

## 2 Kings 16:1-20 **Ahaz – Wicked reign in Judah**

### Ahaz Reigns in Judah (2 Chron 28:1-27)

<sup>1</sup> In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham, king of Judah, began to reign.

<sup>2</sup> Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord his God, as his father David had done. <sup>3</sup> But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel; indeed he made his son pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out from before the children of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.

<sup>5</sup> Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, came up to Jerusalem to make war; and they besieged Ahaz but could not overcome him. <sup>6</sup> At that time Rezin king of Syria captured Elath for Syria, and drove the men of Judah from Elath. Then the Edomites went to Elath, and dwell there to this day.

<sup>7</sup> So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, saying, "I am your servant and your son. Come up and save me from the hand of the king of Syria and from the hand of the king of Israel, who rise up against me." <sup>8</sup> And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasuries of the king's house, and sent it as a present to the king of Assyria. <sup>9</sup> So the king of Assyria heeded him; for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus and took it, carried its people captive to Kir, and killed Rezin.

<sup>10</sup> Now King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, and saw an altar that was at Damascus; and King Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the design of the altar and its pattern, according to all its workmanship. <sup>11</sup> Then Urijah the priest built an altar according to all that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus. So Urijah the priest made it before King Ahaz came back from Damascus.

<sup>12</sup> And when the king came back from Damascus, the king saw the altar; and the king approached the altar and made offerings on it. <sup>13</sup> So he burned his burnt offering and his grain offering; and he poured his drink offering and sprinkled the blood of his peace offerings on the altar. <sup>14</sup> He also brought the bronze altar which was before the Lord, from the front of the temple — from between the new altar and the house of the Lord — and put it on the north side of the new altar.

<sup>15</sup> Then King Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, "On the great new altar burn the morning burnt offering, the evening grain offering, the king's burnt sacrifice, and his grain offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, their grain offering, and their drink offerings; and sprinkle on it all the blood of the burnt offering and all the blood of the sacrifice. And the bronze altar shall be for me to inquire by." <sup>16</sup> Thus did Urijah the priest, according to all that King Ahaz commanded.

<sup>17</sup> And King Ahaz cut off the panels of the carts, and removed the lavers from them; and he took down the Sea from the bronze oxen that were under it, and put it on a pavement of stones. <sup>18</sup> Also he removed the Sabbath pavilion which they had built in the temple, and he removed the king's outer entrance from the house of the Lord, on account of the king of Assyria.

19 Now the rest of the acts of Ahaz which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 20 So Ahaz rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

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Facts Revealed:

### Ahaz Reigns in Judah (2 Chron 28:1-27)

✧ In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham, king of Judah, began to reign.

Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and **he did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord his God**, as his father David had done. But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel; indeed **he made his son pass through the fire**, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out from before the children of Israel. And **he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.** [2 Kings 16:1-4]

◇ Following a line of four mostly godly kings in Judah, namely Jehoshaphat, Amaziah, Uzziah, and Jotham, Ahaz chose to turn away from Yahweh the God of Judah, only to seek the pagan gods chosen by the kings of Israel as well as the gods of the nations God drove out before the Children of Israel.

◇ Ahaz went beyond the sins of the kings of Israel, even causing his son to pass through the fire to Molech. This was specifically forbidden by the Law of Yahweh. [Leviticus 18:21, Deuteronomy 18:10]

◇ Ahaz **made molded images for the Baals, He burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire** and the high places continued to be a problem during his reign because he **sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.** [2 Chronicles 28:1-4]

### Judah under attack – Ahaz turns to Assyria for help

✧ Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, came up to Jerusalem to make war; and they besieged Ahaz but could not overcome him. At that time Rezin king of Syria captured Elath for Syria, and drove the men of Judah from Elath. Then the Edomites went to Elath, and dwell there to this day. [2 Kings 16:5-6]

◇ Because Ahaz turned so fully away from the God of Israel, Yahweh began to bring enemy armies against them.

◇ Rezin of Syria and Pekah of Israel came against Jerusalem and did much damage but could not destroy it. [2 Chronicles 28:5-8]

◇ Cities were taken away from Judah, but Yahweh would not at this time allow Jerusalem to fall because there were two godly kings to come in the years ahead. In the time of Ahaz, Yahweh was faithful to send warnings through the prophets Isaiah, Hosea, Micah, and Oded

◇ Isaiah confirmed this fact and declared that Israel would cease from being a nation within 65 years. [Isaiah 7:1-9]

◇ Hosea spoke of the decline and fall of Israel and Judah, and of the coming Kingdom age.

◇ Micah spoke of the decline and fall of Israel and Judah, and of the coming Kingdom age.

◇ Oded commanded the army of Israel to return the captives of Judah. [2 Chronicles 28:9-15]

✧ 7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, saying, "I am your servant and your son. Come up and save me from the hand of the king of Syria and from the hand of the king of Israel, who rise up against me." 8 And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasuries of the king's house, and sent it as a present to the

king of Assyria. <sup>9</sup> So the king of Assyria heeded him; for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus and took it, carried its people captive to Kir, and killed Rezin. [2 Kings 16:7-9]

✧ Ahaz bribed Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria to help him against Syria and Israel, and received assistance as the Assyrians attacked Damascus of Syria and killed Rezin its king.

✧ Ahaz trusted in the Assyrians for help instead of turning to Yahweh the God of Israel.

✧ Ahaz king of Judah went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria and saw an altar in Damascus he admired, so he sent the pattern of the alter to Urijah the priest in Jerusalem and had an alter made according to the design he saw in Damascus.

Ahaz proceeded to make his offerings on the pagan altar and commanded Urijah the priest to use it instead of the altar of Yahweh which he moved to the north side of the new altar.

Urijah the priest did all according to the command of Ahaz.

Ahaz cut off the panels from the carts and removed the lavers. He removed the sea from the bronze oxen and placed it on a pavement of stone. He removed the pavilion they had built in the Temple and removed the king's outer entrance from the House of Yahweh to please the king of Assyria. [2 Kings 16:10-18]

✧ Ahaz thus desecrated the Temple of Yahweh to satisfy the king of Assyria.

✧ Later when the Lord brought the Edomites and Philistines against Judah, because of Ahaz king of Judah, for he had encouraged moral decline in Judah and had been continually unfaithful to the Lord.

Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came to him and distressed him, and did not assist him. For Ahaz took part of the treasures from the house of the Lord, from the house of the king, and from the leaders, and he gave it to the king of Assyria; but he did not help him. [2 Chronicles 28:16-21]

✧ Continued unrighteousness on the part of the king of Judah brought great calamity.

✧ Now the rest of the acts of Ahaz which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? [2 Chronicles 28:1-27]

So Ahaz rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Hezekiah his son reigned in his place. [2 Kings 16:19-20]

✧ Because of his many sins Ahaz was not buried in the tombs of the kings. [2 Chronicles 28:27]