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YouTube Prayer Link

The status of the new altar, the bronze altar

2 Kings 16

Second Kings chapter 16 describes the reign of King Ahaz of Judah, who succeeded his father Jotham. Ahaz did not follow the path of his father and grandfather, both of whom were faithful to God, but did evil in the eyes of Yahweh.

Ahaz even offered his son in the fire, as the Canaanites did. He also followed the practice of the kings of Israel, who worshipped and made idols on high places.

As a result, God allowed the kings of Syria and Israel to attack Judah and capture several cities. Ahaz then sought help from the Assyrian king Tiglas Pilsar, who came to his aid and attacked Syria and Israel, conquering their lands and exiling their people.

While God raised up Syria and Israel to discipline Ahaz, he sent the prophet Isaiah to exhort Ahaz to turn to God and not to fear men. But Ahaz had no faith in God, and instead turned to Assyria for help, pretending to say, "I will not tempt the Lord." As a result, although they were separated from Syria and Israel, they fell under the dominion of Assyria. Today, if we refuse to surrender to God and only

rely on human methods to solve problems, we can only move from one problem to another, from one enemy to another, from another, more vicious enemy.

Ahaz traveled to Damascus to meet with Tiglas Pilese, where he saw an altar he admired. He built a replica of the altar in Jerusalem's temple of Yahweh and even changed the design of the temple to match the temple in Damascus.

The "bronze altar" used for sacrifice, which was originally placed directly east of the temple entrance, has now been "moved to the north of the new altar," meaning that the "new altar" has replaced the "bronze altar." The 'bronze altar' (v.14), which was originally placed directly east of the temple entrance, has been 'moved to the north of the new altar' (v.14), meaning that the 'new altar' has replaced the 'bronze'. From then on, Ahaziah used a new altar to 'sacrifice to the God of Damascus, who had attacked him' (2 Chronicles 28:23), a bronze altar to 'inquire of the Lord' (v.15), a replacement for God with a Gentile idol, and a great way to say spiritual words: 'I will not tempt the Lord' (Isaiah 7:12) and 'inquire of the Lord'. God's people worship idolatry is rebellion, and disguising themselves as spiritual is a deeper rebellion.

Today, there are those who do not examine the spiritual roots of the failures of individuals, families, or churches, but believe that because there are no good methods and resources, they "sin more and more against Jehovah in times of distress" (2 Chronicles 28:23), and they put many of the world's methods and theories in a spiritual package and introduce them into the church in place of the Bible. What they did was actually to worship the god of the world with a "new altar" on the one hand, and bribe the true god with a "bronze altar" on the other, and in fact to replace the status of the "bronze altar" with a "new altar", and in front of both altars they were idolatrous. For "if anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15).

When we are challenged by circumstances, what we do about our true faith can be seen from the choices we make, do we really believe in God, or are we just religious? If we are only believing in a religion, then when we are facing difficulties, our immediate reaction may be like Ahaz turning to the mighty Assyria on earth and not to the King of kings in heaven. Pray that God will help us to have a personal intimacy with Him, so that we know that He will help and sustain us, so that we can boldly ask Him in everything.

There are many passages in the Bible that say that we should seek God's help and guidance in all things. Here are some related verses:

Philippians 4:6-7

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, and thanksgiving, make known to God what you want. The peace of God that transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 』

James 1:5

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all men, and does not rebuke men, and the Lord will give it to him. 』

Psalm 50:15

"Call upon me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver you, and you will glorify me. 』

Psalm 55:22

"Cast your weight on Yahweh, and he will feed you, and he will never stir the righteous. 』

Matthew 7:7-8

"Ask, and it will be given to you, seek and find, and knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asketh receives, and he that seeks, findeth him, and to him that knocketh he openeth unto him. 』

These verses remind us that we should rely on God and ask Him for help, wisdom, and guidance in all things, no matter what the circumstances. God is our strength, comfort, and refuge, and He will answer our prayers when we seek Him.

