

hell we are in agreement. He says, when the overflowing scourge shall pass through it shall not come night unto us, you say because we've made lies our refuge and under falsehood have we hid ourselves.

Therefore thus says the Lord God --- By this time the people are all listening with interest and they can't stop him now. He started very tactfully. He talked about the things they wanted to hear. Now he's gradually gotten into things they don't want to hear. "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation stone a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste. Justice will I lay to the line and righteousness to the plummet; and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be annulled and your agreement with sheol shall not stand. . . ." (Vv.16-18).

You thought the Assyrians are conquering land after land around here and you are just going to enter into an alliance with them and get their protection from these other people. <sup>You'll see that</sup> Your're clever plans will just bring them right next to you and put you in tremendous danger ~~from~~ from them. Like the American alliance with godless Russia a few ~~year~~ years ago, thinking that would deliver us from a great immediate danger, and it brought a far greater danger against us which we have to face now. The situation was exactly the same then. He says, your covenant with death will not stand! when the overflowing scourge passes through, you will be trampled down. In v. 20 he says, For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it; add the ~~XXXXX~~ covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it."

There are a few things I'd like to stress in this passage. One is the procedure of Isaiah. Isaiah acted in a way to get an audience; to get attention. Isaiah went where the people were. He went there and