

## 2 Kings 16

Verses 1 - 4

In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham, king of Judah, became king. <sup>2</sup> Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned for 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*. <sup>3</sup> But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and he even made his son pass through the fire, in accordance with the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had driven out before the sons of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.

In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham, king of Judah, became king.

See chart 1605

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
10	Jotham	750/740	731	16	10 years
11	Ahaz	743/731	715	16	12 years
12	Hezekiah	728/715	686	29	13 years
13	Manasseh	696/686	642	55	10 years
14	Amon	642	640	2	
15	Josiah	640	609	31	
16	Jehoahaz	609	609	3 months	
17	Jehoiakim	609	598	11	
18	Jehoiachin	598	597	3 months	
19	Zedekiah	597	586	11	

His full name was Jehoahaz. He was one of the worst kings of Judah.

**<sup>2</sup> Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem;**

This would mean that Ahaz was 36 years old when he died. However, his son, Hezekiah, was 25 years old when he became king, so that would mean that Ahaz married at 10 years of age and had a son when he was 11. This was a problem to scholars for many years until it was discovered that some of the kings had a co-reign. Since Ahaz had a co-reign of 12 years then it is likely that he married at the age of 22 and had Hezekiah when he was 23.

**<sup>3</sup> But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and he even made his son pass through the fire, in accordance with the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had driven out before the sons of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.**

Three charges were made against Ahaz

1. He walked in the way of the kings of Israel.
2. He made his son pass through the fire.
3. And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.

Concerning the sacrifice of his son, this is the first reported instance of a Molech-sacrifice among the Israelites. However, Solomon had built a high place for Molech.

See 1 Kings 11:7

**<sup>7</sup> Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh, the abhorrent idol of Moab, on the mountain that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abhorrent idol of the sons of Ammon.**

Molech was the national god of the Ammonites.

Moloch or Molech is pictured as a big bronze statue with the body of a man and the head of a bull. Essentially, it was a huge furnace that was heated until the whole image was intensity hot. Children were then placed in the furnace as a sacrifice to this god.

See pic 1610



This god was also recognized among the Phoenicians, and the Philistines

See pics 1615



In the later years of Ahaz's reign he insulted the Lord by closing the doors of the House of the Lord.

See 2 Chronicles 28:24

<sup>24</sup> Moreover, when Ahaz gathered together the utensils of the house of God, he cut the utensils of the house of God in pieces; and he closed the doors of the house of the LORD, and made altars for himself in every corner of Jerusalem.



Verses 5 - 6

**Then Rezin the king of Aram and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem for war; and they besieged Ahaz, but were not capable of fighting him. <sup>6</sup> At that time Rezin king of Aram restored Elath to Aram, and drove the Judeans away from Elath; and the Arameans came to Elath and have lived there to this day.**

**Then Rezin the king of Aram and Pekah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem and besieged Ahaz, but were not capable of fighting him.**

From Isaiah we learn that the Lord sent Isaiah and his son to King Ahaz to let him know that he should trust in the Lord because the plans of Rezin & Pekah will fail.

See Isaiah 7:3 – 7

**<sup>3</sup> Then the Lord said to Isaiah, “Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool, on the road to the fuller’s field, <sup>4</sup> and say to him, ‘Take care and be calm, have no fear and do not be fainthearted because of these two stumps of smoldering logs, on account of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and the son of Remaliah. <sup>5</sup> Because Aram, *with* Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has planned evil against you, saying, <sup>6</sup> “Let’s go up against Judah and terrorize it, and take it for ourselves by assault and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it,” <sup>7</sup> this is what the Lord God says: “It shall not stand nor shall it come to pass.”**

**<sup>6</sup> At that time Rezin king of Aram restored Elath to Aram, and drove the Judeans away from Elath; and the Arameans came to Elath and have lived there to this day.**

