



1



2

Kings of Judah	Reign	Evaluation
Rehoboam	17 yrs.	evil
Abijah	3 yrs.	evil
Asa	41 yrs.	good
Jehoshaphat	25 yrs.	good (<i>hp</i>)
Jehoram	8 yrs.	evil
Ahaziah	1 yr.	evil
Joash	40 yrs.	good (<i>hp</i>)
Amaziah	29 yrs.	good (<i>hp</i>)
Azariah/Uzziah	52 yrs.	good (<i>hp</i>)
Jotham	16 yrs.	good (<i>hp</i>)

3

³⁶Now the rest of the acts of Jotham and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? ³⁷In those days the LORD began to send Rezin king of Aram and Pekah the son of Remaliah against Judah. ³⁸And Jotham slept with his fathers, and he was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father; and Ahaz his son became king in his place.

(2 Kings 15:36-38)

4

In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham, king of Judah, became king. ²Ahaz 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*. ³But 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. ⁴He sacrificed and burned incense on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree.

(2 Kings 16:1-4)

5

2 Kings 16:1-20

➤ *Imitating Israel...*

- Ahaz “walked in the ways of the kings of Israel”
- Ahaz is cast as a new Jeroboam in Judah – an inventor of deviant worship
- No reminder of God’s promise to David, but a reference to “driving out” the nations

6

Aspects of Idolatry

1. Idolatry's Abomination

- idolatry harms people, even children – *"he made his son pass through the fire"*
- God judged the Canaanite nations for these "abominations"

(e.g. abortion/infanticide today)

7

Aspects of Idolatry

2. Idolatry's Mistrust

- Ahaz does not trust Yahweh for deliverance, but turns in submission to Assyria

Tiglath-pileser III – Assyrian King (745-727 B.C.)

(c.f. Isaiah 7:1-13)



8

Aspects of Idolatry

2. Idolatry's Mistrust

- Ahaz does not trust Yahweh for deliverance, but turns in submission to Assyria

in times of trouble or distress, do we serve a "functional" god?

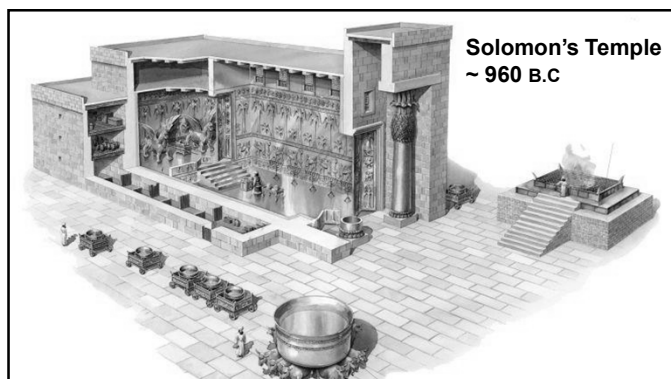
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Aspects of Idolatry

3. Idolatry's Innovations

- Ahaz was eager to assimilate international fashions into the temple and accommodate the Assyrian king

10



11

Aspects of Idolatry

3. Idolatry's Innovations

- distorting God's prescribed pattern and means of worship is another form of idolatry

true worship today is only in and through Jesus Christ

12