

downpour, he will throw it forcefully to the ground. That wreath, the pride of Ephraim's drunkards will be trampled underfoot. That fading flower, his glorious beauty set on the head of a fertile valley will be like a fig ripe before harvest." So they say, "That's good. He's giving a good patriotic talk here. Let's let him talk a little longer.."

In vv. 5-6 he says, "In that day the Lord Almighty will be a glorious crown, a beautiful wreath . . . a source of strength." The leaders say, "Well, he's getting off some pious stuff but what he said previously was good. Maybe he'll get back to it. We don't interfere with him though we don't like this." But then in v. 7 he turns to face them and he points to them, and he says, "And these also stagger from wine and reel from beer; priests and prophets stagger from beer and are befuddled with wine; they reel from beer, they stagger when seeing visions, they stumble when rendering decisions. All the tables are covered with vomit and there is not a spot without filth."

If he had started with this they would have thrown him right out! But now he has them silent and listening. The people are all listening. It is pretty hard to stop him now though they don't like what he is doing. So they jump and they say (v. 9), "Who is he trying to teach? to whom is he explaining his message?" This is sort of mumbled, you see. They are not talking this out very loud. "To whom is he explaining his message? To children weaned from their milk, to those just taken from the breast? For it is: Do and do, do and do; rule on rule, rule on rule, a little here, a little there." They say, "It's just like he was talking to babies. Talking against beer and wine, against the things we're doing here. Against our celebration. He is interfering with his pious talk here. We'd better put him out. Get rid of him."

But Isaiah turns to them and says, Very well then, "With foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people." You won't listen to the prophet giving you precept on precept, line upon line explaining things to you in what you say is baby talk. You won't listen to that. Alright God will speak to you in different ways through these Assyrian troops that the leaders of this were in on the plot saying that he is going to come down and deliver you. They talk in a way you can't understand. They are going to come through the land and they are going to bring injury here. "With a strange tongue and foreign lips will I speak to you, this people to whom he has said, This is a resting place, let the weary rest." So then the word of God will become to them, "Do and do, do and do, rule on rule, rule on rule, a little here, a little there-- so that they will go and fall backward, be injured and snared and captured. Therefore hear the word of the Lord you scoffers who rule this people in Jerusalem. You boast, We have entered into a covenant with death, with hell we have made an agreement." He's referring to their secret plot that they are not explaining to send to the king of Assyria to get him to come and attack these two nations which Isaiah explained to Ahaz previously will mean that ~~Israel~~ Assyria will come between these two buffer states=== will come with no buffer states in between and they will eventually be in terrible danger from it.

He says, You boast we have entered into a covenant with death . . . when the overwhelming scourge sweeps by it cannot touch us for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place. So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place. Your covenant with death will be annulled; your agreement with hell will not stand. When the overwhelming scourge sweeps by