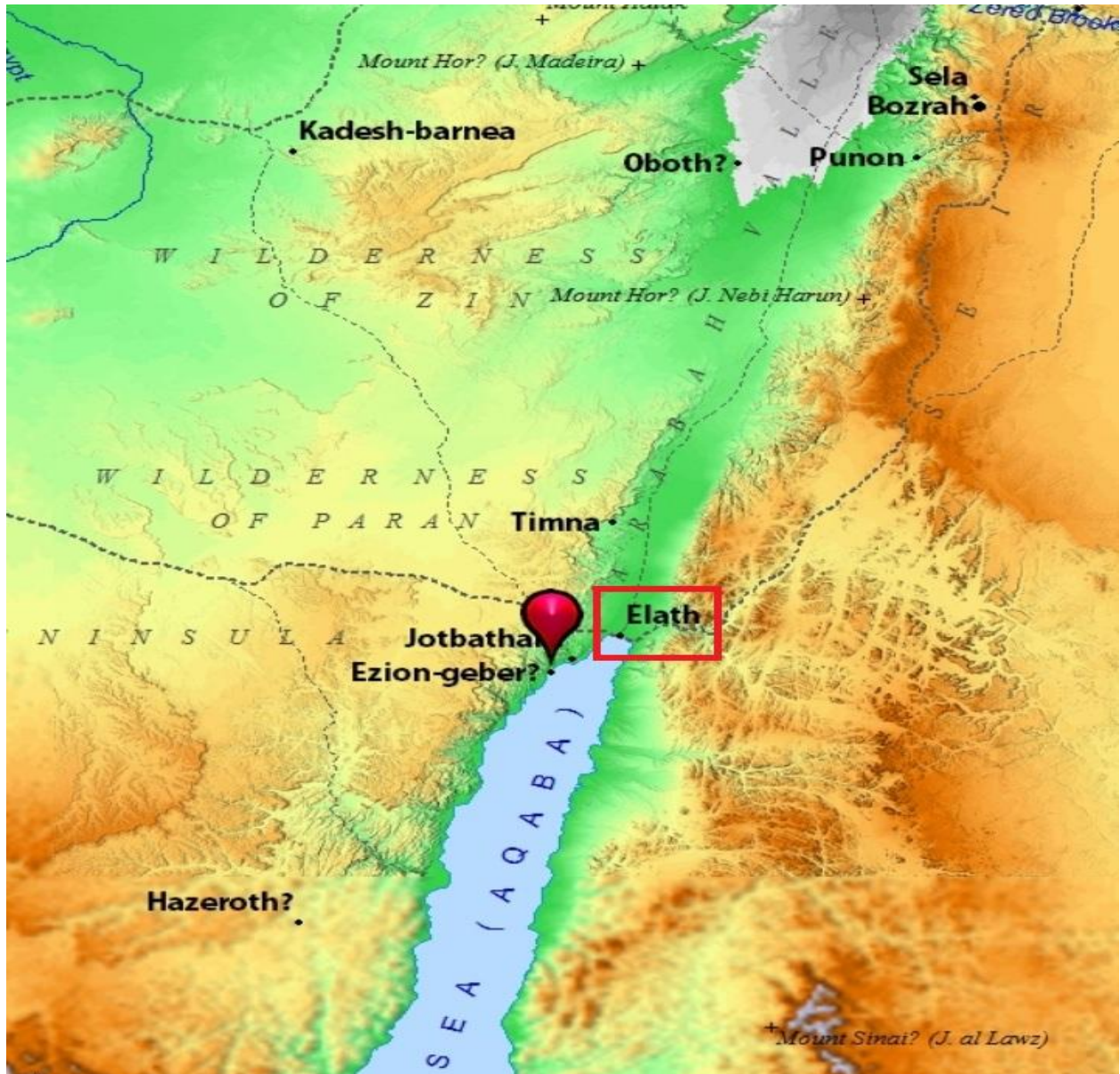
This place was just built and restored to Judah by King Azariah.

See 2 Kings 14:21-22

**<sup>21</sup> And all the people of Judah took Azariah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah. <sup>22</sup> He built Elath and restored it to Judah after the king lay down with his fathers.**

Now, just two chapters later, it was taken away by the King of Aram.

See Map 1620



Verses 7 - 9

So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, saying, “I am your servant and your son; come up and save me from the hand of the king of Aram, and from the hand of the king of Israel, who are rising up against me.”<sup>8</sup> And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the Lord and in the treasuries of the king’s house, and sent a gift to the king of Assyria.<sup>9</sup> So the king of Assyria listened to him; and the king of Assyria went up against Damascus and captured it, and led *the people of it* into exile to Kir, and put Rezin to death.

