

His appearance was plain at least to Isaiah and doubtless to some of the people and the Lord says to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the Lord." You look incredulous. You don't look as if you believe. When God says the land is going to be safe, that is that and there is nothing to worry about. You don't look as if that concerns you particularly. Ask a sign of the Lord in the depth or in the height above. Well, what ~~is~~ better offer could you make--ask a sign? Ahaz think it is all a lot of foolishness. Why should he worry asking for signs? Besides if he asks for a sign and ~~waits~~ he will be wasting time. He wants to get on to defense work. If he says, give me a sign--cause that the Lord will make ~~some~~ some wonderful thing happen, Isaiah will say a week from now we will see that happen. Now the people will stop and wait and be concerned and wonder what is going to happen and all the things that Ahaz is interested in, the vital progress in the preparation of the defense is just sewed up. So he wants to get rid of him. When Isaiah says, "Ask a sign of the Lord," Ahaz thinks of a very clever dodge. He is going to put on an expression of real piety. He is going to say a lovely statement and will give this beautiful statement here and the people will all think what a fine, sincere, pious man Ahaz is and Isaiah will be satisfied and get out of the way and they can go on with the things that matter. So Ahaz said, "I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord." Very clever idea on the part of this man, Ahaz. You find politicians occasionally are able to use Christianity and to ~~use~~ use the forces of religion for their own advantage with some very clever dodges. This probably would have succeeded with most people, but the Lord saw right through it. The Lord answered and if anyone were to question the insincerity of Ahaz in his statement, their questionings would be immediately removed by the noticing of the next verse. "I will not ask neither will I tempt the Lord God." Why doesn't he say, that is splendid. Others require a sign. You don't; you don't ask for a ~~sign~~ sign. You are just ready to take the Lord's word." That is not what he said. He says in verse 13, "Hear ye now oh house of David, it is a small