

But then having said this he turns back to the Israelites and says, This is what God is going to do but not because youx deserve ~~it~~ anything. Verse 9: "Be stunned and amazed, blind yourselves and be sightless; be drunk, but not from wine, stagger, but not from beer. The Lord has brought over youx a deep sleep: He has sealed your eyes (the propehts); he has covered your heads (the seers). For you this whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll." \* In other words, Isaiah says, Here I am giving you the message of God. Here I'm telling you how you can receive Him, how you can be saved, how you can be delivered from all this and God is going to deliver at present. He has promised he is going to deliver you from Sennacherib, but what attitude are you taking?

It is like words sealed in a scroll. And you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say to him, Read this, please, and he will answer, I can't; it is sealed." But you give the scroll to somebody who cannot read, and say, REad this, please, he will answer, I ~~am~~ can't because I can't read." In other words they all have different excuses. They all have different excuses instead of looking to the Lord. The one who can't read could get someone to read it to him. The one who can open the == The one who can't open the scroll ==says he can't open it because it fastened, he can get somebody to open it after all.

The Lord says, Tehse people come near to me with their mouth ha and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men." How ready we are to read what one theologian says or another theologian, or one thinker, one observer, one fine Christian man perhaps and to forget that God's source for us is the Word of God. It is only the Word of God in which we can put our trust and not in the ideas of human beings.

So he says, Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men. Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder, the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish. Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the Lord." Here was this plan they were making to get Assyria and trying to keep it secret so he would not know. "Who do their work in darkness and think Who sees us? Who will know?as You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay. Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, He did not make me? Can the pot say to the potter, He knows nothing?

In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field seem like a forest?" Here is is speaking of the change that is going to occur when he turns to the nations and when the natural branches are grafted out for a time. Lebanon, the great forest of Lebanon he is referring to as that which is outside and Israel as the ~~israeyl~~ vineyard, the Lord's vineyard. He says this outside is going to become like a fertile field, and he says that the fertile field--the ones to whom God gave His message before--is going to seem like a forest.