

This morning I would like to look at a prophet at work. I would like to look at history in the light of the prophet Isaiah. This incident is described in Isa. 28. Someone has said that many of the passages in the prophetic books are like the part of Shakespeare would be if there were no statements as to who was the speaker in the different sections. I don't know whether that is true of any great part of the Bible, but it is certainly true of some of it. It is also true quite a bit particularly of the prophetic writings that in order to properly understand it you have to know something of the background.

This background we learn from the Bible itself. Sometimes from the passage; sometimes from other related passages. I am interested this morning in drawing certain important lessons from the activities of Isaiah, so will not take a great deal of time going into the background, but we have to have the background clearly in mind in order to see what Isaiah did.

The background of Isa. 28 is really learned from ch. 7, along with certain passages in the historic books. We find in ch. 7 that in the days of King Ahaz, a wicked king of Judah, a man who did not pay much attention to the prophet Isaiah, a man who was very secular in his attitudes, that in his day there was an alliance against Judah. An alliance composed of Rezin king of Syria, and Pekah the king of Israel. These two rulers of territories north of Judah decided to attack Judah, and to remove Ahaz and put in their own pet puppet king. When they did so, we learn from the historical books, that Ahaz thought of a very clever idea. He said, I will call the great king of Assyria who was way the other side of the kingdoms of Syria and of Israel, and I will offer him to pay him a considerable sum if he will come and free me from this danger, and attack the kings