

Modern Lessons from the Ancient “Acts of Ahaz”

Introduction:

- A. Ahaz was Judah’s 12th king following the division of the descendants of Abraham into two kingdoms.
- B. A descendant of King David, he reigned from approximately 730-715 B.C. in Jerusalem.

I. “The Acts of Ahaz” (2 Kings 16)

- A. “He did not do what was _____ in the eyes of the LORD his God” (16:2).
 - 1. “He walked in the way of the kings of Israel” (16:3a). For example:
 - a. Jeroboam’s (930-911 B.C.) golden calves — 1 Kings 12:25-33.
 - b. Ahab’s (875-853 B.C.) worship of Baal — 1 Kings 16:29-33.
 - 2. “He even burned his son as an offering, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out” (16:3b; Deut 12:29-32).
 - 3. “And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree” (16:4; see also Deut 12:1-7).
- B. Ahaz seeks _____ from Tiglath-pileser [Assyria] against Pekah [Israel] and Rezin [Syria] (16:5-9).
- C. “He saw the _____ that was at Damascus... and Uriah the priest built the altar” (16:10-18).
 - 1. “And the bronze altar that was before the LORD he removed” (16:14-16).
 - 2. “And he took down the sea... And the covered way...he caused to go around” (16:17-18).
- D. If this sort of thing “was written for our instruction” (Rom 15:4), what can we learn from this man?
 - 1. Ahaz did not respect the LORD as the determiner of that which is “_____” (16:2).
 - 2. Ahaz looked to the wrong _____ for deliverance, protection, and guidance (16:7).
 - 3. Ahaz became enamored with the wrong _____ of worship (16:10).
 - 4. Ahaz desecrated the worship of the LORD in order to please a different _____ (16:18).

II. Modern Lessons from the Ancient “Acts of Ahaz”

- A. Do not the same self-centered pitfalls continue to ensnare people more than 2,700 years later?
 - 1. In our handling of God’s revealed _____?
 - 2. In our sources of _____, wells of inspiration, and models of _____?
 - 3. In our patterns of _____?
 - 4. In the object of our _____?
- B. What New Testament passage would lead us to believe that the principles revealed in *Deuteronomy* 12:29-32 are no longer important to the God of heaven and earth?