

PP2026

DATE

DON'T THROW THE BABY OUT WITH THE BATH WATER

2 Kings 16:1-4

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

2 Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, and did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD his God, like David his father.

3 But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel.

4 And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree. (KJV)

INTRODUCTION: All of us have heard the cliché of “Throwing The Baby Out With The Bath Water.” This is what America has done in the matter of spiritual practice and culture.

What went on in Vs. 4 of the text, was all sorts of ungodly, immoral actions that we cannot talk about here today. But it was all in the practice of idol worship. It was wicked stuff, that was done by Ahaz who was a wicked king. He was a moral and religious pervert. He was twisted and warped in his thinking and actions, thus we should learn some lessons from him.

How did he get like this? What lessons can we learn from this? How did he affect his people?

In Vs. 2 we see his spiritual record: “...*did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD his God, like David his father.*”

David had set an example of serving the Lord and standing against the idols and idolatry that existed in David’s time. All of those same areas were present in David’s day. The high places, the shrines, the groves. The immorality, the passing of their sons through the fire unto the god of Molech. All of that was going on during David’s day. But David did not involve himself in any of that. He stood for the Lord Jehovah.

Ahaz did not see things as did David his father, or his forefathers. Here is the first lesson:

I. HE (AHAZ) REJECTED THE HISTORICAL POSITION OF HIS PEOPLE.

He rejected all he had been taught and that which he knew was of God he threw it out.

In the 1960’s and early 70’s there was a spiritual and moral revolution that took place in our country. Of the graduates of that movement two of them moved into the White House in 1993. This movement brought moral perversion of turning away from the

position of our forefathers and our nation believing in God, in prayer, in justice, and believing in working for what you get, and turning their backs on all of that and slipping around, sleeping around, immoral perversion, waving the Bible with one hand and condemning restraints and restrictions – they brought on a revolution. It wasn't just against the Viet Nam war, but they were against anything moral, mannerly, and anything to do with God. It changed our culture and our country. It has only gotten worse.

That's who Ahaz was. I believe this is teaching us that we had better not throw the baby out with the bath water. The recording of Ahaz' philosophy tries to teach us (hear me) that the present day dad is stupid, and that the preacher, who preaches the Bible, is stupid and all that our country has stood for is out of date. We had better be careful about that, because things aren't turning out very well. You can't throw everything away and still have "America, The Land Of The Free And The Home Of The Brave" left. We can't throw everything away and still have church the way it was meant in the Bible. Our forefathers stood for decency, morality, honesty, devotion to the home and country. You can't throw that out and still have freedom left.

When we reject the historical position – all we have left is anarchy and spiritual chaos.

We are paying an awful price. Nearly forty million babies murdered. Thank God they are in heaven. Our homes are being destroyed. The home is being redefined. The family is redefined. Marriage is redefined. Do you know what we have done? When sin becomes a problem we just redefine it into something nice.

Abortion has become – A personal choice.

Drunkenness has become – a disease.

Homosexuality has become an – alternative lifestyle.

Divorce is now – single parent homes.

We have rejected the values that the Word of God taught us and we are paying an awful price for it.

The moral and religious pervert, King Ahaz is just like the moral and religious perverts we have in leadership today in our nation. It is sad to say however; that the ungodly leaders are not the cause of the moral decline of the country. It is cowardly preachers that back off on separation, holiness, and standing on the Bible. It's Christians that will walk out Sunday AM and say, *"Nice sermon, Pastor"*, and then go out and live like the devil. That's our problem today.

LESSON IN HIS NAME – Ahaz means – "holding"- or "seized". There are some commentaries that ascribe the name "Ahaz" as the same as "Jehoahaz". Jehoahaz means – "Jehovah holds" or "Jehovah holds or seizes". Ahaz's name originally meant – "The Lord or Jehovah holds". On his ring seal it is said to read "Ahaz". He dropped the part about the Lord. That's very significant to what's happening today. There are a lot of Baptist churches taking the name "Baptist" off their name. If they can do that, then I think they should. If that ever becomes an issue with this church I hope someone will burn it down before it changes.

