

Seeking False Saviors

2 Kings 16:5-9 (with 2 Chronicles 28:5-21 and Isaiah 7-8)

1. King of Judah Facing a _____ Situation
 - a. _____ of an alliance of enemies
 - i. Syria and Israel _____ Assyrian control
 - ii. Syria and Israel plan to install _____ king
 - b. _____ hearts of Ahaz and his people
 - c. _____ from the LORD
 - i. That enemy alliance will not _____
 - ii. That Ephraim (Israel) will __ within 65 years
 - iii. To replace fear with _____
 - d. _____ from the LORD
 - i. Sign of _____ warns of Assyrian danger
 - ii. Sign of Isaiah's _____ prophesies Assyrian invasion against enemies to Judah's neck

2. King of Judah Reaping His _____
 - a. The LORD _____ Ahaz into enemies' hands
 - i. Because of his terrible _____
 - ii. Because Judah had _____ the LORD
 - b. _____ won a battle and took many captives
 - i. Important Red Sea port _____ taken
 - c. _____ invaded and took captives
 - d. _____ raided and captured many cities
 - e. _____ inflicted great damage on Judah
 - i. _____ Judean soldiers killed in one day
 - ii. King's _____ killed along with 2 key leaders
 - iii. _____ captives taken along with spoil
 1. Israel _____ by the LORD
 2. Ephraimite chiefs _____ enslavement
 - a. Confessing _____ of Israel
 - b. _____ for the captives

3. King of Judah _____ His Path

- a. "Sells his _____"
- b. "_____ over promise"
 - i. Seeks "_____" from Tiglath-Pileser
 - ii. Liberally ____ his "savior" with gold & silver
- c. Receives a _____ reward
 - i. Assyria does cause Syria to _____
 - ii. The LORD _____ Judah due to Ahaz
 - iii. Assyria _____ rather than strengthens Judah

Thus says the LORD: 'For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment., because they have threshed Gilead with threshing sledges of iron. So I will send a fire upon the house of Hazael, and it shall devour the strongholds of Ben-Hadad. I will break the gate-bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitants from the Valley of Aven, and he who holds the scepter from Beth-eden; and the people of Syria shall go into exile to Kir.'

Amos 1:3-5 (over a decade prior to our texts)

"I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you."

2 Samuel 7:14-15

"If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all."

Isaiah 7:9b

Quote on Ahaz's Faith

"Ahaz walks the way of human ingenuity. It may be *royal* human ingenuity, but it is still *human* ingenuity. This thinking says to itself, 'My troubles are too complex for me to lean upon Yahweh's assurances, but I see a clear and obvious way to solves this problem.' ... Shucked to the bone, the choice is between pragmatism or promise. (Ahaz had Yahweh's promise of deliverance through Isaiah [Isaiah 7:3-9].) Do I go with what I am sure will work or wait for what God offers? Do I jump on an immediate solution or submit to what God requires?"

(Dale Ralph Davis, *2 Kings: The Power and the Fury*, 2005, p 234-235)