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YouTube Prayer Link

Christian's self-reflection

2 Chronicles chapter 28 records the reign of King Ahaz of Judah and historical events. Ahaz was a godless king, and his policies caused Judah to suffer many difficulties and setbacks. Ahaz's story tells us one thing, it was his own choice not to seek God, but instead to worship idolatry for power, only to be defeated.

During the reign of Ahaz, the tribes of Ephraim and Simeon of Israel allied against Judah and captured some of Judah's cities. Ahaz appealed to the king of Assyria for help, but after receiving it, he gave the treasures and sacred artifacts of Judah to the king of Assyria as compensation, despite the warnings of the prophet Isaiah. The entire Old Testament teaches us how to be blessed. "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, who does not stand in the ways of sinners, who does not sit in the seat of mockery, but who loves the law of the Lord, and considers it day and night." (Psalm 1:1-2). Blessings come from God, our power, wisdom, understanding, and grace all come from God, and we are blessed when we obey, and there are miracles, and even in the midst of hardship and darkness, obedience and blessing are still possible, and whoever is willing to obey, God blesses him. "King Ahaz sent unto the kings of Assyria, and begged them for help; for the Edomites came again against Judah, and carried them captive to their people." There were even many towns that were captured, so why did so many people attack Ahaz? Because God's judgment has come. "And Tiglas and Peneser king of

Assyria came up, and instead of helping him, they oppressed him. And the treasures which Ahaz had taken out of the house of the LORD, and out of the king's house, and out of the princes' houses, gave to the king of Assyria, and to no avail." Ahaz sought help from the king of the Gentiles, but instead of receiving it, he was bullied and eventually despaired.

Today, God will not just give us peace, happiness, and health in the world, and let us settle for false peace and spiritual condition. For those who belong to God, God will raise up the environment to prune us, so that we can see clearly in the face of difficulties whether we are looking for the world or God, whether we are relying on the flesh or relying on the Holy Spirit, whether we are man-centered or God-centered. As the Lord Jesus said, "He cut off every branch that belongs to me that bears no fruit; And whosoever beareth forth fruit, he prunes it clean, and causes the branches to bear more fruit." (John 15:2). There are two ways of reacting to God's punishment: repenting and turning to God, or becoming more hostile to God and going down the evil path. Ahaz is a typical example of the latter. The more he was subjected to God's chastenings and calamities, the more he refused to repent and became more wicked: the God who sacrificed to the king of Syria; destroying the holy things in the temple to pay tribute to the king of Assyria or for other purposes; shut the doors of the temple so that the people would not worship the LORD God; And they set up altars and high places for other gods in all Jerusalem and in all the cities of Judah, and they were utterly destroyed. Ahaz finally became the king of Judah, after Jehoram and Jehoash, who failed to be buried in the tombs of the kings of Israel.

Ahaz also abolished God's temple and priestly duties and built many altars of false gods. He even burned his own son on the altar of false gods, so much so that the people of Judah and the priests were shocked and angry.

After Ahaz's death, his son Hezekiah became king of Judah. Today's passage makes it clear to us that no matter what the reason for God's children to do evil, not only will they not get the desired pleasure in sin, but they will open the door to more terrible attacks and injuries to their enemies. Another thing that must be noted is that God's love for His children is great. Although His children are subjected to a seemingly hopeless punishment because of their evil deeds, God is willing to have mercy on His people and make a way out for them so that their punishment will not be excessive. When God's children have been taught, they have the opportunity to seek God's face again with humility and to regain hope. Do we only follow the moral standards of religion and turn away from the Lord? Are we turning to spiritual idols and human power in the midst of adversity, rather than trusting in the Lord? How Paul reminded Timothy, "Know this, that perilous times will come in the last days. For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasting, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, without natural affection, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, despisers of what is good, traitors, willful, conceited, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but betraying the meaning of godliness. Flee from such people." (2 Timothy 3:1-5). Paul reminded Timothy, "Turn away from these, for they have a form of godliness and have betrayed the spirit of godliness." It is conceivable that such people should be in the church.

Isn't it? Some Christians are outwardly gentlemen and ladies, but in private they are nondescript and deceitful. Covering up ugliness and lawlessness as a Christian, and using confession and repentance as a tool to eliminate the condemnation of conscience; Every time I wept bitterly, but not once did I really forsake sin. Their deeds are worse than Ahaz. We must not think that "no one knows what is going on in the dark" and that God's light is everywhere.

