

1. Jotham reigns

- a. After Uzziah was struck down with leprosy, Jotham reigned for 16 years, starting at age 25
 - a1. He only lives to be 41, while wicked King Manasseh rules for 55 years
 - a2. Longevity is not an indication of holiness
- b. Jotham rebuilt the upper gate of the temple
 - a1. He repaired the north wall of Ophel
 - a2. He did not remove the high places, so Judah still made offerings there
- c. God declared that like Uzziah, Jotham did right

2. Ahaz rules

- a. Even though his grandfather & father served the Lord, Ahaz served idols

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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, as his father David *had done*. ²For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made molded images for the Baals. ³He burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. ⁴And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.

- b. God then raised up Syria and Israel against Judah
 - a1. The 2 nations took many cities and captives
 - a2. They killed 120,000 in one day
- c. Instead of calling on the Lord, Ahaz took silver from the temple & sent it to Tiglath-Pileser to bribe Assyria to attack Syria (2 Kn. 16:7-9)

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⁷So 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." ⁸And 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. ⁹So 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.

- a1. Assyria took Damascus, but did not help Ahaz
 - a2. Israel & Syria withdraw only after they took great plunder
 - a3. Edom took the opportunity to retake Elath
- d. Ahaz then goes to Damascus & copies a pagan altar to put in the temple

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⁹But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name *was* Oded; and he went out before the army that came to Samaria, and said to them: "Look, because the LORD God of your fathers was angry with Judah, He has delivered them into your hand; but you have killed them in a rage *that* reaches up to heaven. ¹⁰And now you propose to force the children of Judah and Jerusalem to be your male and female slaves; *but are* you not also guilty before the LORD your God? ¹¹Now hear me, therefore, and return the captives, whom you have taken captive from your brethren, for the fierce wrath of the LORD *is* upon you." ¹²Then some of the heads of the children of Ephraim, Azariah the son of Johanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai, stood up against those who came from the war, ¹³and said to them, "You shall not bring the captives here, for *we already* have offended the LORD. You intend to add to our sins and to our guilt; for our guilt is great, and *there is* fierce wrath against Israel." ¹⁴So the armed men left the captives and the *spoils* before the leaders and all the assembly

- e. Oded warned Israel to return the 200,000 captives they took or God will judge them, so they did
- f. Ahaz then sets up his pagan altar in the temple, & instructs sacrifices to be made on it (2 Kn. 16:10-16)

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¹⁰Now 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. ¹¹Then 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. ¹²And when the king came back from Damascus, the king saw the altar; and the king approached the altar and made offerings on it.

- a1. He even tore up some of the furnishings of the temple to make new items to go with his altar
 - a2. God's anger burned against Ahaz & Judah

3. A hard heart

- a. Even though he had a godly father and even though God sent great judgment on him, Ahaz refused to repent
- b. His abominations cost Judah hundreds of people
- c. Ahaz had a godly son, Hezekiah, who undid much of what his father had done
- d. Ahaz is a lesson of the fallen heart
 - a1. Ezk. 18 it did not matter that he had a godly heritage, he still had a freewill
 - a2. It did not matter that God sent great punishment on him, his pride did not allow him to repent
- e. Ahaz did what he wanted to do despite consequences
- f. Holiness is a choice that goes beyond training & reaping