

(verse 29) In verse 30 the Lord causes his glorious voice to be heard with a sudden devastating fire, blast, tempest, hail-storm. It is through God's voice the Assyrian is dismayed; it is with God's wrath that he is stricken -- how descriptive of that which we find actually occurs when the angel of the Lord smote the host of Sennacherib! Verse 32 stresses the fact again that it is God's deliverance and not the deliverance either through Egypt or through any power which the people themselves exert. Verse 33 refers to the place Topeth near the edge of Jerusalem where sacrifices were formerly made to the God Moloch (possibly even at the very time Isaiah was speaking under Ahab). A great similar holocaust was to be made of the armies of the Assyrian. This is to be kindled by the breath of the Lord.

One phrase in verse 33 causes difficulty. Is it for the king it is made ready, or for Moloch it is made ready? Does it refer to the Assyrian king, for whom is prepared this destruction, or does it refer to the type of sacrifices which were made for Moloch? This is a question which I have not yet gone into to. I am not ready to make a statement. It does not seem to me to affect the general interpretation of the chapter.

The interpretation of chapter 30 which I have suggested above makes the whole thing refer to the time comparatively soon after Isaiah speaks, that is ~~not~~ within, say, twenty years. It impresses me as a very likely interpretation. Many little details seem to fit into it, while I do not find any other interpretation that seems to have anything like as much to be said in its favor.

Certainly chapter 31 is markedly parallel to 30. I think in a parenthesis above we noted a number of points of similarity. It seems to me that it is very difficult to interpret 31 in any other way than the coming of Sennacherib and of his destruction. The first part of it tells of the folly of trusting to Egypt for help. The Lord will cause that this help shall be of no avail whatever. The last part says that God himself is going to fight for his people and is going to