

## Ahaz, King of Judah - 2 Chronicles 28:1-27

**Topics:** Anger, Children, Comparisons, Death, Disobedience, Evil, Forsake, Giving Up, Guilt, Help, History, Humility, Idolatry, Listening, Problems, Prophecy, Punishment, Right, Sacrifice, Slavery, Sin, Unfaithfulness, Worship, Youth

### Open It

1. What sorts of tragedies or catastrophes tend to get people's attention or "sober them up"?
- \* 2. What do you appreciate most about children?

### Explore It

- \* 3. What religious atmosphere marked the reign of Ahaz? (28:1-4)
4. What type of evil practices and idol worship were instituted by Ahaz? (28:1-4)
5. What evil practice regarding children did Ahaz practice and promote? (28:3)
- \* 6. How did God punish Ahaz? (28:5-8)
7. What cruel acts did the armies of Israel commit against the leaders and people of Judah? (28:6-8)
8. What did the prophet, Oded, say to armies returning to Samaria? (28:9-11)
9. Why would it be wrong for Israel to take the people of Judah into captivity? (28:10-11)
10. Who stepped forward to urge the army of Israel to do the right thing? (28:12-13)
11. What did the soldiers do with their prisoners? (28:14-15)
12. From whom did Ahaz seek help? (28:16)
13. What problems was Ahaz having because of his unfaithfulness to the Lord? (28:17-18)
14. What humiliation (on top of what he had already suffered) did Ahaz face because of his stubborn disobedience? (28:19-20)
- \* 15. What "solutions" did Ahaz seek to his problems with his enemies? (28:21-23)
16. Why did Ahaz worship Aram's gods? (28:23)
17. What did Ahaz do to the temple and its furnishings? (28:24)
18. What did Ahaz do to spread the false religions? (28:25)
19. What honor traditionally given to kings was denied to Ahaz? (28:27)

### Get It

20. How does God deal with people who forsake Him and practice evil?
21. In what way do you think our problems and difficulties are God's way of getting our attention?
22. What crimes against children in our society might be comparable with the pagan practice of child sacrifice in Ahaz's time?
- \* 23. Why didn't all his troubles turn Ahaz's heart back to God?
24. Where did Ahaz's problem-solving in his own wisdom leave him?
25. How can struggles and difficulties be used by God to spark revival and growth in us?
26. Judging from Ahaz's experiences, what makes God angry?
- \* 27. How can our unfaithfulness to God hurt others around us?
28. What makes it hard for a person heavily involved in sinful activities to turn to God for help?

### Apply It

- \* 29. Of all the solutions that come to your mind for your current difficulties, how can you determine which are the product of flawed human reason and which are from God?
30. What concrete action can you take this week to value human life and the lives of children in particular?