

know how and did not have the means to deliver...we would not be brought into the situation that perplexes us. It is the fact that He knows that tells us his care is right. He would not let us blunder or be tempted beyond what is within capability for us.

b. He has a program

That this program can be plainly seen in our text should not surprise anyone. God has a program of deliverance that we have noted earlier. But he also has a very comprehensive program that goes over all of our plans and activities. This may be seen after vs. 18 in our chapter where he analyzes the future of the rebellious people and their equally rebellious king. But in the name of Isaiah's son, Shearjashub, a name given as an object lesson to the people of that day, he reminds the nation that a remnant will be delivered. That is how all-encompassing his program is. Unfortunately we forget this fact of God's dealings and somehow imagine that his activity is as helter-skelter as our own. But he has a program and the knowledge of that will remind us that his care is right.

c. He deals justly

No doubt Ahaz thought he would succeed in his plan with or without God. But such was not the case. Those who mock him he will deal with as surely as he strengthens those who trust him. The record of this predictive passage is just that direct.

3. Now, it may seem at times as if God is "off the track" or as if his care could be questioned. That is the result of our sinful and very limited minds. The lesson of prophecy is that his care is right and he will exercise it in accord with his will. Of that we need have neither doubt nor fear.

IV. Conclusion

These are rather simple and basic lessons. We offer no apology for that. They are precisely the