

I hated to there because there is so much ground to cover there. Now having covered it now you have this background for Isaiah and it won't be necessary to go into it next year. You will have it in mind when we come to it. But this is the background of the section of Isaiah. From chapter 28 following he is talking to the nobles in this particular situation. Now we find another place where Isaiah speaks in the same situation. If you will open your Bibles to that place I would like to point out its relevance to this situation. It is Isaiah 7. In that chapter we read, "And it came to pass in the days of Ahaz, the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin, the king of Syria, and Pekah, the son of Remaliah, king of Israel--all these are now familiar names to you, of course--went up to Jerusalem to war against it but could not prevail against it." One of the few cases in the book of Isaiah where the background is exquisitely given. In chapter 28 it is not given. We get it from the historical books and from chapter 7. But here in chapter 7 it is given. "And it was told the house of David, "Syria is confederate with Ephraim." Ephraim, the kingdom to the north, is attacking and the people are hoping they can resist. Only a short time before, maybe fifty years, in the reign of Amaziah the northern kingdom had overwhelmed Jerusalem and has made a breach in the wall and has taken much treasure away from Jerusalem. Now the northern kingdom is coming again and how can they resist them? They wonder, they fear, ~~that they~~ but then the word is given--Syria is confederate with Ephraim. Not only is Ephraim against them which had overwhelmed them fifty years before but Syria, a far greater kingdom than Israel, is with Israel in the attack. They hear that and that word comes in to the land. And Isaiah very vividly tells the effect. His heart was moved and the hearts of his people as the trees of the woods are moved with the wind. In this situation Isaiah does not tell us what Ahaz did, but we have already learned from Kings and Chronicles that Ahaz sent an expedition across the desert to Tiglath Pileser to make a treaty with him to get his wicked, unbelieving, heathen king to come and protect him from Israel and from Syria. He has sent this but Isaiah here does not