

reasons. One is the relationship to the events that took place at the same place later on. The other is to show the situation. Ahaz is on a defense inspection trip. I remember back in 1940 someone was telling me how serious the international situation was. They said the situation was so ~~serious~~ serious that President Roosevelt himself was going to inspect the defense factories. He wouldn't let anybody else do it. He had to do it himself. The international situation was so serious. But of course, in that particular situation they would have made much faster progress in making shells and tanks if they didn't have to call everything off for the ceremonies for a presidential visit. In this case it is not quite that bad because it was on a much smaller scale. Ahaz's presence would be to some extent a help, but in both cases it was a moral builder. In the coming of ~~Roosevelt~~ Roosevelt to the factories at that time it impressed upon the people in the factories the importance of the work that they were doing in preparing to defend the nation. It impressed upon the nation at large the importance of the fact of the coming election three ~~months~~ months later to retain Roosevelt in order that the nation would be safe from the enemy. Defense inspection tours are important from the viewpoint of improving the defenses and also perhaps more important from the viewpoint of moral. Ahaz doubtless had that in mind.

He was at the conduit here encouraging the people to build up the outer strength of the defenses of Jerusalem. He was inspecting the defenses but at the same time he was raising the moral of the people as they saw how interested the king was in this vital work. and urging them on to work hard and to have a good moral in the defense of the nation against Israel and Syria. So in that situation they were all excited trying to be strong enough to resist Israel and Syria together. Can it be done? The people are full of excitement about the tremendous ordeal ahead while Ahaz doesn't have quite the same excitement. He shows a wonderfully calm attitude in the face of it which is explained by his secret that he had sent for the king of Assyria. and that the land will soon be rescued from its