We pray together:

Dear Heavenly Father,

We gather with you at this time to thank you for giving us life, faith, and hope. We pray for your grace and guidance to comfort and calm our hearts.

Help us to see our true beliefs and inner motives. Let's not be bothered by external irritability and chaos, but focus on your words and love.

Lord, please give us wisdom and courage to let our faith shine in this world as a testimony of your love and mercy. Help us not to forget your grace and to face the challenges of each day with gratitude and kindness.

We trust in your grace and strength to lead us to truth and light. Thank you for listening to our prayers and for giving us peace and joy.

In the name of Jesus Christ I pray, amen.

2 Kings 16

16:1 In the seventeenth year of Pecaah the son of Remalia, Ahaaz the son of Jotan king of Judah became king.

16:2 He was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. not like his ancestor David Xingye and Hua He saw what was right in the eyes of his god ,

16:3 But he did as the kings of Israel had done, and according to the abominations of the Gentiles whom Jehohua had driven out from the presence of the Israelites, and caused his sons to pass through fire.

16:4 and on the hill , and on the hill, under the verdant trees , offering sacrifices and burning incense .

16:5 Rezin king of Syria and Pekah, son of Remalia king of Israel, came up against Jerusalem and besieged Ahaz, but they could not overcome him.

16:6 Then King Lexin of Syria took Erathah and returned it to Syria, and drove the Jews out of Eratha. And the Syrians came to Erathah and dwelt there unto this day.

16:7 And Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglas Peleser king of Assyria, and said, I am thy servant, thy son. Now the king of Syria and the king of Israel have struck against me: come, I pray thee, and deliver me out of their hand.

16:8 Ahaz gave the king of Assyria all the silver and gold that was in the house of Jehohua and the treasury of the king's house.

16:9 And when the king of Assyria had heard him, he went up against Damascus, and took the city, and slew Rezin, and carried the inhabitants captive to Gir.

16:10 King Ahaz went up to Damascus to meet Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and when he saw an altar in Damascus, he drew a picture according to the pattern of the altar and sent it to Uliath the priest.

16:11 Ulea, the priest, built an altar before King Ahaz returned from Damascus, according to the pattern that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus.

16:12 When the king came back from Damascus, he saw the altar, and came near, and offered sacrifices on it.

16:13 burnt offerings, grain offerings, pouring offerings, sprinkling the blood of the peace offerings on the altars,

16:14 And he moved the bronze altar in front of Yahwa from the middle of the Yahwa hall and the new altar to the north side of the new altar.

16:15 King Ahaz commanded Uliath the priest, saying, "The burnt offering in the morning, and the grain offering in the evening, and the king's burnt offering, and the grain offering, and the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and the grain offering, and the drink offering, shall be burned on the altar." and the blood of the burnt offerings and the peace offerings shall be sprinkled upon this altar, but the bronze altar I will use to inquire of the Hohwa.

16:16 And Uleath the priest did as King Ahaz had commanded.

16:17 King Ahaz struck off the heart that was set on the four sides of the base, and removed the basin from the seat, and brought down the sea of copper from the oxen that were carrying the sea, and laid it on the paving ground.

16:18 And for the king's sake, he moved the porch which the house of Yahohua had built for the Sabbath, and the porch that the king had entered from without, and encircled the house of Jehohua.

16:19 Now the rest of Ahaz's acts are written in the book of the kings of Judah.

16:20 Ahaz slept with his fathers and was buried in the grave of his fathers in the Acropolis. And Hezekiah his son succeeded him as king.

Second Kings chapter 16 describes the reign of King Ahaz of Judah, who succeeded his father Jotham. Ahaz did not follow the path of his father and grandfather, both of whom were faithful to God, but did evil in the eyes of Yahweh.

Ahaz even offered his son in the fire, as the Canaanites did. He also followed the practice of the kings of Israel, who worshipped and made idols on high places.

As a result, God allowed the kings of Syria and Israel to attack Judah and capture several cities. Ahaz then sought help from the Assyrian king Tiglas Pilsar, who came to his aid and attacked Syria and Israel, conquering their lands and exiling their people.

