

Pick Your God and Allies Carefully
II Kings 16

Apostasy of Ahaz—instead of worshiping God (1-4)

- It's hard to figure why Ahaz turns from God (see II Chron. 27:6).
- He embraces all sorts of religious views, see II Chron. 28:2-4,22b, 23.

Assyrian Alliance—instead of trusting in God (5-9)

- Ahaz opts to avoid a coalition to oppose Assyria--smart since it was doomed to fail before Assyria's might; but this moves the North / Aram to force Judah to join (Isa. 7:5,6). Results = II Chron. 28:5-8,17,18. Had Ahaz been godly, their attacks would have failed (II Chron. 28:5,19).
- Rather than trust God, Ahaz bribes Assyria to help (backfires--II Chron. 28:19-21). He amazingly blows off God's offer to be with him, which is the archetype for the prophecy of Jesus's birth (Isa. 7:14 / Mtt. 1:23)
- Is it tempting to trust "Assyria" over God when we are in a bind?

Alter Alterations—instead of using the alter of God (10-20)

- Ahaz = deeper into apostasy as he begins messing with the temple, giving it a more Damascus-Assyrian look! See II Chron. 28:17, 18 too.
- Results of Ahaz's actions = unsafe and ungodly, see II Chron. 28:20-22.

