

Prophets

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You remember that Isaiah said that the rivers of the waters strong and mighty, even the king of Assyria, will come upon them. Well they say when the overflowing scourge comes through, "It won't come near us. We're protected. We have an agreement." Just like the people in some of these countries who think that if they help the communist cause, then when the communists get complete control the communists will be good to them. Some people thought that in Czechoslovakia and today they're under the lash doing heavy labor. Their lives have been spared but they would be just as well off if they hadn't been. Yes? (Student) Well, I don't know of anything that would correspond to that but Ahaz made an agreement with Assyria to get Assyria to protect him from Israel and Syria and he knew that Assyria was a great aggressor and intent on conquering the whole world and thought, "We'll get on their side and we'll be safe, and they will protect us against our neighbors who are a menace to us." They said, "We've made lies our refuge, under falsehood we've hid ourselves!" Ahaz was keeping this secret, this agreement he had made, it's not told to the people as yet but it is his plan, it's a secret agreement which is going to bring peace to all the world by appeasing the wicked force. He's made his scheme. He doesn't tell anybody about it till later. When they find out they are going to see how much good comes to the country. If evil comes perhaps he will be dead by that time and won't have to face it, but this does not specifically say that it is dealing with the agreement with the Assyrians. We can't say absolutely one hundred per cent Mr. Ludlam's suggestion here is correct but it certainly seems to fit well. It certainly is a suggestion which makes sense out of the verse, doesn't it, Mr.---? They are peculiar words but interpreted that way they make perfect sense and it is rather difficult to find another way to interpret them that makes as good sense. Now do you have anything else that gives you a definite historic background in this verse? In this chapter? Perhaps you might look in the light of the present discussion to Verse 18. Your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall