

Prophets 13

the false leaders. Well, we'll continue and see if any light is thrown upon this question. Mr.—? (Student) Well, now, the, he says then, it's very clear, he has not been giving blessing, he has been giving rebuke and he has been showing—they are trusting in Assyria—the bed is shorter than a man can stretch himself on. Their schemes with Assyria are goint to fail but God is going to give deliverance by His own power and in His own way, and so he gives them this strong rebuke in v. 9, "Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink." He has just been telling them they are drunkards. There is filthiness on their table. "Yes", he says, <sup>but</sup> there is a worse drunkenness, there's a worse staggering than this. There is a staggering that will not be caused by drunkenness at all. There is a staggering and a drunkenness among them far worse than the drunkenness that comes from wine." It is the drunkenness that comes from indifference to God, that comes from seeking your own will and your own way instdad of following Him and it has resulted in a hardening of their hearts, as the next verse makes clear.

- - - - -

In the next verse, "The Lord has poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers he has covered up." You are made blind, the hardening of the Lord, having turned to go in your own way, the Lord has driven you further into the logical consequences of the direction in which you have gone. He is making it clear, the direction in which you have gone. That is the way, I think, that the Lord often does, in life, with one who is going—following him he makes clear His light, and the man who seems to be an upright citizen but who is inwardly wicked and disobeying God and has all the outward respectability is very apt to suddenly be exposed for the wicked man that he is. There is the driving you off in the true direction in which you are going. Mr.—? (Student) <sup>That</sup> /is a possible