

**Theme:** The Living God commands true, faithful, obedient worship. Through it flows all security, peace, and life.

**Background:** Last week saws the dissolution of Israel. What was happening in Judah?

**Introduction:** “TMI” can make decisions harder.

## **I. Pursuing True Worship** (2 Kings 15:32-38)

### A. Through a faithful king

1. Jotham
  - Did what was right in the eyes of the Lord
  - He knew God’s favor (2 Chronicles 27:6)
2. The Temple – Lifted up as locus of God’s presence
  - Makes repairs, beautifies the house of the Lord

### B. With a faithless people

1. Holding onto the high places (35)
  - Following corrupt practices (cf. 2 Chronicles 27 :2)
2. A storm is brewing
  - The alliance of Rezin of Syria and Pekah of Israel (37)

NOTE: God would use them to discipline/chastise the people of Judah.

APPLICATION: If God wants to use you as his instrument – try not to take over

3. The king they wanted

## **II. Rejecting True Worship** (2 Kings 16)

Leads inevitably to...

### A. A suffering people

- Israel and Syria march against Judah

### B. A faithless king

1. A revealing visit – from Isaiah (Isaiah 7)

- a. Ask for a sign! (7:11)

NOTE: The Lord is asking, “Will you worship me, trust me, serve me?”

- b. He will not ask!
  - Feigning piety (7:12)

- c. Ahaz’s unbelief – He will not trust the Lord!
  - Refusing to submit to the Lord

APPLICATION: If you will not risk your life on the Lord you will not have life. (7:9b)

2. Appealing to Assyria – not the Lord
  - Pressure is relieved – briefly

NOTE: He seeks his security from the world, not from the Lord. But real security is only found with the Lord. (cf. Matthew 6:19-33)

NOTE: Friendship with the world comes at a price. It can be quite steep! (James 4:4)

3. A defining visit to Damascus (2 Kings 10-16)

a. Enamored of the world's worship

- The altar in Damascus
- Duplicated in the temple

b. A substitute for the altar of the Lord (12,13)

NOTE: 2 Chronicles 28:24-25 finishes the story – Ahaz cuts off the people of God from the worship of the Lord

c. Judah is like Israel and the Canaanites

APPLICATION: Pleasing worship? What God desires and directs

### III. Our Faithful LORD

A. God is not finished

1. Don't fear these smoldering stumps! (Isaiah 7:4)

- They will soon be no more.

NOTE: Sends Isaiah to Ahaz when things looked bleak

2. The promised Immanuel?

- Ahaz won't ask
- But God promises a sign

NOTE: It is both a promise and a threat! Like Isaiah 7:9 (cf. Luke 2:34)

B. Given a sign (Isaiah 7:14ff)

1. The virgin shall conceive!

2. Receive – and promised life follows

3. Reject – and judgment follows

4. His promise never fails

NOTE: Ahaz sought to end the worship of the Lord in Judah. He failed.

Are we facing a similar challenge? It will fail.

C. Life flows from true worship

1. Where God resides

- Where he has placed his name

2. Where he has revealed his name

- In Christ Jesus, Immanuel – God with us
- John 2:19

3. Who lives in us

- John 17:23

**Conclusion:** Get this right and you will be secure now and forever.

Next Week: 2 Kings 18 & 19