

Whatever we may make of the prophecy of the Virgin Birth it should be remembered that it is a prophecy of trouble for Ahaz. We grant to Gray (I.C.C. p. 124) that "butter and honey" were delicacies. So they are in vs. 22. But delicacies there and in vs. 15 also will be available because there will be few residents left in the land to consume them. That the two kings will be gone is slight comfort, for they will go before the overflowing scourge of the king of Assyria who in fact slew Rezin of Damascus (II K. 16: 9). Whereas the 65 year period of verse 8 did not apply to Ahaz himself, this destruction was imminent, certain, and was to be complete. The ~~same~~ measure is cited in reference to Mahershalalhashbaz who was not, indeed, the Immanuel of 7: 14 but was an actual confirmatory illustration of Isaiah's word. The verses 7:17 to 8:18 and 9:8 to 10:4 proceed to enlarge upon the prophecy of defeat for Israel and near defeat for Judah at the hand of the Assyrians. We shall not examine these verses in detail, but shall only remark that they are full of figurative expressions which nevertheless are quite understandable. The "fly" of Egypt and the "bee" of Assyria are but metaphors for the invasions of those countries. But the things plainly referred to did literally come to pass and that before long. For the next half-century there were repeated invasions by Assyria and Egypt through both the land of Israel and of Judah until Ephraim was gone and Judah in great decline. The passage is highly poetical and is in exalted prophetic style, yet it refers to concrete events which came to pass in what may well be called literal fulfillment. By way of digression we should notice that certain ~~technical~~ phrases often called technical and important in the language of prophecy are here used in a natural and non-technical sense. **בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא** "In that day" is used four times in chap. 7, and in each case refers to the time of invasion by Assyria which is being