

thing to Ahaz at least. So God says, "Don't worry about this." God went on and said, "Within 65 years that nation will be gone." Well, they said, "We may trust the statement that God says that nothing will happen, ~~of course, but we may trust the statement that~~ but it doesn't help any to have that addition in the distant future. Ahaz, of course, ~~xxx~~ knew that if they could just hold Israel off for a short time they would be safe because Assyria is far stronger than Syria and Israel and Judah all put together. Of ~~xx~~ course, ~~these~~ is the big desert in between but the Assyrian army has come that far before and Tiglath Pileasar is very warlike and he is quite sure Tiglath Pileasar will come and rescue them. So he is not greatly interested in what Isaiah says and verse 10 ~~xxxx~~ says, "The Lord spoke again unto Ahab." Very evidently starting with verse 3 is what the Lord told Isaiah to go and do and say, but so far from that point it continues with the message that Isaiah had before he started and how much of it was given him after he got there is no indication. This, however, would be clear that verse 10 and following was not given to Isaiah before he went out there. That was given to Isaiah from the Lord on the spot, probably the last half of the previous verse was, too. The Lord spoke again to Ahaz through the lips of Isaiah, of course, but it is the Lord speaking and giving a message right now on the spot, not previously given to Isaiah. He said, "Ask a sign of the Lord, thy God; ask it in the depth or in the height of thy knowledge." Why would he say to Ahaz, ask a sign of the Lord? Very evidently the reason would be that Ahaz' face should incredibility. Ahaz showed an attitude lacking belief. Ahaz was busy with his clever scheme. First, he wanted to encourage the people to protect the land and to fight vigorously. Second, he knew that he had his secret treaty with Assyria which would mean that once they held back the Israelites they were safe. So Ahaz wants to get rid of Isaiah and he tries in a respectful way and the prophet speaks and he hopes he won't talk too long, that he won't hurt the moral of the people by showing them too contemptuous an attitude. toward this old fellow making a nuisance of himself.