

become his subject. This is the situation near the beginning of the Book of Izziah. Izziah warned against these plans of Ahiaz. He says that depending on either great power at Syria or Egypt, is bound to bring nothing but trouble and sorrow for the land. Only in God is safety to be found. He points out that though the Assyrians will deliver the land from Isreal, and from Syria, the end will be that the nation will be right next to the power that is Syria and that the Syrian forces will even come into the land of Judah itself. He declares that they will overrun most of the land of Judah, but he says that God will protect Jerusalem like birds hovering. That God will do it by his own power and without any help from human sources. This is the message in general to King Ahiaz in relation to the historic background.

During the reign of Hezekiah we find the thing which had been predicted in the reign of Ahiaz actually coming to pass. Judah is now face to face with the power of the Assyrian king who had destroyed Syria and conquered Isreal. The Assyrian power comes down against Judah with terrific calculated frightfulness. The Assyrians endeavor to force all the nations to bow beneath their yoke. It appears that there is nothing human that can protect Jerusalem from them. God however, delivers Jerusalem from their hands by his marvelous inter-position when he destroys a large part of the army of Sennacherib. At this same time we find Hezekiah king making a friendly arrangement with the king of far away Babylon. Izziah points out to him that from this land of far away Babylon there is to come one who is destroy Judah and take the people into captivity as punishment for their sins. Hezekiah rejoices that this terrible