

Ahaz

Notes for 27 Jun

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Read: [2 Kings 16](#)

Welcome to our discussion of AHAZ, the chapter with so much in it.

Please read or listen to 2 Kings 16, also check and compare [2 Chronicles 28](#), [Isaiah 7:1-12](#) and [Acts 5:29](#).

These cross references helped me to understand more of the message for us, 2 Chronicles explained the events more clearly to me.

	2 Kings 16	2 Chron 28	Isa 7:1-12
Primary Theme	Historical narrative.	Theological interpretation of sin, defeat and grace	Prophetic call to faith and Divine promise
Key Events	Ahaz's treaties with Assyria and temple modifications	The devastating loss of life and return of Judean captives.	Isaiah's offer of a sign and the Immanuel prophecy.
Ahaz's spiritual State	Walked in the ways of Israel, child sacrifice, and built a pagan altar in Jerusalem.	Abandoned God, idols to Baal, child sacrifice, and closed temple doors entirely.	Implicit unbelief and reliance on political alliance over divine deliverance.

Superficial: fills out our timeline of kings and events

Deeper: consequences of choices, not obeying God and grace, forgiveness and God's persistence. Does anyone else see this or want to comment?

Ahaz is 20 yrs old and reigns for 16yrs. His grandfather was Uzziah who was faithful until he wasn't resulting in punishment and leprosy. His father was Jotham who was faithful and then Ahaz came along and turned away from God.

Faith is not inherited. Would you like to discuss this?

Ahaz's world is collapsing. He forms an allegiance with Assyria (the brutal regime who worshipped Baal). He neglects to ask God. He was warned to stand firm, he was invited to ask for a sign (and make it a hard one) and then he used false piety to reject the invitation. He went it alone. (Sound familiar?)

Ahaz had a choice to run away from God or run to Him. (Isaiah encouraged him to run to God). Read Isa 7:10-16.

Over the past weeks we have studied various themes, they are all found here

- Grace, God doesn't give up
- Mercy, given and withheld
- Forgiveness, is God too forgiving?
- Asking for guidance and what happens when we don't
- Idolatry, holding things secretly in our hearts (Josiah)
- Pride and power [2 Kings 15](#).
- Zeal and urgency, (Jehu and) Uria in following man not God's orders.
- Choice, from Eden until present time.

Ahaz's failings include:

- False piety Isa 7:10-14.
- Tore down icons of worship and God 2 Kings 16:14.
- Moved the alter to the side v14.
- Set up shrines all over the place v4.
- Closed the temple doors entirely 2 Chron 28:24.
- Chose to reject God and His signs resulting in chaos, collapse and attacks.

People suffered, men obeyed him, read [Acts 5:29](#). (Uria followed orders to remodel the temple) and Ahaz refused to turn to God even in his time of trouble and distress.

1. Do you think people regretted asking for a king yet?
2. Is Ahaz moving the alter to the side symbolism for us sideling God?
3. What have we learned from these texts that can apply to us individually, to our Virtual Vestry group, to leadership (church or community)?
4. I am wondering why God didn't/hasn't/doesn't intervene. What is He waiting for, are we not witnessing enough (we were taught growing up that God wants to give people a chance.) I am wondering if the catalyst for the return of Jesus will be physical in the decline of our earthly home rather than a spiritual decision?
Discuss.

Conclusion: Faith and listening to God is the thread going thru this for me.

A faith response would be 2 Chron 20:12 "we don't know what to do but our eyes are on you".