germany in the last war. Similarly Ahaz set to the king of Assyria, Tiglath Pileser, and told Tiglath Pileser that he would give him substantial tribute if he would come and protect him from Israel and Syria. Doubtless he kept this scheme to quite an extent a secret from his people. A few nobles were in on the plan but if the people at large had the idea that this was being done they would be pretest on the part of some. In addition to that if the people at large knew that Ahaz felt perfectly secure, there would not be the same moral to fight vigorously to protect the land until the king of Assyria would