Ahaz traveled to Damascus to meet with Tiglas Pilsar, where he saw an altar he admired. He built a replica of the altar in Jerusalem's temple of Yahweh and even changed the design of the temple to match the temple in Damascus.

Chapter 16 points out the dangers of following the ways of other nations and turning away from God. Ahaz's actions had disastrous consequences for his people, and his willingness to adopt the practices of the surrounding nations led to the desecration of Yahweh's temple.

In 2 Kings 16, there are a few key verses:

One. "In the seventeenth year of Pekah son of Remaliah, Ahaz son of Jotam king of Judah began to reign. (2 Kings 16:1) This verse lays the groundwork for the events in this chapter and provides a historical reference point.

Two. "But he [Ahaz] walked in the way of the kings of Israel, even to the point of offering his son in the fire, following the abomination of the nations that the LORD had driven out before the children of Israel. (2 Kings 16:3) This verse emphasizes Ahaz's disobedience to God and his involvement in pagan behavior.

Three. "So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglas Pilsar, king of Assyria, and said, 'I am your servant and vassal. and came up and delivered me from the hand of the king of Syria and from the king of Israel, and they attacked me. (2 Kings 16:7)

This verse reveals Ahaz's political strategy and his decision to seek assistance from foreign powers.

Four. King Ahaz cut off the side panels and removed the basin from the movable shelf. He removed the sea from the bronze bull that supported it and placed it on a stone base. (2 Kings 16:17) This verse describes Ahaz's desecration of the temple by removing holy objects and altering its structure.

The entire chapter recounts Ahaz's reign and his rebellion against God, including his alliances with foreign powers, his idolatry, and his desecration of the temple.

In 2 Kings 16, we read about the reign of King Ahaz of Judah. This chapter offers a few points to think about:

The Danger of Compromising Faith: Ahaz is portrayed as a king who has strayed from the ways of the Lord and engaged in idolatry. He worshipped false gods, erected altars to foreign gods, and even sacrificed his own sons in pagan rituals. This highlights the dangers of compromising faith and deviating from true worship of God. It reminds people to be faithful to God's commands and not to be swayed by the world's influences.

Consequences of Seeking Help from the Worldly Powers: When faced with military threats from Israel and Syria, Ahaz sought help from the Assyrians instead of trusting in God. As a result, the ministers of Judah were subjugated to the Assyrian king Tiglas-Pileth, and the nation suffered. This account emphasizes the consequences of relying on worldly forces rather than trusting in God's provision and salvation. It pushes us to finally trust God and seek His guidance, rather than relying on human strength and alliances.

Faithfulness of God's promises: God remained faithful to his covenant promises despite Ahaz's unfaithfulness. He sent the prophet Isaiah to assure Ahaz of God's presence and salvation. God promised to protect Jerusalem and fulfill His plan for His people. This proves that God's faithfulness is true even in the face of human

disobedience. It reminds us that God's promises are firm and that His plan will eventually be fulfilled.

The Impact of Leadership on the People: Ahaz's idolatry and disloyalty to God affected not only him personally, but also the people of Judah. The whole nation turned away from the Lord and engaged in idolatry. This highlights the significant impact that leaders have on the spiritual climate of a country. It reminds us that leaders have a responsibility to lead with integrity and to set an example of faithful obedience to God.

The Need for Repentance and Restoration: This chapter ends with Ahaz's death and his honorless burial. This is a sobering reminder of the consequences of a life of rebellion against God. It prompts us to reflect on the need for repentance and restoration in our own lives. It reminds us that no matter how far we stray from God, there is always an opportunity to return to Him in true repentance and experience His forgiveness and restoration.

Overall, 2 Kings 16 reflects on the dangers of faith compromise, the consequences of seeking help from worldly power, the faithfulness of God's promises, the impact of leadership on the people, and the need for repentance and restoration. It calls us to stand firm in our faith, to trust in God's provision and salvation, and to remember His faithfulness and leadership with integrity.