I have heard about pastors taking the name of "preacher" off their title. There is no greater title in the world than "Preacher". It is a much greater calling than President of the USA. They want to stand up on Sunday AM wearing a pull over shirt, a pair blue

jeans and tennis shoes, with a gold necklace around their neck and be called “a friend”. Not me I like the name “Preacher”. Ahaz dropped that part of his name that had to do with the Lord.

What did he do? He Rejected The Historical Position Of His People.

Secondly:

II. HE THREW OFF HIS GODLY HERITAGE.

He changed his name and chose to run with the world. He wanted to look cool with the world.

That’s the group that says, *“Don’t saddle me with those old fashioned restrictions, and restraints, rules, and haircuts. I want to be like the world, look tough.”* Since when does wearing earrings and necklaces make men look tough. When I was younger they called them “faggots”. (You msy need to look that word up in the dictionary). It’s hard to tell the “he’s” from the “she’s”. So now they are known as “shims”. You can’t tell some of the boys from the girls apart that attend Westmoore High School. The boys grow long hair, and the girls wear short hair and blue jeans. That’s our society. Many choose to throw off their godly heritage and run with the world’s crowd.

We had better be careful about throwing off our godly heritage, our name, and styles to identify with the world. (Rom 13:14 KJV) *“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”*

How did Ahaz get to be such a moral and religious pervert? He changed his name.

He Rejected The Historical Position Of His People.

He Threw Off His Godly Heritage.

III. HIS ANCESTORY –

AHAZ’S FATHER - Jotham. 2 Kings 15:32.

(2 Ki 15:32 KJV) *“In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah king of Israel began Jotham the son of Uzziah king of Judah to reign.”*

(2 Ki 15:33 KJV) *“Five and twenty years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jerusha, the daughter of Zadok.”*

(2 Ki 15:34 KJV) *“And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD: he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done.”*

(2 Ki 15:35 KJV) **“Howbeit the high places were not removed: the people sacrificed and burned incense still in the high places. He built the higher gate of the house of the LORD.”**

Notice in Vs. 35 – *“He built the higher gate of the house of the LORD.”* He kept the standards high in his own life. He had separation as a strong issue. He lived it, but he didn’t insist on the people living by the same standards.

The people still sacrificed and burned incense.

If it is right for the preacher and his wife to live to a certain standard, it is right for the whole church. If it is expected of my wife and I to set a certain standard, then each of you should come up to that same standard. Some of you aren't doing that. I almost want to name names.

What would you think if you went to Wal-Mart and saw the preacher's wife in a pair of short shorts and a halter top? What would you think? Suppose you drove by our house and you saw me mowing the lawn with no shirt on and wearing soccer shorts. You would be embarrassed and ashamed, and you should be. What's the difference. I have seen some of the members of this church dressed like that. I've seen some of the children dressed like that. Age should not make a difference. If you are going to teach them to dress right when they are 12 and 13, why don't you start when they are 2 and 3. *"But they look so cute in those little panty showing dresses or short pants."* You are following after the world. You are going to cause them to not believe that the Word of God is important in all matters of life. When the preacher preaches about such things they won't believe it because you let down in the home. If it is right for one, it is right for all.

I don't feel like I have done what God has commanded me to do until I see the membership of this church walking in the truth and practice of the Lord. Just preaching it is not enough. I want to see you growing in the Lord and following the Word of God in your own private lives. It's right because the Book, The Bible, says it, and not because the preacher says it. Follow the Book. It would be a lot easier to get people saved if church members would live on the outside of the church what they heard on the inside. I will give an account to God for how the people of this church respond. I'm to watch for your souls. Some of you make it hard to do. You insist on doing your own thing, and making your own rules. It's hard to teach what's right. When I hear about someone messing up I say to myself, *"Where did I go wrong? How did I fail to teach them what's right?"* I can't just jump in and start throwing people away, and making heads roll. It has to be done with compassion, love, and concern for each one. I have to do it like I had some sense and that's hard for me, because I don't have much sense.