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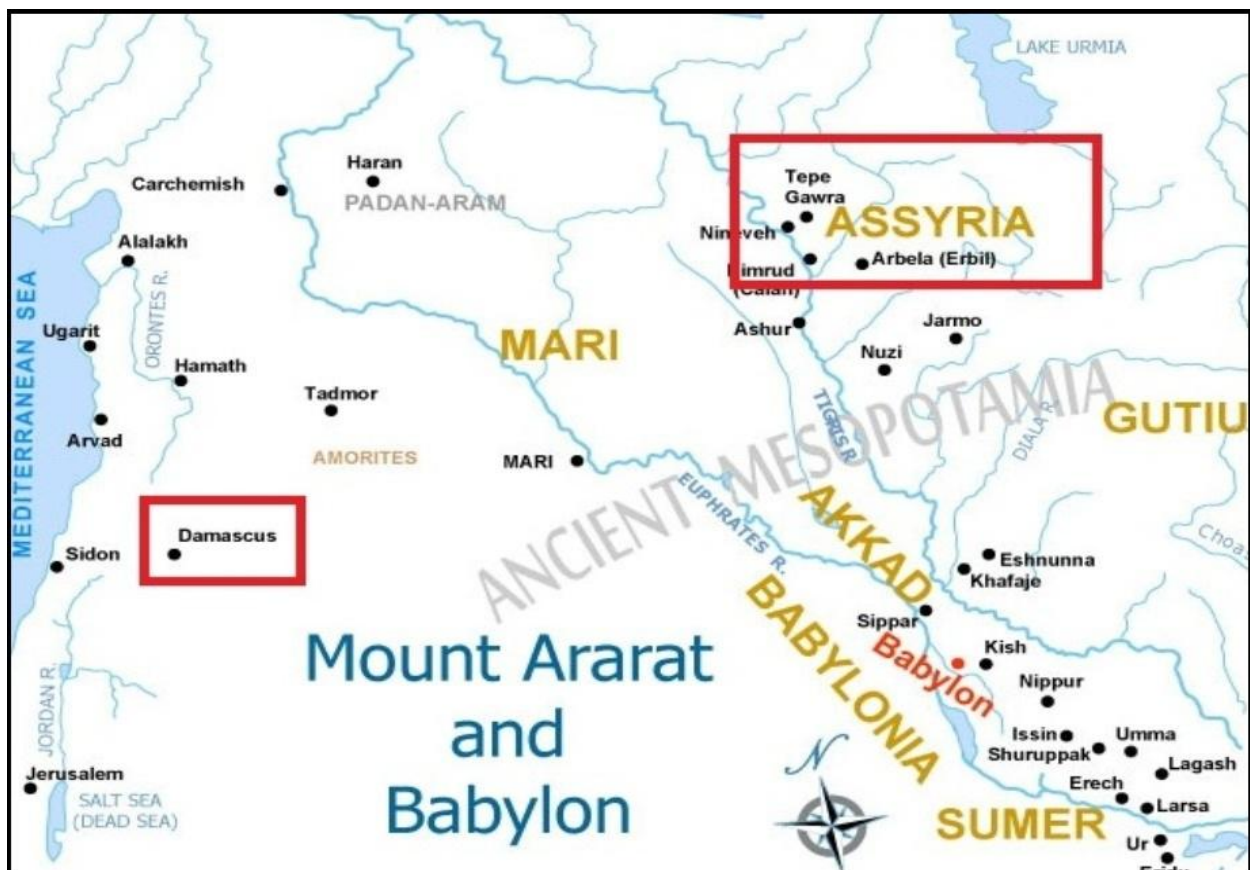
God had already told Ahaz that Syria and Israel would fail and yet he decides to pay the King of Assyria to “save him”.

<sup>8</sup> And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the Lord and in the treasuries of the king’s house, and sent a gift to the king of Assyria.

Despite what God had said, Ahaz decided to get help from Assyria rather than trusting in the Lord for the victory.

<sup>9</sup> So the king of Assyria listened to him; and the king of Assyria went up against Damascus and captured it, and led the people of it into exile to Kir, and put Rezin to death.

