

day did the Lord God of hosts call to weeping, and to mourning, and to baldness, and to girding with sackcloth."

The Lord called the people to weeping, but they used the occasion for a big celebration and much festivity and joy. "If we're going to die anyway, why worry? It won't happen until tomorrow. Let's be happy today." The terrible denunciation is given in verse 14, "Surely this iniquity shall not be purged from you, till ye die, saith the Lord God of hosts."

In this examination of verses 1-14 we first noticed those verses which clearly tell us what is being portrayed. It is not a siege, but it is a situation in which there is danger of a future siege. The prophet warns the people and rebukes them for their failure to look to God as they should. As we read the passage, we cannot but be impressed with the similarity to the whole situation described in Isaiah 7. Doubtless this is a picture which the prophet received at the very time at which he received the material from chapter 7 on. It is a picture of God's word to the people about the Syro-Ephraimitic invasion. Chapter 17 described the attack on Damascus and Israel, and told of God's declaration that He will protect Judah. The people should look to Him; only through Him can they will find the protection they need. Instead of looking to God for help they have turned to Assyria. Ahaz has made his wicked alliance with Assyria, which is rebuked in chapter 7, and also in chapters 28 and 29. Ahaz does this to gain a temporary respite. God points out that it will not give them protection against Assyria, but will remove the buffer states. In chapters 18-21 he has shown the impossibility of looking to help from any other source. Here in chapter 22 he is rebuking the people of Jerusalem for their attitude and telling them of the misery that is ahead.

It is noteworthy that there is no statement in this chapter that Jerusalem will be taken. There is no declaration of any thing beyond a siege and possible captivity of some of the leaders. There are other sections in the book in which Isaiah declares that the city of Jerusalem will eventually fall into the hands of the enemy because of its disobedience to God, but that is not the message of this particular section. Here, as in the sections from chapter 7 to chapter 12 and from chapter 28 to chapter 33, God is dealing with the situation