

attackers by the coming of the forces of the ~~king~~ king of Assyria. In this situation God told Isaiah to go and meet him on ~~his~~ his defense inspection tour. If Isaiah were to go into Ahaz's palace where he was surrounded by a few of his slaves and his close ~~fix~~ friends, he would say throw the fellow out. Tell him to come back next month or next year. We might have some time then. But in this situation he can't do that. One of the most important phases of his defense inspection tour is the moral of the people. In this situation of trying to strengthen the moral of the people is the prophet who was considered by the people as God's representative comes ~~before~~ before him and he cannot brush him aside. He could try <sup>politely</sup> ~~rightly~~ to get rid of him but he cannot brush his aside. So the Lord said to say to him, "Take heed and be quiet. Fear not, neither be faint hearted. Don't get so excited. Don't worry. Calm yourself down. ~~Don't~~ get faint hearted about these two tails of smoking fire brands." Two tails of smoking fire brands--the fierce anger of Rezin of Syria, the son of Ramaliah. How does that sound to Ahaz? Here is Ahaz urging the people on to strengthen the defenses. Make a strong resistance against Israel and Syria. Isaiah says don't get so excited; don't be afraid; don't be faint hearted about these two tails of smoking firebrands. What harm can they do to you? Well, that doesn't help moral particularly thus far. It would make moral worse if he speaks <sup>roughly</sup> ~~thus~~ to Isaiah and pushes him aside and makes the people see his attitude towards the representative of the religion of the people. But he would like to ~~stop~~ such words as this. He just can't let Isaiah go on talking such words as this. Isaiah is to continue because Syria, Ephraim, and the son of Athaliah have taken evil council against these sayings. Let us go up against Judah and vex it and let us make a breach therein for us and set a king in the midst of it, even the son of Tabiel. Thus saith the Lord, "It shall not stand. Neither shall it come to pass." Well, maybe that's not so bad. It isn't a good thing to make the people think that the attack is a minor thing like smoking firebrands, but at the same time that the people