Jotham did things right, but he didn't require it of the people under him. I hope you are getting this lesson. Ahaz comes along and throws everything out.

AHAZ'S GRANDFATHER – Azariah – 2 Kings 15:1-4.

(2 Ki 15:1 KJV) "In the twenty and seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel began Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah to reign."

(2 Ki 15:2 KJV) "Sixteen years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned two and fifty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem."

(2 Ki 15:3 KJV) "And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done;"

(2 Ki 15:4 KJV) "Save that the high places were not removed: the people sacrificed and burnt incense still on the high places."

It wasn't important enough for Ahaz's father to put a stop to it. It wasn't important enough for his grandfather to stop it. Listen to me you men, we will influence our

grandchildren and children by that which we say, but also by that which we don't say. If I see one of them doing a certain thing that is wrong and I don't correct them I have done damage to them.

Grandpa must not think it is very important if he doesn't do anything about it.

Let me just tell you the truth. I get very tired of the battle. Sometimes I get so battle worn from having to straighten out misguided folks, and fighting the devil until I want to throw the towel in. I say, "What's the use? Why keep on?" It would be a lot easier to unbutton my top button. Take off the necktie. Bring in popular music. Get the dramas and contemporary artists to help. We would grow. The budget would increase. We would be popular. Everyone would love us. We could get out church service on the 6:00 newscast.

Let me tell you. Just the very thought of that starts something way down deep inside me and it gets bigger and bigger and there is a voice inside me that says, "**Don't you dare let up.**" I see these little boys and girls coming on here, someone has to tell them about the wiles of the devil. Someone has to warn the community of the tricks and deceitfulness of the devil. There must be a true and shining light for all to see. If we don't do it, who will? I am afraid not to continue. BHBC may be the only hope for some.

I realize there probably is a more tactful way to present it, but when a person gets tired and weary sometimes we don't think as well as other times, that may be where I am presently.

I appreciate what many of you did 2 or 3 weeks ago following the service when Jerry Monday was here. Several of you came to me and said, "*Preacher, keep on doing what you are doing.*" I need that. Too often I hear, "*You are preaching too hard.*" Or "*You don't have any compassion.*" Here's one: "*You are a very negative person.*" One person told me one morning as they left, "*You sure are mean.*"

I get accused of being negative often, and I am, but let me tell you something that you probably haven't thought of: Everything in your home runs on the principle of a positive and negative. Every appliance in your house operates on the influence of a positive pole and a negative pole. Electricity must have a positive and a negative pole. If the negative pole on your car battery is not hooked up your car won't start. Your physical life needs that also. If everything was just "do, do, do, do and never don't, don't, don't" you would be heading for a crash in life.

If every student at Westmoore High School had a preacher on Sunday that would stand up and give them the negatives of life and warning them of the dangers of drugs, alcohol, porno, and loose lifestyle, there would be a totally different generation of young people coming from that school. You wait until the graduating classes of 1999 and 2000 begin to make the laws and set the standards for you and I to live by and you will understand what I am talking about.

HIS GREAT GRANDFATHER: 2 Chronicles 25:1-2.

(2 Chr 25:1 KJV) "Amaziah was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoadan of Jerusalem."

*(2 Chr 25:2 KJV) "And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, **but not with a perfect heart.**"*

Now here is the great grandfather - where did his problem all begin? In the heart. Hey, listen to me. It all starts with the heart. *(Prov 23:7 KJV) "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:"*

The problems you are dealing with right now are not because of someone has been unfair with you, nor that your parents raised you wrong, neither is the problem the boss or the President of the USA. The problem that you face is in your heart.

