

months reaches the age of being able to make very small choices between what is helpful and what is harmful, before that time, he says, Rezin, the king of Syria, and Pekah, the king of Israel, will both be gone and you have ~~xxxxxx~~ nothing more to fear from them. You know that his prediction is ~~literally~~ literally fulfilled. We know that within the next three or four years Tiglath Pileser had completed his attacks against Israel and Syria, that Rezin had been killed, that the kingdom of Syria had been taken over, that Tiglath Pileser was ruling over Damascus, that in Israel Pekah had been killed ~~the~~ by an uprising of some of his people, and that in his place there was a puppet king supposed to be subject to Assyria, and neither of them, neither the conquered people of Damascus or the people of Israel in this situation in any position to make the attack against Judah. God says in 65 years you won't be a people any more. Well, that is no help to you. Here is something nearer, within three ~~or~~ ^{beginning part of a} four years, perhaps less. In this brief interval measured by the ^{beginning part of a} life of a child. In this length of time both these kings will be gone. That is the second thing told to Ahaz. And the third thing told to Ahaz is this. That Ahaz' efforts ~~xxxxxx~~ to bring Assyria to attack him, but it is not necessary because God ~~is~~ has promised protection and will do it without this plan. This plan is not then going to be helpful to Judah because this plan is going to result in removing the puppets, ~~xxxx~~ removing the various states in between, bringing the wicked Assyrian power right next to the people of Judah and putting them in ~~xxxx~~ tremendous danger, danger which in the reign of Hezekiah was to result in further annihilation of Judah. So he goes on in verse 17. "The Lord will bring upon thee and on thy people and on thy father's house days that have not come since the days that Ephraim departed from Judah, since the disruption of the kingdom has their not been such a crisis to you as is coming now, ~~even~~ the king of Assyria. And Ahaz wonders, "What on earth is he mentioning the king of Assyria for? How could he know anything about my secret pact with the king of Assyria?" He continues in verse 20, "and the same day will the Lord