See Map 1625



Verses 10 - 13

**<sup>10</sup> Now King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and he saw the altar which was at Damascus; and King Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the pattern of the altar and its model, according to all its workmanship. <sup>11</sup> So Urijah the priest built an altar; according to everything that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus, in that way Urijah the priest made *it*, before the coming of King Ahaz from Damascus. <sup>12</sup> And when the king came from Damascus, the king saw the altar; then the king approached the altar and went up to it, <sup>13</sup> and burned his burnt offering and his meal offering, and poured out his drink offering and sprinkled the blood of his peace offerings on the altar.**

**<sup>10</sup> Now King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and he saw the altar which was at Damascus; and King Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the pattern of the altar and its model, according to all its workmanship.**

From the inscriptions of Tiglath-pileser we learn that it was his custom to hold court in the capital city of the countries that he conquered, and the vassal kings were expected to appear there with their tribute.

When Ahaz asked for Assyrian assistance, he said, "I am your servant and your son". This meant complete submission to the king of Assyria. The king (and by extension the people of Judah) were expected to worship in the same manner as the Assyrians. So Ahaz sent word to Urijah the priest so he could begin setting up the new altar in Jerusalem.

**<sup>11</sup> So Urijah the priest built an altar; according to everything that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus, in that way Urijah the priest made *it*, before the coming of King Ahaz from Damascus. <sup>12</sup> And when the king came from Damascus, the king saw the altar; then the king approached the altar and went up to it, <sup>13</sup> and burned his burnt offering and his meal offering, and poured out his drink offering and sprinkled the blood of his peace offerings on the altar.**

The king did not have the authority to add an altar in the Lord's House. This should have been met with the strongest resistance by the High Priest but it seems that Uzziah willingly obeyed the king and got it done quickly.

The King also had no authority to offer sacrifices at the temple even if it was an unauthorized altar. Unfortunately, king Ahaz will do many more terrible things at and to the Lord's House.

