### 2 Kings

## Chapter 16

1So in the 17th year of [King] PekAh (son of RomeliAh) [of Israel], Ahaz (son of JoTham) became the king of Judah. 2He was 20 years old at the time, and he reigned in JeruSalem for 16 years.  
  
However, he didn’t do what was upright in the eyes of Jehovah his God or trust in Him, as did his ancestor David... 3Rather, he followed in the paths of the kings of IsraEl by offering up his own son in a fire in the same disgusting way as did the nations that God had driven away from the sons of IsraEl!  
  
4He also offered sacrifices and burned incense in the high places, on the hills, and under every tree in the woods.  
  
  
5Thereafter, King RasSon of Syria and King PekAh (son of RomeliAh) of IsraEl came against JeruSalem to war against Ahaz, but they were unsuccessful... 6However, King RaAson of Syria went to ElAth and drove all the Judeans out of that city. Then the Edomites moved into it, and that’s where they still live to this day.  
  
7But because of this, Ahaz sent messengers to King Tiglath Pileser [III] of Assyria to say:  
  
 ‘I am the servant of you and your son.  
  
 ‘So, please come and save me from the kings of Syria and IsraEl that have come to fight against me!’  
  
8Then Ahaz took all the silver and gold that he found in the treasuries of the Temple of Jehovah and in the king’s palace, and he sent it as a gift to the king of Assyria.  
  
9So the king of Assyria listened to him and attacked Damascus… He captured it, killed King RaAsson, and then he repopulated the city.  
  
10So after that, King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet with King Tiglath Pileser [III] of Assyria, and when he saw the altar in Damascus, he examined its dimensions and its construction, and he sent a drawing of the altar to UriAh the Priest.  
  
11As a result, UriAh built a similar Altar, following the instructions that were sent to him from Damascus by King Ahaz. 12And when the king saw this [new] Altar, he climbed up on it and burned incense there, then he had whole burnt offerings (including his own offerings and a drink offering) sacrificed there, and he had the blood of the peace offerings poured out upon it!  
  
13This Altar was made of brass and it was placed before [the presence of] Jehovah; 14for [King Ahaz] had the Altar moved forward and put right in front of the Temple of Jehovah, between the Temple and the [old] Altar, which still stood on its north side.  
  
15And after that, he gave instructions to UriAh the Priest, saying:  
  
 ‘I want a great sacrifice offered on this Altar early tomorrow morning and tomorrow evening!  
  
 ‘I’ll bring my whole burnt offerings and other sacrifices, and then the people should also bring their sacrifices and drink offerings. I want you to offer the blood of the whole burnt offerings and other sacrifices there… Pour them over the brass Altar for me in the morning.’  
  
16Therefore, UriAh the Priest did exactly as King Ahaz told him.  
  
17Then King Ahaz had the bases for the washbasins and the Sacred Sea (the oxen) disassembled, and the brass Sea was lowered onto a new base that was made of stone.  
  
18He also built a foundation for the Sabbath Seat inside the Temple of Jehovah, and he had the outside of the king’s entrance relocated so that it wouldn’t face the king of Assyria.  
  
19All the rest of the things that Ahaz said and did have been written about in the scrolls of The Days of the Kings of Judah.  
  
20Then Ahaz went to sleep with his ancestors and he was buried in a tomb in the city of David. Thereafter, his son HezekiAh began ruling in place of him.