

REIGN OF AHAZ IN JUDAH
(2 Kings 16:1-20)

- I. The CHARACTER of His Reign (2 Kings 16:1-4)
 - A. His IDENTITY
 - 1. Became king at age TWENTY in the SEVENTEENTH year of Pekah
 - 2. Son of JOTHAM, ruled for SIXTEEN years
 - B. His APOSTASY
 - 1. He DID NOT do what was RIGHT in the sight of the LORD
 - 2. He IMITATED the kings of ISRAEL
 - 3. He offered his SON as a HUMAN SACRIFICE
 - 4. He practiced unauthorized worship in the HIGH PLACES

- II. The SURRENDER of His Sovereignty (2 Kings 16:5-9)
 - A. An ASSASSINATION plot threatens the Davidic DYNASTY
 - 1. Isaiah promises DELIVERANCE if Ahaz will TRUST GOD (Isa. 7:1-9)
 - 2. Ahaz begs for help from ASSYRIA (cf. 2 Sam. 7:14)
 - 3. Ahaz looted the TEMPLE to pay Assyria a BRIBE
 - B. The Assyrians “RESCUED” Ahaz from Aram

III. The INNOVATIONS of His Worship (2 Kings 16:10-18)

- A. Ahaz went to DAMASCUS to “MEET” Tiglath-Pileser
- B. Ahaz was IMPRESSED with an altar in the capital of ARAM/SYRIA
- C. He ordered a REPLICA built in JERUSALEM
- D. He offered SACRIFICES on the PAGAN altar (cf. 1 Kings 12:32-33)
- E. He MOVED the TEMPLE altar so his new altar would be DOMINANT
- F. He commanded ALL offerings be made on HIS ALTAR
- G. The LORD’S altar would be for the king’s DIVINATION
- H. He DISMANTLED historic WORSHIP

IV. The HIGHLIGHT of His Administration (2 Kings 16:19-20)

- A. He was BURIED in Jerusalem
- B. His son Hezekiah ASCENDED to the THRONE

V. Lessons

- A. In times of trouble we may have to choose between human INGENUITY and divine PROMISE
- B. Our worship must be for the GLORY of GOD not the PLEASURE of MEN
- C. Evil can be promoted by WEAKNESS as much as by WICKEDNESS
- D. Even in the DARKNESS there remains HOPE