

now pregnant, and that he would be born within the next few years. Well, he says, Before this child is old enough to make simple choices--before that time--there will be a famine condition in the land and the two kings whom you dread will both have disappeared. And Ahaz says, Yes of course I know they will be--because I'm paying a lot to the Assyrians to come in and put them out of my way. But then Isa. goes on to show that the result of Ahaz' scheme will be that it will bring misery to the land because the Assyrian is not going to stop with conquering the others, but within the next few years he's going to overrun the land. So there will be plenty of butter and honey--that which grows of itself. But that which requires cultivation there will be very little of because there will be a great depopulation in the land.

Then in the next ch. we have references again to Immanuel twice. We read in vv.7,8 in ch. 8 how the Lord is about to bring against them the mighty flood waters of the king of Assyria with all his pomp. It will overflow all its channels, run over all its banks. Sweep on into Judah swirling and passing through it and reaching up to the neck. It's outspread wings will cover the breadth of your land, O Immanuel. There was ~~nobody~~ nobody in Ahaz's day who would be of such importance that you would say, Your land, O Immanuel. Certainly you would not expect someone from Ahaz's family. It would be strange if they did to represent God with us to this extent.

stanza

Then the next ~~statement~~ says, Devise your strategy, propose your plan, but it will not stand for God is with us. And there is a footnote: Heb. Immanuel. There you have Immanuel again-- a play on words. But what it really means is that this is Immanuel's land and no one can overrun it except as Immanuel permits it. The coming Son of the virgin is in charge of this land.

So Isaiah looks at his own day and he looks forward to Immanuel, and his vision oscillates back and forth. But I believe that in each case he is looking at one or at the other. Now it's interesting that when you get on to vv. 17 and 18, he says, I will wait for the Lord who is hiding his face from the House of Jacob. I will put my trust in him. Here am I, and the children the Lord has given me. We are signs and symbols in Israel from the Lord Almighty, who dwells on Mt. Zion.

And over in the book of Hebrews you find that this passage is quoted in Heb. 2:13, "And again I will put my trust in Him, and again he says, Here am I and the children God has given me. He applies it very directly to Jesus Christ. We might hesitate about taking those words out of the middle here and say he's talking about Christ, if we did not have the assurance of Hebrews that that is true, but we should not hesitate because we have Immanuel so clearly before us. We have the virgin birth so clearly before it. Isaiah's vision oscillates between that which is near and that which is more distant.

Then in 9:1 we have the statement: Nevertheless there will