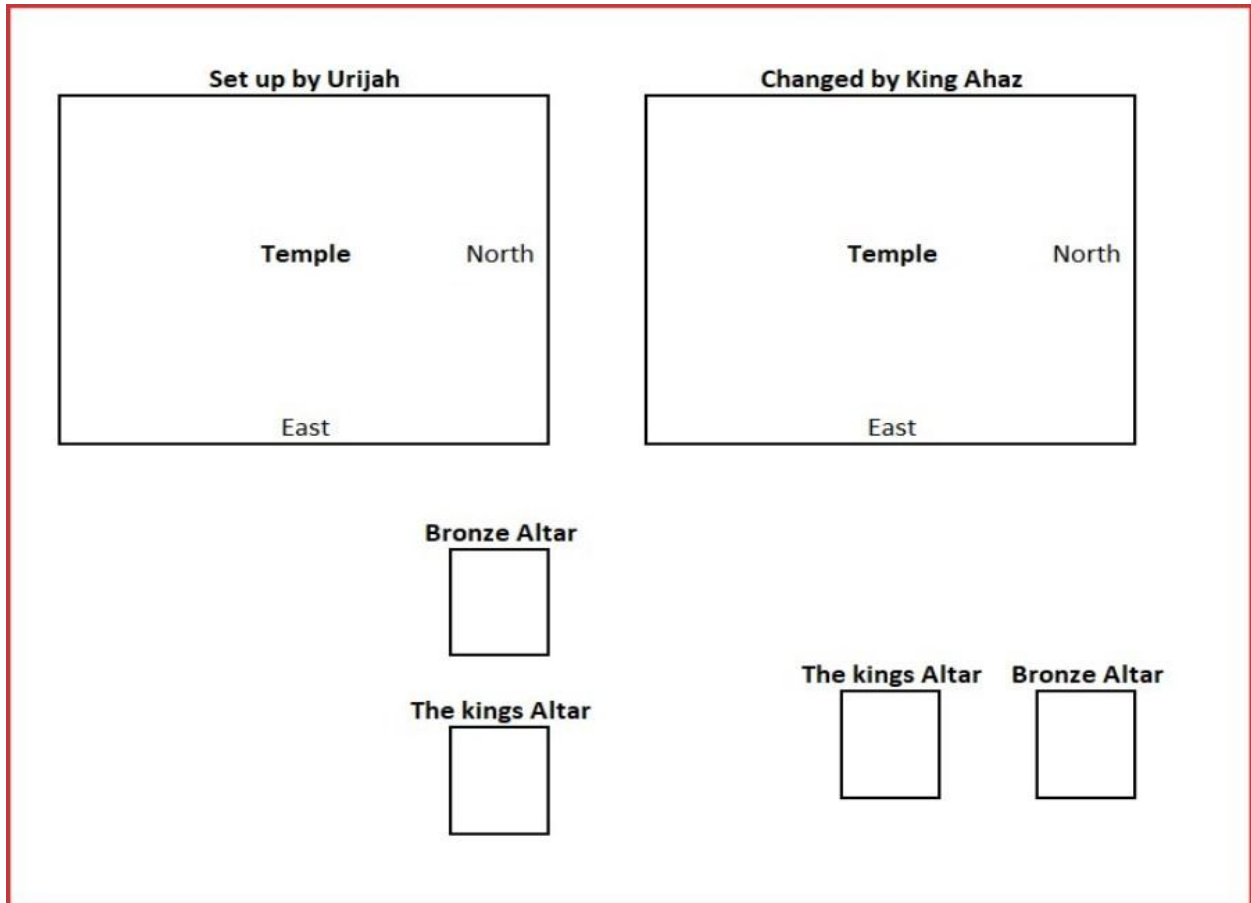


Verses 14 - 16

<sup>14</sup> And the bronze altar, which was before the Lord, he brought from the front of the house, from between *his* altar and the house of the Lord, and he put it on the north side of *his* altar. <sup>15</sup> Then King Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, “Upon the great altar burn the morning burnt offering, the evening meal offering, the king’s burnt offering and his meal offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, their meal offering, and their drink offerings; and sprinkle on it all the blood of the burnt offering and all the blood of the sacrifice. But the bronze altar shall be for me, for making inquiries.” <sup>16</sup> So Urijah the priest acted in accordance with everything that King Ahaz commanded.

<sup>14</sup> And the bronze altar, which was before the Lord, he brought from the front of the house, from between *his* altar and the house of the Lord, and he put it on the north side of *his* altar.

See pic 1630



The King did not like his Altar being 2<sup>nd</sup> fiddle to the Lord's Altar so he had the Altar of the Lord brought back to where it was even with his. It is surprising that this was not met with some thunder and lightning.

**15 Then King Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, "Upon the great altar burn the morning burnt offering.... But the bronze altar shall be for me, for making inquiries."**

Ahaz wanted all the offerings to be made on his altar, while the Lord's Altar was limited to the times when the king wanted to know the Lord's will on a matter.

**16 So Urijah the priest acted in accordance with everything that King Ahaz commanded.**

It is really sad to see a religious leader (Urijah) and those that serve under him (the priesthood) willingly appease a corrupt political leader.

It seems that most of the Republican Party can't see it right now but Donald trump is the new Ahaz and the Republican Party leaders are the new Urijah. They spoke up for about two weeks after the Capital was attacked but then they all quickly reverted back to appeasing Trump when the MAGA group showed their displeasure. It is sad that the Republican Party that once believed in morality and law and order have set these two principles aside.

When Ronald Reagan was asked why he left the Democratic Party he said, "I didn't leave the Democratic party, the Democratic Party left me." Many republicans may have a similar experience when the fever breaks.

Verses 17 - 20

**17 Then King Ahaz cut off the borders of the stands, and removed the wash basin from them; he also took down the Sea from the bronze oxen which were under it and put it on a pavement of stone. 18 And the covered way for the Sabbath which they had built in the house, and the outer entry of the king, he removed *from* the house of the Lord because of the king of Assyria. 19 Now *as for* the rest of the acts of Ahaz which he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? 20 So Ahaz lay down with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David; and his son Hezekiah reigned in his place.**

17 Then King Ahaz cut off the borders of the stands, and removed the wash basin from them; See Pic 1635



He also took down the Sea from the bronze oxen which were under it and put it on a pavement of stone. See pic 1640



**<sup>18</sup> And the covered way for the Sabbath which they had built in the house, and the outer entry of the king, he removed *from* the house of the Lord because of the king of Assyria.**

The covered way for the Sabbath may have been a covered hall in the court of the temple that was used by the king whenever he visited the temple with his entourage.

The king's entry was a stair way from the palace to the temple.

All of the changes mentioned here were made at the "request" of the king of Assyria.