

Royal Lessons for Life

Ahaz

(Judah)

Ahaz's Biography

- Ahaz breaks a line of good/decent kings by being a wicked ruler that reigns for 16 years – II Kings 16:2, II Chronicles 28:1
- He is a pagan idolator, even offering his own children as sacrifices – II Kings 16:3-4, II Chronicles 28:2-4
- A coalition of Israel under Pekah and Syria under Rezin deliver a disastrous defeat to Judah – Isaiah 7:1-9, II Kings 16:5-6, II Chronicles 28:5-8.
 - The losses include 120,000 men killed in a single day, 200,000 people taken prisoner, the deaths of high-ranking officials including the crown prince and the loss of the port at Elath on the Gulf of Aqaba.
 - Obed the prophet intercedes for the prisoners, and they are returned to Jericho. – II Chronicles 28:9-15
- Ahaz appeals to Assyria for help and sends them tribute. They respond by defeating Syria and annexing them into the growing Assyrian empire – II Chronicles 28:16, II Kings 16:7-9
 - The prophet Isaiah gives hope to Ahaz by the promise of the coming of Immanuel – Isaiah 7:10-16
- The Edomites and Philistines take the opportunity to invade Judah in its weakness – II Chronicles 28:17-21
 - Ahaz again appeals to Tiglath-Pileser and the Assyrians for aid, but they do not help him and instead demanded more tribute – II Chronicles 28:20-21
- Ahaz imports further pagan practices from Syria, leading to great changes in the Temple and the promotion of idolatry – II Kings 16:10-18, II Chronicles 28:22-25
 - Perhaps part of this includes the sundial of Isaiah 38:8
- Ahaz dies and his son Hezekiah take the throne and leads the nation back to God.

Lesson from the Life of Ahaz

- Ahaz seems to have never been satisfied with what God had given him. Instead, he sought the “new” gods and altars. – Psalm 37:3-5
- Ahaz refused to learn the lessons of God's corrective judgment, and instead hardened his heart and ways even further – Psalm 95:8