

Ahaz

2 Kings 16

2 Chronicles 28

Isaiah 7 – 12

by Don Falkos

copyright 2017 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

Ahaz, the son of Jotham, became king of Judah. Instead of obeying the Lord, he engaged in detestable pagan practices. He even practiced child sacrifice. And so, the Lord allowed Israel and Aram to join forces against Judah.

The prophet Isaiah told Ahaz, "Don't be afraid. Israel and Aram plan to conquer Judah and divide up the land. But the Lord says, 'They will not defeat you.' Trust in the Lord. Within a very few years Israel will no longer be a nation, undercut by its own pride and social injustice." But Ahaz was afraid and asked the king of Assyria for help.

Because Ahaz did not trust in the Lord, Israel and Aram defeated Judah. The Israelites took many prisoners. But the Lord warned them, "These are your own brothers and sisters. Send them back!" The prisoners were given food and clothing; their medical needs were attended to; and they were sent home.

Then the king of Assyria came. But instead of offering assistance, he attacked, subjugated Judah, and plundered everywhere, including the Temple of the Lord.

Isaiah said, "Assyria has served as an unwitting instrument of the Lord, yet it will be punished for its arrogance."

In this time of trouble Ahaz became even more unfaithful to the Lord. He removed the bronze altar from the Temple in Jerusalem, replacing it with a replica of a pagan altar. Eventually he shut the doors of the Temple so that no one could go there to worship the Lord. And the Lord was not pleased.