

the conclusion that these are nobles who are leaders in the K. of Judah and who are in Ahaz' counsels. They know that the plot has been made, that the word has been sent to Tiglath P. that they will give all this property to him if he will come and deliver them from Israel and from Syria. They know that. The people as a whole don't know it. And so these nobles are holding a banquet, and at this banquet they are celebrating the grt. accomplishments -- the making of this plan that they think is going to make them perfectly safe from Syria and from Israel. They are celebrating that. But they are not telling the people what they are celebrating. But I believe that people had a certain amount of access in and out into the banquet hall. That a certain number of the people who weren't in on the plan were there, but it was mainly these nobles who were feasting to celebrate this plan that they are sure will make them safe from Israel and Syrian. So into that banquet hall comes Isa. Under the circumstances, if Isa. came in and started to denounce them they would probably have thrown him out quickly. But if Isa. comes in and starts saying things that they don't particularly disapprove of they will not interfere with him, and if he says things they like he can get them into a mood where they will stay and let him keep on talking, and that is what we find a number of times in the prophetic books. Like we find it in Amos where Amos goes to the Northern Kingdom and starts speaking about the sins of Philistia, and Moab and these other countries and how God is going to punish them for it. And all the people are saying, That's wonderful. He is going to punish those wicked nations. Then when he gets them all interested in listening then he turns on them. We have the same thing here in what Isa. does.

So ch. 28 == Imagine this banquet there and these nobles gathered around and they are probably drinking rather heavily and eating a grt. deal, and in the midst of it Isa. stands up and says, Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim . . . You see here you have Ephraim vs. 1-4 -- the drunkards of Ephraim whose beauty is a fading flower . . . overcome with wine . . . vs. 2 . . . vs. 3 vs. 4 . . while it is yet in his hand he eats it up. In other words it is going quickly to disappear. Israel is a stronger larger nation than Judah. Samaria is its capitol.