

It's a very common political stunt. You find it all through the ages. Thus in the 8th cent. A.D., you have Charlemagne the Emperor in Europe is at odds with the Emperor in Constantinople. So Charlemagne made something of an alliance with the Mohammedans, the other side of the Emperors in Constantinople, and people often make close friendships with people who are really a great distance from them in view-point because they may ~~have~~ think they have a common enemy.

Well, we read in Kings and Chronicles that Ahaz sent to Tiglath-Pilezer, the emperor of Assyria and promised to give him heavy tribute, to be subject to him if he would deliver him from Syria and from Israel. Tiglath-P. is only too glad for an excuse to conquer Syria, and he probably would have done it any way. But he was very glad for this added excuse and he was glad to get the booty that Judah sent him, and so he attacked Syria, he conquered Syria and put an end to the kingdom of ~~Aram~~ Aram, or Syria, as it is later called, and Israel he made to some extent subject to him. You might say a protectorate, rather than actually conquering it. It was a protectorate and remained that over 9 yrs. until/ until after 9 yrs. when he put very heavy taxes upon them, and they finally revolted. He then conquered Israel too and completely subjugated it, that is Tiglath-P. and his son did. Completely put an end to the kingdom of Israel.

The result then of the clever scheme of Ahaz to deliver his land from Egypt and from Syria was to bring Assyria right next to them, and to put them next in line for the Assyrian juggernaut, and actually while it brought an immediate relief, in the end it put them in terrible danger. And that is one of the great background thoughts of Isaiah here. You making a clever scheme. You're making a clever alliance which you think is going to give you peace and safety. It will come from Israel and Syria, yes. But it brings you to a far worse enemy. It puts you right next to it. You should trust God instead of trusting the Assyrian empire. And we read in Chron.

that list of all the great amount of booty that Ahaz sent to the King of Assyria. But we read that the king of Assyria did not help Ahaz. He did not get anything for