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2 Kings 16:1, "In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham, king of Judah, began to reign.

2 Kings 16:2, "Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD his God, as his father David had done."

2 Kings 16:3, "But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel; indeed he made his son pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out from before the children of Israel.

2 Kings 16:4, "And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree."

2 Kings 16:5, "Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, came up to Jerusalem to make war; and they besieged Ahaz but could not overcome him.

2 Kings 16:6, "At that time Rezin king of Syria captured Elath for Syria, and drove the men of Judah from Elath. Then the Edomites went to Elath, and dwell there to this day."

## The Failures of Ahaz

- 1. Spiritually: The people rejected God, truth, and the Scripture and substituted false systems: child sacrifice, Baalism, government-sponsored idolatry.
- 2. God caused them to be defeated by the Israel-Aram alliance.
- 3. Pekah killed 120,000 in Judah in one day.
- 4. Another 200,000 were captured and threatened with slavery.
- 5. A prophet named Oded warned them to release the captives which they did.
- However, Ahaz continued to trust in man rather than God and he turned to Assyria for help.

Isa. 7:1, "Now it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to make war against it, but could not prevail against it. (cf., 2 Kings 16:5)

Isa. 7:2, "And it was told to the house of David, saying, 'Syria's forces are deployed in Ephraim.' So his heart and the heart of his people were moved as the trees of the woods are moved with the wind."

Isa. 7:3, "Then the LORD said to Isaiah, 'Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the aqueduct from the upper pool, on the highway to the Fuller's Field,'

Isa. 7:4, "and say to him: 'Take heed, and be quiet; do not fear or be fainthearted for these two stubs of smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria, and the son of Remaliah.'"

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וְנְב ( $z\bar{a}n\bar{a}b$ ) "tail," that is the end of the firebrand

Isa. 7:5, "Because Syria, Ephraim, and the son of Remaliah have plotted evil against you (2 m.s.), saying,

Isa. 7:6, "'Let us go up against Judah and trouble it, and let us make a gap in its wall for ourselves, and set a king over them, the son of Tabel'—

Isa. 7:7, "thus says the Lord GOD: 'It shall not stand, nor shall it come to pass.' "

Isa. 7:8, "For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin. Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be broken, so that it will not be a people.

Isa. 7:9, "The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is Remaliah's son. If you will not believe, surely you shall not be established."

Isa. 7:10, "Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying,

Isa. 7:11, "'Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.'"

Isa. 7:12, "But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!'

Isa. 7:13, "Then he said, 'Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also?' "

Gen. 3:15, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

almah – a young unmarried woman of marriageable age