

**Ahaz, Jotham's Son, Begins Coregency With Jotham [Judah] (735n/735t BC)**

2 Kings 16:1–4

2 Chronicles 28:1–4

1 In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham, king of Judah, became king.

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*.

3 But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and even made his son pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had driven out from before the sons of Israel.

4 He sacrificed and burned incense on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree.

1 Ahaz *was* twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do right in the sight of the LORD as David his father *had done*.

2 But he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel; he also made molten images for the Baals.

3 Moreover, he burned incense in the valley of Ben-hinnom and burned his sons in fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had driven out before the sons of Israel.

4 He sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills and under every green tree.

**Syro-Ephraimite War: Rezin [Syria] and Pekah [Israel] Attack Ahaz [Judah] (734 BC)**

2 Chronicles 28:5–15, 17–19

**Ahaz is Defeated in Battle by Pekah and Rezin**

5 Wherefore, the LORD his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Aram; and they defeated him and carried away from him a great number of captives and brought *them* to Damascus. And he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who inflicted him with heavy casualties.

6 For Pekah the son of Remaliah slew in Judah 120,000 in one day, all valiant men, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers.

7 And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, slew Maaseiah the king's son and Azrikam the ruler of the house and Elkanah the second to the king.

8 The sons of Israel carried away captive of their brethren 200,000 women, sons and daughters; and they took also a great deal of spoil from them, and brought the spoil to Samaria.

**God, through Oded the Prophet, Forbids Israel to Enslave Judah**

9 But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name *was* Oded; and he went out to meet the army which came to Samaria and said to them, "Behold, because the LORD, the God of your fathers, was angry with Judah, He has delivered them into your hand, and you have slain them in a *which* has even reached heaven.

10 "Now you are proposing to subjugate for yourselves the people of Judah and Jerusalem for male and female slaves. Surely, *do* you not *have* transgressions of your own against the LORD your God?"

11 "Now therefore, listen to me and return the captives whom you captured from your brothers, for the burning anger of the LORD is against you."

12 Then some of the heads of the sons of Ephraim—Azariah the son of Johanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai—arose against those who were coming from the battle,

13 and said to them, "You must not bring the captives in here, for you are proposing *to bring* upon us guilt against the LORD adding to our sins and our guilt; for our guilt is great so that *His* burning anger is against Israel."

14 So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the officers and all the assembly.

15 Then the men who were designated by name arose, took the captives, and they clothed all their naked ones from the spoil; and they gave them clothes and sandals, fed them and gave them drink, anointed them *with oil*, led all their feeble ones on donkeys, and brought them to Jericho, the city of palm trees, to their brothers; then they returned to Samaria.

### Edom and Philistia Take Advantage of Judah's Weakness and Attack

17 For again the Edomites had come and attacked Judah and carried away captives.

18 The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the lowland and of the Negev of Judah, and had taken Bethshemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, and Soco with its villages, Timnah with its villages, and Gimzo with its villages, and they settled there.

19 For the LORD humbled Judah because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had brought about a lack of restraint in Judah and was very unfaithful to the LORD.

### Syro-Ephraimite War: Rezin and Pekah Besiege Jerusalem (733 BC)

2 Kings 16:5–6

Isaiah 7:1

5 Then

Rezin king of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah, king of Israel, came up to Jerusalem to *wage war*; and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome him.

6 At that time Rezin king of Aram recovered Elath for Aram, and cleared the Judeans out of Elath entirely; and the Arameans came to Elath and have lived there to this day.

1 Now it came about in the days of Ahaz, the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Aram and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to *wage war* against it, but could not conquer it.

### Syro-Ephraimite War: Isaiah Urges Ahaz to Trust God (733 BC)

Isaiah 7:2–9

2 When it was reported to the house of David, saying, "The Arameans have camped in Ephraim," his heart and the hearts of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake with the wind.

3 Then the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool, on the highway to the fuller's field,

4 and say to him, 'Take care and be calm, have no fear and do not be fainthearted because of these two stubs of smoldering firebrands, on account of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and the son of Remaliah.

5 'Because Aram, *with* Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has planned evil against you, saying,

6 "Let us go up against Judah and terrorize it, and make for ourselves a breach in its walls and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it,"

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

8 "For the head of Aram is Damascus and the head of Damascus is Rezin (now within another 65 years Ephraim will be shattered, *so that it is* no longer a people),

9 and the head of Ephraim is Samaria and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you will not believe, you surely shall not last.'""

### Syro-Ephraimite War: Ahaz [Judah] Asks Tiglath-Pileser III [Assyria] for Help (733 BC)

2 Kings 16:7–8

2 Chronicles 28:16, 21

7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, saying,

16 At that time King Ahaz sent to the kings of Assyria

<p>“I am your servant and your son; come up and deliver me from the hand of the king of Aram and from the hand of the king of Israel, who are rising up against me.”</p>	<p>for help.</p>
<p>8 Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king’s house, and sent a present to the king of Assyria.</p>	<p>21 Although Ahaz took a portion out of the house of the LORD and out of the palace of the king and of the princes, and gave <i>it</i> to the king of Assyria, it did not help him.</p>

## Syro-Ephraimite War: Isaiah Gives Ahaz a Sign (733 BC)

Isaiah 7:10–8:17

### **The Sign of Immanuel**

7:10 Then the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying,

11 “Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; make *it* deep as Sheol or high as heaven.”

