

choose the good" is a possible translation of the Hebrew but is by no means the best translation. It would be much better to take it as a description of the time when the first part of the verse occurs. "When he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good", (in other words, by the time that this Child has reached the age of making simple choices) the two kings will have been destroyed.

The phrase "butter and honey" might be obscure if it were not clarified by examination of verse 22 where we are told that, as a result of the depopulation of the land because of the Assyrian invasion, the few people left in the land will have access to all of the products of the cattle and sheep that they can possibly use. As verse 23 points out, most of the land will be covered with briars and thorns, because of the lack of people to till the ground.

I discussed chapter 7 rather fully in the issue of the *Bible Today* for January, 1944.

LETTER 45
1970

ALMAH (VIRGIN) IN ISAIAH 7:14

Dr MacRae wrote to *TIME* magazine on March 18, 1970:

In the article on The New English Bible on page 56 of your issue of March 23, you include a completely erroneous statement about the Bible which includes a direct attack upon the Christian faith. Speaking of Isaiah 7:14, which, as rendered in the King James Version, "a virgin shall conceive," clearly predicts the virgin birth of Christ, your article goes on to say of the Hebrew word *almah*: "elsewhere in the Bible it is used to describe young women who are clearly not virgins." This is not only a direct attack upon what the New Testament clearly asserts (Matthew 1:22-23),