Look at Vs. 14&15: *(2 Chr 25:14 KJV) "Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them."*

(2 Chr 25:15 KJV) "Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand?"

Why didn't Ahaz's father and grandfather destroy the idols? Because great granddad brought them in. They were just following his example. Nothing unusual about that. That still happens today. Expect your children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to follow your influence.

Get the picture – God enabled Amaziah to go out and conquer the heathen people. So he then brought in their gods and bowed down to them. What kind of smart is that? The gods of the Edomites didn't do their people any good. So why would Amaziah bow down to them? He just didn't pay it any attention. He was being stupid. When you don't follow God with all of your heart, you will do some pretty stupid things. *(Mat 22:37 KJV) "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."*

Young people listen: As we look around seeing what is happening to our society. Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, loose living is killing our friends and acquaintances by the thousands, and suicides. Shouldn't we be able to look at them and see that it is not good. Drugs and alcohol, free sex causes homes and families to grieve and weep over the tragedy that occurs. The death and shootings should be warning to every home in the USA, but it isn't. Nothing changes. It really intensifies. We go right on still protecting those who are guilty and who should be paying with their lives. We are being very stupid.

We are not learning. It should be pretty easy to understand that the drug culture will bring death, and that rejecting God and his Word will bring death. Why can't we humans learn that?

All a rebel needs to excuse his sin is an impure heart and a little compromise and you will see that person develop into an Ahaz.

Look at our text again: (2 Ki 16:3 KJV) *"But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel."*

(2 Ki 16:4 KJV) *"And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree."*

One more application:

IV. LOOK AT AHAZ'S WIFE AND SON.

(2 Ki 18:1 KJV) *"Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign."*

(2 Ki 18:2 KJV) *"Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Abi, the daughter of Zachariah."*

(2 Ki 18:3 KJV) *"And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did."*

(2 Ki 18:4 KJV) *"He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan."*

(2 Ki 18:5 KJV) *"He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him."*

This is the son of Ahaz. Ahaz was a very ungodly, immoral king. His son is a very godly king. Back in 2 Kings 16:3 we see that Hezekiah was made to walk through the fire of the heathen gods, but God preserved him. What happened? Look at his mother. Abi – the daughter of Zachariah. Zachariah was a godly man. Ahaz married a woman that had been raised in a godly home. She was apparently a godly mother. This will tell us that a mother who is determined to raise a son or daughter for God can in spite of the father's personality. If dad wants to be a bum, fine – if he wants to be a pervert, OK.

Mom you can do it. Hezekiah was one of the greatest kings of all times. Look at Vs. 5-7. 2Ki 18:5 He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him.

6 For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses.

7 And the LORD was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not. KJV)

Don't give up on that child. Keep on praying. Keep on teaching. Keep on expecting them to do right. Keep on insisting that they study hard and live right, and you will see the hand of God do great things in the life of that child.

Let's not throw the baby out with the bath water. Let's not throw away the old paths, or that truth of the Word of God. Let's keep it before us, reading it, believing it, practicing it, teaching it every day.

INVITATION

THIS SERMON AND HUNDREDS OF OTHERS ARE AVAILABLE ON A

**DATA CD ROM DISK OR A USB THUMB DRIVE
THE DISK CONTAINS ALL THE WORK PUBLISHED DURING
A LIFETIME OF MINISTRY OF PASTOR CASTEEL
WHICH INCLUDES MORE THAN 1200 SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS COVERING OVER 50
SUBJECT OR TOPICS,
AND MORE THAN 2500 SERMON OUTLINES OF ALL TYPES AND SUBJECTS.
THE DISK IS AVAILABLE FOR \$50.00**

**CONTACT
IVAN G. CASTEEL
11704 MACKEL DRIVE
OKC, OK 73170
405-760-7540
icasteel1@cox.net**