12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!”

13 Then he said, “Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well?”

14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. [[Matt 1:23](#)]

15 “He will eat curds and honey at the time He knows *enough* to refuse evil and choose good.

16 “For before the boy will know *enough* to refuse evil and choose good, the land whose two kings you dread will be forsaken.

### **Judgment of the Land**

17 “The LORD will bring on you, on your people, and on your father’s house such days as have never come since the day that Ephraim separated from Judah, the king of Assyria.”

18 In that day the LORD will whistle for the fly that is in the remotest part of the rivers of Egypt and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria.

19 They will all come and settle on the steep ravines, on the ledges of the cliffs, on all the thorn bushes and on all the watering places.

20 In that day the Lord will shave with a razor, hired from regions beyond the Euphrates (*that is*, with the king of Assyria), the head and the hair of the legs; and it will also remove the beard.

21 Now in that day a man may keep alive a heifer and a pair of sheep;

22 and because of the abundance of the milk produced he will eat curds, for everyone that is left within the land will eat curds and honey.

23 And it will come about in that day, that every place where there used to be a thousand vines, *valued* at a thousand *shekels* of silver, will become briars and thorns.

24 *People* will come there with bows and arrows because all the land will be briars and thorns.

25 As for all the hills which used to be cultivated with the hoe, you will not go there for fear of briars and thorns; but they will become a place for pasturing oxen and for sheep to trample.

### **Isaiah Predicts the Destruction of Syria and Israel**

8:1 Then the LORD said to me, “Take for yourself a large tablet and write on it in ordinary letters: Swift is the booty, speedy is the prey.

2 “And I will take to Myself faithful witnesses for testimony, Uriah the priest and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah.”

3 So I approached the prophetess, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. Then the LORD said to me,  
“Name him Maher-shalal-hash-baz;  
4 for before the boy knows how to cry out ‘My father’ or ‘My mother,’ the wealth of Damascus and the spoil  
of Samaria will be carried away before the king of Assyria.”

### **The Coming Assyrian Flood**

5 Again the LORD spoke to me further, saying,

6 “Inasmuch as these people have rejected the gently flowing waters of Shiloah  
And rejoice in Rezin and the son of Remaliah;  
7 “Now therefore, behold, the Lord is about to bring on them the strong and abundant waters of the  
Euphrates,  
*Even* the king of Assyria and all his glory;  
And it will rise up over all its channels and go over all its banks.  
8 “Then it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass through,  
It will reach even to the neck;  
And the spread of its wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel.  
9 “Be broken, O peoples, and be shattered;  
And give ear, all remote places of the earth.  
Gird yourselves, yet be shattered;  
Gird yourselves, yet be shattered.  
10 “Devise a plan, but it will be thwarted;  
State a proposal, but it will not stand,  
For God is with us.”

### **Fear God, Not Human Armies**

11 For thus the LORD spoke to me with mighty power and instructed me not to walk in the way of this  
people, saying,

12 “You are not to say, ‘*It is a conspiracy!*’  
In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy,  
And you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of *it*.  
13 “It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy.  
And He shall be your fear,  
And He shall be your dread.  
14 “Then He shall become a sanctuary;  
But to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over,  
*And* a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem.  
15 “Many will stumble over them,  
Then they will fall and be broken;  
They will even be snared and caught.” [cf. [Rom 9:33](#); [1 Pet 2:8](#)]

16 Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.

17 And I will wait for the LORD who is hiding His face from the house of Jacob; I will even look eagerly for  
Him.

### Syro-Ephraimite War: Assyria Defeats Syria and Israel (732 BC)

2 Kings 16:9; 15:29	1 Chronicles 5:26	2 Chronicles 28:20
<p>16:9 So the king of Assyria</p> <p>listened to him; and the king of Assyria went up against Damascus and captured it, and carried <i>the people of</i> it away into exile to Kir, and put Rezin to death.</p> <p>15:29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and captured Ijon and Abel-beth-maacah and Janoah and Kedesh and Hazor and Gilead and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he carried them captive</p> <p>to Assyria.</p>	<p>26 So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul, king of Assyria, even the spirit of Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria,</p> <p>and he carried them away into exile, namely the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and brought them to Halah, Habor, Hara and to the river of Gozan, to this day.</p>	<p>20 So</p> <p>Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came against him and afflicted him instead of strengthening him.</p>

### Syro-Ephraimite War: Pekah [Israel] is Assassinated by Hoshea (732n BC)

2 Kings 15:30–31

30 And Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and struck him and put him to death and became king in his place, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.

31 Now the rest of the acts of Pekah and all that he did, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

### Syro-Ephraimite War: Hoshea Assumes the Throne of Israel (732n BC)

2 Kings 17:1–2

1 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah became king over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* nine years.

2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, only not as the kings of Israel who were before him.

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