

2 Chronicles 28

King James Version (KJV)

28 Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem: but he did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD, like David his father: (He was probably the second most evil king of Judah)

²For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made also molten images for Baalim. (They kept bringing in Baal worship time after time. It had been completely removed by his fathers, yet Ahaz returned to it once he got the chance)

³Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the fire, after the abominations of the heathen whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. (The Canaanites)

(Ahaz sacrificed his own children by fire, to Molech, a heathen deity. This was one of the reasons that God condemned the Canaanite tribes to death; HE also condemned them for mating with the fallen angels, and other perversions like homosexuality and child rape at grove worship to Ishtar) (Hinnom, called Gehenna in the New Testament, is a garbage pit, smoldering with rotting animal corpses and garbage. It is also translated as hell in the English translation of the New Testament)

⁴He sacrificed also and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree. (He even shut down the temple of God, during his reign. The people weren't allowed to worship God)

⁵Wherefore the LORD his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria; and they smote him, and carried away a great multitude of them captives, and brought them to Damascus. And he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who smote him with a great slaughter. Isaiah-7:4 -> (Rezin of Syria, and Pekah of Israel, are the two smoking firebrands)

⁶For Pekah the son of Remaliah slew in Judah an hundred and twenty thousand in one day, which were all valiant men; because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. (Pekah had murdered his predecessor to become king of Israel. About 9 years later, Israel would fall to the Assyrians and no longer exist)

⁷ And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, slew Maaseiah the king's son, and Azrikam the governor of the house, and Elkanah that was next to the king. (One of the king's ministers)

⁸ And the children of Israel carried away captive of their brethren two hundred thousand, women, sons, and daughters, and took also away much spoil from them, and brought the spoil to Samaria. (God did not approve of the tribes taking each other captive as slaves. The 10 tribes didn't care. They had forsaken God hundreds of years earlier when Jeroboam made the golden calves for them to worship)

⁹ But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name was Oded: and he went out before the host that came to Samaria, and said unto them, Behold, because the LORD God of your fathers was wroth with Judah, he hath delivered them into your hand, and ye have slain them in a rage that reacheth up unto heaven. (slain= slaughter or massacre)
2Kings-15:16 -> (The Ephriamites were very cruel warriors who committing atrocities in battle)

¹⁰ And now ye purpose to keep under the children of Judah and Jerusalem for bondmen and bondwomen unto you: but are there not with you, even with you, sins against the LORD your God? **Leviticus-25:39-42**

¹¹ Now hear me therefore, and deliver the captives again, which ye have taken captive of your brethren: for the fierce wrath of the LORD is upon you. (God will avenge the captives)

¹² Then certain of the heads of the children of Ephraim, Azariah the son of Johanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth, and Jehizkiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai, stood up against them that came from the war, (They refused to let the army bring the captives in. They knew that Oded was right)

¹³ And said unto them, Ye shall not bring in the captives hither: for whereas we have offended against the LORD already, ye intend to add more to our sins and to our trespass: for our trespass is great, and there is fierce wrath against Israel. (They knew about the massacre and knew that God would take His vengeance out on them)

¹⁴ So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the princes and all the congregation. (The spoils would have been the soldiers' pay. The fact that they left it means that they regretted what they did to Judah)

¹⁵ And the men which were expressed by name rose up, and took the captives, and with the spoil clothed all that were naked among them, and arrayed them, and shod them, and gave them to eat and to drink, and anointed them, and carried all the feeble of them upon asses, and brought them to Jericho, the city of palm trees, to their brethren: then they returned to Samaria. (They took care of them and returned them home)

¹⁶ At that time did king Ahaz send unto the kings of Assyria to help him. (He sent them money to serve as mercenaries)

¹⁷ For again the Edomites had come and smitten Judah, and carried away captives. (This is 2 generations after Amaziah had defeated and subdued them. He then brought their idols back to Jerusalem and worshipped them)

¹⁸ The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the low country, and of the south of Judah, and had taken Bethshemesh, and Ajalon, and Gederoth, and Shocho with the villages thereof, and Timnah with the villages thereof, Gimzo also and the villages thereof: and they dwelt there. (The Philistines moved into these cities and dwelt in the houses that Judah had built)

(When cities are mentioned, it usually means the area - that city and the surrounding villages; sometimes referred to as the mother and her daughters)

¹⁹ For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel; for he made Judah naked, and transgressed sore against the LORD. (This statement is in bitter satire of Ahaz. He was the king of Judah, not Israel; but acted and believed as the heathen kings of Israel and their false religions) (Made Judah naked – stripped Judah of all dignity and respect)

²⁰ And Tilgathpilneser king of Assyria came unto him, and distressed him, but strengthened him not. (This is the same king that Ahaz paid for help in verse 16. He came back and forced Judah into paying tribute to him) (Distressed – besieged and demanded tribute) 2Kings-15:29 (He also defeated Pekah– the last king of Israel; he will take Israel completely captive in about 9 years. He also defeated Rezin of Syria – see 2Kings-16:9)

²¹ For Ahaz took away a portion out of the house of the LORD, and out of the house of the king, and of the princes, and gave it unto the king

of Assyria: but he helped him not. (Mercenaries have no loyalty. Ahaz is using his wealth and the wealth of the temple to buy allies; it never works)

²² And in the time of his distress did he trespass yet more against the LORD: this is that king Ahaz. (This phrase is used in cases of extreme evil and transgression – Here for Ahaz, Cain in Genesis-4:15, Dathan and Abiram in Numbers-26:9)

²³ For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which smote him: and he said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel. (This is a little back in time when Rezin was still powerful, before his defeat by Assyria)

²⁴ And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God, and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and he made him altars in every corner of Jerusalem. (He set up altars to heathen idols and forced Judah to worship those idols; and closed and locked the temple of God) 2Kings-16:17

²⁵ And in every several city of Judah he made high places to burn incense unto other gods, and provoked to anger the LORD God of his fathers. (He even replaced the altar of burnt offerings with one that he saw in Damascus) 2Kings-16

²⁶ Now the rest of his acts and of all his ways, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

²⁷ And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, even in Jerusalem: but they brought him not into the sepulchres of the kings of Israel: and Hezekiah his son reigned in his stead.