

“One Generation”

2 Chronicles 28

*“He shut the doors of the Lord’s Temple and set up altars
at every street corner in Jerusalem.” (28:23)*

After a stretch of good kings who started well but finished poorly (Jehoram, Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah), Judah finally gets a king of whose reign nothing bad is said (Jotham, Ch. 27). So finally the reader might think Judah is on track to walk with God led by kings who “walk steadfastly before the LORD God” (27:6). The first time reader is stunned and saddened by the son of Jotham (and father of Hezekiah, one of Israel’s best kings), Ahaz who in one generation turns Judah away from God. One generation is all it takes to destroy a family heritage, a church or a nation. But, God is still in control!

New King, Old Bad Habits (28:1-4)

How is Ahaz described?

- 28:1** “Ahaz was 20 years old when he became king and he reigned in Jerusalem 16 years.
_____ David has father he did _____ do what was right in the eyes of the LORD.”
- v.2** “He walked in the ways of the kings of _____ and also made cast _____ for worshipping the _____.”
- v.3** “He burned sacrifices in the Valley of Ben-Hinnom and sacrificed his _____ in the fire following the _____ ways of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.”
- v.4** “He offered sacrifices and burned incense on the _____ places, on the hilltops and under _____ spreading tree.”

***How does Ahaz compare with his predecessors as kings?**

Same Rules Still Apply (28:5-8)

God never changes nor does His Word. According to His covenant with Moses in Deuteronomy 28, God said if Israel persisted in worshipping idols He would eventually send a nation against them. So what happens next?

- v. 5** “Therefore the LORD his God handed him over to the king of _____. The Arameans defeated him and took away many of his _____ as prisoners and brought them to Damascus.”

“he was also given into the hands of the king of _____ who inflicted heavy _____ on him.”

v.6 "In _____ day Pekah son of Remaliah killed 120,000 soldiers in Judah because Judah had _____ the LORD, the God of their fathers."

What other tragic thing happened?

v.7 "Zicri, an Ephraimite warrior, killed Maaseiah the king's _____, Azriakim the officer in charge of the King's Palace and Elkanah _____ to the king."

v.8 "The Israelites took captive from their _____ 200,000 wives, sons and daughters. They also took a great deal of _____ which they carried back to Samaria."

*As bad as this read **Isaiah 7:1-14**. Why would God give one of the greatest prophecies in all of Scripture to one of Judah's worst kings?*

The Ironic Turn of Events (28:9-15)

God didn't want a civil war amongst His people. What does He do?

v.9 "But a _____ of the LORD named Oded was there and he went out to meet the army when it returned to Samaria. He said to them, 'Because the LORD, the god of your fathers was _____ with Judah, he _____ them into your hand. But you have slaughtered them in a _____ that reaches to heaven.'

They were going to make their own brothers to the south their slaves (perhaps to help them fight the Assyrians who were breathing heavily at Israel's door) but God says they are just as guilty of disobeying Him. What does God tell them to do?

v.11 "Now _____ to Me! Send _____ your fellow countrymen you have taken as prisoners for the LORD's _____ anger rests on you."

***God allowed Israel to capture Judah, not because Israel was more righteous but because Judah was that bad. How do you respond to God's using a 'bad nation' to deal with His people?**

What's the response?

v.13 "You must not bring those prisoners here or we will be _____ before the LORD. Do you intend to _____ to our sin and guilt? For our guilt is already _____ and His fierce anger rests on Israel."

Note how they treated their brothers!

v.14 they gave up the p _____ and p _____

v.15 They c _____ them and f _____ them and h _____ them and gave the weak a ride home!

***What do you think is the message here for the original readers who had returned to their land as one nation after Babylonian exile?**

Does Ahaz learn from any of this? What does he do next?

v.16 “At that time King Ahaz sent to the king of _____ for help [against Edom v.17 and Philistine in v.18]”

Why was Judah being attacked?

v.19 “The _____ had humbled Judah because of Ahaz king of Israel for he had promoted wickedness in Judah and had been most _____ to the LORD.”

Did the king of Assyria help Ahaz? v.20 _____

Even though Ahaz did what to seek Assyria’s help?

v.21 “Ahaz took some of the things from the _____ of the LORD and from the royal _____ and from the _____ and presented them to the king of Assyria but that did _____ help him.”

V. 22 is a sad commentary on Ahaz and the reader should learn from this.

v.22 “In his time of _____ King Ahaz became even _____ unfaithful to the LORD.”

What did he do in v.23?

And the ultimate slap in God’s face is v. 24

v.24 “Ahaz gathered together the furnishings from the _____ and took them away. He _____ the doors of the Lord’s temple and set up _____ at every street corner in Jerusalem.”

[The Bible verses quoted are from the NIV 1984 edition © International Bible Society]

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