

### **20 – AHAZ & THE FALL OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM (2 KINGS 16:1-17:41; 2 CHRONICLES 28:1-27)**

#### I. Ahaz, King of Judah (2 Kings 16:1-20; 2 Chronicles 28:1-27)

##### A. The Wickedness of Ahaz (2 Kings 16:1-4; 2 Chronicles 28:1-4)

- In the 17<sup>th</sup> year of Pekah's reign as king of Israel, Ahaz became king over Judah.
- Ahaz was 20 years old when he became King and ruled over Judah for 16 years.
- He did evil in the sight of the Lord and did not walk according to the ways of David.
- He walked in the ways of Israel's kings and he molded images for the Baals.
- Ahaz offered his children to the fire as the Canaanites did before the Lord cast them out.
- He sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills and under every green tree.

##### B. The Lord's Judgment (2 Kings 16:5-6; 2 Chronicles 28:5-15)

- Because Ahaz led Judah into sin, the Lord gave them into the hands of their enemies.
- Syria defeated Ahaz and exiled a large number of the people to Damascus.
- Ahaz also suffered defeat by the Israel and 120,000 troops were killed in one day.
- Israel carried away 200,000 women, children and spoil to Samaria.
- A prophet named Obed met the army before they reached Samaria.
- He warned them that the Lord was angry with them because they attacked Judah with rage.
- They are guilty before the Lord because they want to make the captives from Judah into slaves.
- They are to free the captives because the wrath of the Lord is upon them.
- Some of the elders stood against those who returned from Judah concerning the captives.
- They did not want to add to the sins of Israel, so the army left the captives and spoil.
- They clothed the captives and brought them to Jericho to return them to Judah.
- Rezin, King of Syria, and Pekah, King of Israel, lay siege to Ahaz at Jerusalem.
- They failed to overcome Ahaz with the siege, but Syria took Elath from Judah.

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### C. The Alliance with Assyria (2 Kings 16:7-9; 2 Chronicles 28:16-21)

- At the same time as the attacks from Syria and Israel, other nations attacked as well.
- Ahaz sent a message to Tiglath-Pileser, King of Assyria.
- Ahaz proclaimed that he was the Assyrian king's servant and son.
- He requested that the Assyrians would save Judah from Syria and Israel.
- He sent the gold and silver of the Temple and the palace to the Assyrian king.
- Ahaz was distressed because the Assyrian king would not help him.
- The Assyrian king took Damascus, killing Rezin and taking Syria into exile.

### C. The Desecration of the Temple (2 Kings 16:10-18; 2 Chronicles 28:22-25)

- Ahaz went to Damascus to visit the Assyrian king and saw an altar there.
- He sent the design and pattern of the altar to Urijah the High Priest.
- The High Priest built the altar before Ahaz returned from Damascus.
- The king made offerings on the new altar and had the Bronze altar moved.
- Ahaz sacrificed to the gods of Damascus because Syria had defeated him.
- The king commanded that the sacrifices be made on the new altar.
- The king commanded that the Bronze altar could only be used by the king.
- The king also had various items in the Temple adjusted and changed.
- Ahaz shut the doors of the Temple and made himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem.
- The king made these changes to the Temple on the account of the Assyrian king.

### D. The Death of Ahaz (2 Kings 16:19-20; 2 Chronicles 28:26-27)

- The writer of Kings lists where the details of Ahaz's reign are recorded.
- Ahaz died and was buried in Jerusalem as his son Hezekiah became king of Judah.

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- The Chronicler records that they did not bury him in the tomb of the kings.

## II. Hoshea, King of Israel (2 Kings 17:1-4)

- In the 12<sup>th</sup> year of Ahaz's reign as King of Judah, Hoshea became Israel's king and reigned 9 years.
- He did evil in the sight of the Lord, but not according to the kings of Israel before him.
- Shalmaneser, King of Assyria, came against Israel and Hoshea became a vassal to him.
- The Assyrian king uncovered a conspiracy between Hoshea and Egypt.
- Hoshea was bound in prison by the Assyrian king.

## III. The Captivity of the Northern Kingdom (2 Kings 17:5-41)

### A. The Exile of Israel (2 Kings 17:5-6)

- The Assyrian king went throughout the Northern Kingdom and laid siege to Samaria.
- In the 9<sup>th</sup> year of Hoshea, the Assyrians took Samaria and carried them into exile.

### B. The Reason for the Exile (2 Kings 17:7-23)

- Israel was exiled because they sinned against the Lord by committing idolatry.
- The Lord sent prophets to Israel, but they refused to listen and believe.
- Israel left and rejected the commandments as they built two calves.
- They also worshipped the host of heaven and the Baals.
- They sacrificed their children to the fire and sold themselves to evil in the Lord's sight.
- The Lord was angry with Israel and removed him from his sight.
- The Lord left only Judah in his sight, but they also rejected the Lord.
- The Lord rejected the descendants of Israel and gave them to plunderers.
- So, Israel was rejected and carried away in exile to Assyria.

### C. The Outcome of the Exile (2 Kings 17:24-41)

- The Assyrian King brought exiles from other nations to inhabit the cities of Israel.
- These nations did not know and fear the Lord, so God sent lions among them.

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- These peoples told the Assyrian king that the God of the land is angry with them.
- The Assyrian king had a priest from Israel returned to the land.
- This priest came to Bethel and taught the people to fear the Lord.
- The people feared the Lord and continued to worship the gods of the nations they came from.
- Because they served the gods of their nations, they did not truly serve to the Lord.