

## Lesson 10 – 2 Kings 16

Text: 2 Kings 16; 2 Chronicles 28; Isaiah 7

Main Characters: God, Ahaz, Pekah, Rezin, Tiglath-pileser

### Key Passages:

- Isaiah 7:9 – If Ahaz refused to believe, he would not be established.
- 2 Chronicles 28:19 – God had brought Judah low because of the sins of Ahaz.

### Main Storyline:

After Jotham died, his son, Ahaz, became king over Judah. Ahaz was perhaps the most evil king of Judah to that point. Ahaz worshipped like the kings of Israel had worshipped (idols, etc.), but specifically, Ahaz worshipped Baal and offered his children as sacrifices to other false gods. Ahaz was the first king of Judah to offer this type of worship.

While Jotham was still king, the king of Syria, Rezin, and the king of Israel, Pekah, made an alliance and began to attack Judah unsuccessfully. Ahaz became very worried when he heard that Syria was coming against Judah. Isaiah asked Ahaz to meet with him at a certain place outside Jerusalem, where he assured Ahaz that Syria and Israel were no stronger than smoldering sticks. Isaiah told Ahaz to simply rely on the Lord for deliverance, or else he would not stand (Isaiah 7:1-9).

God told Ahaz that he should ask for a sign in order to strengthen his faith. Ahaz refused to ask for any sign. God declared that He would send a sign anyway; a virgin would bear a son named Immanuel. Before that son could grow up, Syria and Israel would be forsaken. (Isaiah 7:10-17)

Still, Ahaz would not listen to Isaiah and refused to put his trust in God. Rezin and Pekah attacked Judah multiple times. Though they could not take Jerusalem and install their own king over Judah, they were successful at killing many of the people of Judah and taking many cities and captives (2 Kings 16:5-6; 2 Chronicles 28:5-8). At some point, the Edomites and Philistines also attacked Judah (2 Chronicles 28:17-19). God allowed Judah to be defeated because of Ahaz' lack of faith.

Pekah had taken many of the captives to Samaria, capital of Israel. There, a prophet from God, Oded, rebuked him. He told them that the only reason that they had been able to win was because of God's anger toward Judah, and now Israel had earned the wrath of God because they had killed so many people from Judah. Oded told them that they should send the captives back to Judah. In response, the some of the people took care of the captives and sent them back to Judah.

Ahaz still refused to seek help from God, so he turned to the king of Assyria, Tiglath-pileser for assistance. Ahaz took the silver and gold from the temple and sent it to Tiglath-pileser as a gift. The Assyrian army then came against Damascus (capital of Syria), killed Rezin, and took its people as captives. Ahaz was so happy that he decided to meet Tiglath-pileser in Damascus. Despite his attempts to create an alliance between them, the new "relationship" did not end up helping Judah.

Ahaz decided that it would be a good idea to start worshipping the gods of Syria in Judah (he believed that since they had helped Syria defeat Judah, perhaps by worshipping them, they would help Judah as well). He sent a pattern of the Syrian altar back to Judah, where a replica was made. This new altar replaced the bronze altar for burnt offering in front of the temple. Ahaz continued in sin, ultimately shutting the doors of the temple. He eventually died, and his son, Hezekiah, became king.

### Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) We must ultimately trust in God if we hope to be victorious over sin (or any enemy). Trusting in other gods, idols, or people is only vanity.
- 2.) God's prophecies ultimately come true; we must completely trust Him and His words.