We pray:

Thank you, dear Lord, for letting us see in Ahaz's wicked deeds and consequences Your unchanging righteousness. Whoever rebels against the true God and worships false gods will be punished. Pray that I will not turn away from you in foolishness, lest I and my loved ones fall into terrible judgment! Pray that I will know to be humble before you, so that I will not ask for trouble in my stubbornness!

We also see in the prophets Your lovingkindness and wonderful deliverance. Thank you Lord Jesus for dying on the cross for us to be our salvation. Pray that we will help us to walk in a way that is worthy of the grace we have received, to courageously hold fast to the truth, to live an impactful life, and to be witnesses of the Lord in this crooked and rebellious age.

Pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

2 Chronicles, chapter 28

28:1 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for sixteen years. not like what was right in the eyes of his ancestors David Xingye and Hua ,

28:2 but walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and made the image of Baal,

28:3 and burned incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burned his sons and daughters with fire, and did the abomination of the Gentiles whom Hohua drove out before the Israelites.

28:4 and on the hill , and on the hill, under the verdant trees , offering sacrifices and burning incense .

28:5 Therefore the God of Yahvathah delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria. And the king of Syria smote him, and took many of his people captive, and brought them to Damascus. God delivered him into the hands of the Israelite king, who slaughtered him on a great scale.

28:6 And Pekah, the son of Remaliah, slew twelve thousand of the Jews in one day, and they were all warriors, because they had forsaken the God of Jehohua and their fathers.

28:7 And a warrior of Ephraim, whose name was Zicheri, slew Maaseiah the king's son, and Absaligam, who was in charge of the king's house, and Elicana, ruler of the king's house.

28:8 And the Israelites took captive of their brethren, and took the women and their sons and daughters, twenty thousand, and plundered a great deal of possessions, and brought them to Samaria.

28:9 But there was a prophet of Jehohua named Odod, who went out to meet the army that was going to Samaria, and said to them, Because the God of Jehohua your fathers is angry with the Jews. Therefore they have been delivered into your hands, and you have been furious and have slaughtered them.

28:10 If it is your intention to force the Jews and the Jerusalem to be your slaves, will you not also sin against the Lord of Jehova?

28:11 Now hear me say, release your captive brethren, for Yahweh is angry with you.

28:12 So the heads of the fathers of the children of Ephraim, such as Azariah the son of Johanan, and Perikiah the son of Meshremoth, and Jehezikiah the son of Shalon, and Amasa the son of Hadlai, rose up to stand against the returnees of the army.

28:13 Say unto them, Thou shalt not bring in this captive. You want to make us sinful against Jehovah, and to multiply our sins and transgressions. For our sins are so great that a great wrath has come upon the Israelites.

28:14 So the armed men left the captive population and the plundered before the leaders and the congregation.

28:15 And those whose names were given above stood up and brought the captives to them. And some of them were naked, and they took garments and sandals out of the plunder, and clothed them, and gave them food and drink, and anointed them. And some of them were weak, so they rode on asses, and brought them to their brethren in Jericho, the city of palm trees, and after that they returned to Samaria.

28:16 At that time, King Ahaz sent to the kings of Assyria and asked for their help.

28:17 For the Edomites came again against Judah, and took captive against the people.

28:18 And the Philistines came and took the cities of the plains and south of Judah, and took Bethmeel, and Ajaron, and Cirero, and Sogoth, and the villages of Sogoth, and Timnar and the villages of Sokor, and Timnar and the villages of Timnor. Jinsuo and the villages that belong to Jinsuo live there .

28:19 Because Ahaz king of Israel was presumptuous in Judah, and had greatly transgressed against Jehovah, and Jehoah had humbled Judah.

28:20 Tiglaphinese the king of Assyria came up, but instead of helping him, he bullied him.

28:21 And it was to no avail that Ahaz had given to the king of Assyria the treasures which had been taken from the house of Jehohua and from the king's house and from the princes' houses.

28:22 This king Ahaz sinned more and more against Yahweh in times of distress.

28:23 And he sacrificed to the god of Damascus, who struck him, and said, Because the gods of the king of Syria help them, I also offer sacrifices to him, that he may help me. But those gods brought him and the Israelites to ruin.

