

Introduction

Last week we saw some glimmering hope for **JUDAH** with the 16-year reign of **JOTHAM** the son of **UZZIAH**.

Though **JOTHAM** still did not remove the high places...and the people still were doing corruptly by sacrificing and burning incense in those high places... yet according to *2 Chronicles 27:6*, "*Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God!*"

Whatever glimmer may have come to the small, believing remnant for a possible revival in **JUDAH** was quashed by **JOTHAM'S** son, **AHAZ** who ascended to the throne!

AHAZ was twenty years old when he succeeded his father **JOTHAM** to the throne of **JUDAH**. When he ascended to the throne he was five years younger than when his father did (20 vs 25) and we will see the lack of maturity showed itself in his reign! So let's begin...

I. WE SEE THAT AHAZ WAS WICKED!

- A. First, "...He Did Not That Which Was Right In The Sight Of The LORD, Like David His Father."**
(2 Kings 16:2; 2 Chronicles 28:1)

What many of these kings didn't realize was just how much the LORD was watching both **the way they lived** and **the way they reigned!**

AHAZ was nothing like his forefather **DAVID**, of whom the **LORD** said that **DAVID** was a man after **GOD'S** own heart!

But we see that he also was nothing like his **grandfather** **UZZIAH** who started out well and then ended badly when he was lifted up with pride and struck with leprosy.

Also, he was nothing like his father **JOTHAM** who became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the **LORD** his **GOD**.

- B. Second, "...He Walked In The Ways Of The Kings Of Israel."**
(2 Kings 16:3a; 2 Chronicles 28:2)
And the *2 Chronicles* account also says "*...and made also molten images for Baalim.*"

What do we remember about the Kings Of **ISRAEL**? **EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM WERE IDOLATORS!**

And at this time **ISRAEL** and her kings were well locked into a state of decline from which they would not recover!

In fact, at this point, **ISRAEL** was already close to the point to where they were carried away into captivity by the **ASSYRIANS**.

But it gets worse than just idolatry for **JUDAH** here!

- C. Third, "...And Made His Son To Pass Through The Fire, According To The Abominations Of The Heathen , Whom The LORD Cast Out Before The Children Of Israel."**
(2 Kings 16:3b)

"Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the fire, after the abominations of the heathen whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel." *(2 Chronicles 28:3)*

Molech was an old Canaanite idol. The usual description given of this god is that of a hollow image made of brass, and having human body with the head of an ox. The idol sat on a brazen throne with hand extended. In sacrificing to it the image was heated to redness by a fire built within. The parents then placed their children in the heated arms, while the noise of drums and cymbals drowned out the cries of the little sufferers.
(Manners and Customs of the Bible, by James Freeman, 1972, Logos International, pg. 92)

The LORD had given ISRAEL a specific prohibition against this practice: *Leviticus 18:21* – “*And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech...*”

Also see *Leviticus 20:1-5* for the prescribed punishment for those involved in this practice.

D. Fourth, “He Sacrificed Also And Burnt Incense In The High Places, And On The Hills, And Under Every Green Tree.”
(2 Chronicles 28:4; 2 Kings 16:4)

The failure of his father JOTHAM, his grandfather UZZIAH, his great-grandfather AMAZIAH, and other of his forefathers to not do away with these high places and to forbid the people of JUDAH from sacrificing and burning incense on the high places ultimately led to their seed, AHAZ, embracing it for himself!

WE SEE THAT AHAZ WAS WICKED...

II. WE SEE THE CONSEQUENCES THAT CAME TO AHAZ AND JUDAH FOR THIS GREAT WICKEDNESS!

We’re going to see here in *2 Chronicles 28* the great troubles that befell the land of JUDAH and king AHAZ for this wickedness!

AHAZ found himself being hard-pressed by the united armies of REZIN of SYRIA and PEKA of ISRAEL. The position of JERUSALEM was very precarious, but it did not fall.

But first, let’s turn to *Isaiah 7* where we see that the Prophet ISAIAH tried his best to encourage AHAZ and assure him that the LORD would save the city of JERUSALEM from the hands of the enemies! In the midst of this prophecy, the prophecy of our LORD’s virgin birth into this world was given as a sign to the house of David!

The LORD called on AHAZ to turn back to the LORD and trust in HIM and his reign would be established! But the idolatrous AHAZ had no trust in the LORD God! So...back to *2 Chronicles 28...*

A. The LORD Allowed REZIN The King Of SYRIA To Invade JUDAH, Kill An Undisclosed Number Of Them, And Carry A Great Multitude Of Them Captive To DAMASCUS! *(2 Chronicles 28:5a)*

2 Kings 16:5-6 reveals that though AHAZ and JERUSALEM withstood the siege of REZIN and did not totally fall, REZIN recaptured the important harbor of ELATH that had been restored and built by AMAZIAH (*2 Kings 14:22*). REZIN drove out ELATH’S Jewish inhabitants and in their stead he brought in Syrian colonists.

B. The LORD Allowed PEKA The King Of ISRAEL To Smite JUDAH With A Great Slaughter! *(2 Chronicles 28:5b-6)*
120,000 of AHAZ’S valiant men were killed in battle in one day! *2 Kings 16:5* shows that the invasion by REZIN of SYRIA and PEKAH of ISRAEL happened simultaneously!

All of this happened “*because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers.*”

C. The LORD Allowed ZICHRI, A Mighty Man Of EPHRAIM, To Slay One Of The King’s Sons, The Governor Of The King’s House, And The King’s Closest Advisor! *(2 Chronicles 28:7)*

D. The LORD Allowed ISRAEL To Spoil JUDAH And To Carry Away A Great Number Of Them Captive To Samaria! *(2 Chronicles 28:8)*

200,000 brethren, women, sons, and daughters.

That is our Bible study for this evening, but we are NOT done with AHAZ yet. LORD willing, when we come back in two weeks, we’ll see the intervention of the LORD by way of a prophet named OBED on behalf of these captives that were carried back to SAMARIA!