

Prophets

3

can trust in Egypt?" would show at least that he thought that was a reasonable thing for them to do, and suggests at least the possibility that he had evidence they were actually doing it. It was, it would go that far, at least, and we know they did it in the time of Zedekiah, and . Thus, we do not have to have the actual thing here. I think it extremely probable the actual thing does indicate this, but what we have is, a prophet answering the people's thought as they say, "Oh, why do we have to listen to your nonsense. You say that we can't depend on our alliance with Assyria. Well, if we don't, we'll just use our clever heads to make an alliance with Egypt. " And he says, "That won't work either." It's a natural alternative to think of and for the prophet to answer as he tries to show them that their only possibility of securing safety is to trust in God, and of course, as he tried to make this clear to them that the only possibility for safety is to trust in God and Him alone, he shows that, though the Assyrians are going to be such a menace there is nothing they can do to save themselves, God is going to save them from Assyria, by His own power, His own mighty plan, His method that they had nothing to do with. Now, what further do you find in Chapter 30? You have--what's that? (Student) Well, 31--well, verse 31. Well have we anything before 31? How's that. (Student) 3-5. He says, "There's no use your trusting in Pharaoh. Pharaoh won't be able to help you. You'll be ashamed of a people who can't do any more good for you than they do." Now, Verse 6. "The burden of the beasts of the south." A description of the tribute that they sent to Egypt in order to get the Egyptians' help. But he says, "The Egyptians will help you no further. They will not be able to do anything for you." That, of course, is a continuation of the same thing we've been looking at. And then there are predictions following that look on rather far into the future, and therefore perhaps we shouldn't worry about them at the present moment, but in Verse 31, "through the voice of the Lord shall the Assyrian be beaten down, which smote with a rod." Not through the great power of the but through the voice of the Lord. Now in 31 we have the same thing again, don't we? "Woe to them that go down to Egypt."