28:24 And Ahaz gathered together all the vessels of the temple, destroyed them, and sealed the doors of the temple of Jehovah. and the building of altars around the corners of Jerusalem,

28:25 And he built high places in all the cities of Judah, and burned incense with other gods, and provoked the gods of Yahvathah to anger.

28:26 The rest of Ahaz's acts and his deeds are written throughout in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

28:27 Ahaz slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of Jerusalem, and was not sent to the tombs of the kings of Israel. And Hezekiah his son succeeded him as king.

A detailed summary of Chapter 28 of the Chronicles of the Chronicles

2 Chronicles chapter 28 records the reign of King Ahaz of Judah and historical events. Ahaz was a godless king, and his policies caused Judah to suffer many difficulties and setbacks.

During the reign of Ahaz, the tribes of Ephraim and Simeon of Israel allied against Judah and captured some of Judah's cities. Ahaz appealed to the king of Assyria for help, but after receiving it, he gave the treasures and sacred artifacts of Judah to the king of Assyria as compensation, despite the warnings of the prophet Isaiah.

Ahaz also abolished God's temple and priestly duties and built many altars of false gods. He even burned his own son on the altar of false gods, so much so that the people of Judah and the priests were shocked and angry.

After Ahaz's death, his son Hezekiah became king of Judah.

A few important passages from 2 Chronicles 28:

1. 2 Chronicles 28:1: "Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. not like his father David, who did that which was right in the sight of the LORD. ”

This passage tells of the reign of King Ahaz, who, instead of imitating his ancestor King David, did evil against God's will. This event shows the consequences of humanity's fall and abandonment from God, and how to follow God's will.

2. 2 Chronicles 28:5: "For the Lord has lowered Judah, and King Ahaz has rebelled against the Lord in it." ”

This passage highlights King Ahaz's sinful behavior that led to God's judgment on Judah. This event shows people the importance of God's punishment for sin and protection of the obedient, as well as obedience to God's will.

3. 2 Chronicles 28:22: "This Ahaz sinned more and more against the Lord in the midst of his troubles." ”

This passage highlights King Ahaz's unbelief and disobedience in crisis, even as God's judgment had already come upon him. This event showed people the stubbornness and unbelief of human beings, as well as the importance of faith.

4. 2 Chronicles 28:23: "He burned the sacrificial vessels, cut the veil in the house of the Lord, made an altar for the king of Israel, and raised the image of Baal high." ”

This passage tells of King Ahaz's vandalism, which destroyed the temples and vessels of God and worshiped false gods. This event shows people the blasphemy and disrespect that humans have for God, as well as the mercy and wrath of God.

2 Chronicles 28 goes on to record important events in Israel's history, particularly the accession of Ahaz, the son of Jotham, to the throne and his reign and deviation from God's ways. This chapter focuses on the contrast between obedience and abandonment, as well as God's warnings and faithful punishments.

Although this chapter is primarily a record of historical events, it still contains some theological ideas and gains.

The following are the central theological ideas and theological findings that can be found in Chapter 28 of the Chronicles:

Consequences of Turning Away from God: In chapter 28, Ahaz, as king, deviated from God's laws and commandments, led the people down wicked ways, and even sacrificed to idols. Because of their abandonment from God, the nation was faithfully punished and warned by God.

God's Warning and Repentance: God sent prophets to warn Ahaz and the people to repent and turn to God. However, Ahaz did not listen to God's Word and continued to turn away from God.

Faith and Reliance on God: Instead of believing and relying on God in the face of the pressures and challenges of his enemies, Ahaz turned to the idol gods of other nations. This shows the importance of faith and reliance on God in faith.

God's Faithful Punishment and Deliverance: As a result of Ahaz's apostasy, God applied faithful punishment that brought disaster to the nation. However, God also showed His deliverance and mercy to the people in the midst of their adversity, so that they would not perish completely.

Overall, chapter 28 of the Book of Chronicles is primarily a record of historical events, including the consequences of turning away from God, God's warnings and repentance, and themes of faith and dependence on God. Through these accounts, we can come to a deeper understanding of the contrast between turning away from God and obeying God, which inevitably leads to the punishment of faithfulness, and obedience to God can be preserved and favored by God. God's warning is for people to repent and turn to Him for mercy and salvation. Faith and reliance on God are at the heart of faith, and we need to rely on Him wholeheartedly so that our lives can manifest God's glory and reflect God's kingdom. At the same time, we should keep in mind God's warning not to turn away from Him, but to faithfully obey God's laws and commandments.