

----- Ahaz 16 years -----

3262c AM, 3972 JP, 742 BC, 17 SK, 18 NK

**598. Ahaz succeeded his father Jotham at the very end of the seventeenth year of Pekah, the son of Remaliah, and reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem. {#2Ki 16:1,2 2Ch 28:1} [L89]**

**599. Toward the end of the reign of Jotham, God began to stir up Rezin, the king of Syria, and Pekah, the son of Remaliah, against Judah. {#2Ki 15:37} Judah was terrified at the approach of these enemies and expected a quick defeat at their hands. God sent a gracious message to Ahaz by Isaiah the prophet, promising deliverance for him and the destruction of his enemies. [E62] For a sign of his deliverance (when the incredulous king was asked what sign he wanted, he said none), God made him a promise that a virgin would bear Immanuel. He would be both God and man, or God with us, or dwelling in a human body. With regard to his office, he is the only Mediator between God and man. {#1Ti 2:5} He would bring to pass that God would be with us, {#Isa 8:10} both gracious and propitious to us and a very present help in trouble. {#Ps 46:1,2,7 Ro 8:31,32} This message was most befitting the present situation in that all promises of God in Christ are Yea and Amen, {#2Co 1:20} to be fulfilled generally in him and by him. Besides this, the land of Judah was to be privileged to be Immanuel's land. {#Isa 8:8}**

**Pertaining to his human lineage, he was to be born not merely of the Jews {#Ro 9:5} but of the very house of David. According to the prophecy of Jacob, {#Ge 49:10} [L90] this would happen before the sceptre would depart from Judah, that is, before Judah would cease to be a nation ruled by kings. Therefore, at that time Judah did not need to fear the destruction of the house of David or of the country of the Jews, the Southern Kingdom. However, sixty-five years later this happened to the Northern Kingdom, as predicted by Isaiah. {#Isa 7:8}**

**600. For a sign of the destruction of those kings who came against Ahaz, the prophet was commanded to bring out Ahaz's son, Shearjashub. He told Ahaz that his son would eat butter and honey until he was old enough to know right from wrong. [L91] Before this happened, both these kings would be dead. {#Isa 7:3,15,16} At that time too, Isaiah's wife, a prophetess, bore him another son. God named him Mahershalalhashbaz signifying that the Assyrians would hurry and take away the spoil. [E63] They would plunder both Syrians and Israelites before the child would be able clearly to say: My father, or My mother. So the sons of the prophets were used by God to serve as signs from him to the Israelites. {#Isa 8:3,4,18} After these prophecies, Rezin and Pekah together came up to besiege Jerusalem where Ahaz was. They could not take it, as had been predicted by Isaiah.**

**{#Isa 7:1,7 2Ki 16:5} But this wicked Ahaz had no sooner been delivered from the imminent danger than he forsook God his deliverer and walked in the ways of the kings of Israel. He set up the idolatrous worship of Baal and offered incense in the valley of Benhanan. He caused his own son to pass through the fire, and offered sacrifices in the high places, upon the hills and under every green tree. {#2Ch 28:2-4 2Ki 16,3,4}**

**3263c AM, 3973 JP, 741 BC, 2 SK, 19 NK**

**601. SK-When Ahaz forsook God, God also forsook him. When Rezin and Pekah divided their forces, they overcame him. This they had not been able to do when their forces were united. God delivered him into the hands of the Syrians, who defeated him and carried away a large number of his people to Damascus as captives. As well as this, the king of Israel defeated him and slaughtered a large number of his people. {#2Ch 28:5}**

**3264c AM, 3974 JP, 740 BC, 3 SK, 20 NK**

**604. SK-The Edomites invaded Judah and carried away many captives. The Philistines, whom King Uzziah had conquered, {#2Ch 26:6,7} [L92] now attacked the cities of Judah in the low countries and southern parts and settled**

there. God gave Judah over to their enemies because of Ahaz's sin and because he had led Judah into sin. {#2Ch 28:17-19}

605. Ahaz took all the gold and silver that was found in the Lord's house and in the treasury of the king's house. He sent it as a gift to Tiglathpileser, king of Assyria, desiring him to come and deliver him from the kings of Syria and Israel. [E64] He came and took Damascus, carrying away all its inhabitants to Kir and killing Rezin the king of Syria. {#2Ki 16:7-9} This fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, {#Isa 7:16 8:4 9:11} as well as that of Amos, who long before had foretold the ruin of the king of Damascus in these words:

"I will send a fire upon the house of Hazael which shall consume the palaces of Benhadad, and I will break in pieces the bars of Damascus and root out the inhabitants of the valley of Aven, and him that beareth the sceptre out of the house of Eden and the people of Syria shall be carried away into Assyria, saith the Lord." {#Am 1:4,5}

606. So the flourishing kingdom of Damascus of Hamath came to an end. {#Am 6:2 Jer 49:23 Isa 10:9 36:19 37:12,13} This kingdom began with a man called Rezon {#1Ki 11:23,24} and ended with one of the same name. It lasted for ten generations according to Nicolaus Damascene, as cited by

**Josephus. {\*Josephus, Antiq., l. 7. c. 5. s. 2. (102) 5:413} {See note on 2960 AM. <<430>>} [L93]**

**607. When Ahaz went to meet Tiglathpileser at Damascus, he congratulated him on his great victory. There he saw an altar, the pattern of which he sent to Uriah the priest, so that he might make one like it in Jerusalem. When he returned, he and the people offered their sacrifices on it. He moved the brazen altar far away from the front of the temple so that it would not stand between his altar and the house of the Lord. {#2Ki 16:1-20}**

**608. NK-When Ahaz implored the aid of the kings of Assyria, (as it says in Chronicles {#2Ch 28:16} kings in the plural, by a usual analogy as in these verses: {#Ps 105:30 Jer 19:3 25:22} {#/ Apc 1Es 1:52}) against Pekah, Tiglathpileser came. He led away the people of Gilead or Peraea, that is, the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half tribe of Manasseh, to Habor and Hara and the Gozan River. When he then crossed over the Jordan River, he occupied Galilee and carried away into Assyria all the inhabitants of Naphtali whom Benhadad had left, together with the men of Galilee. {#1Ch 5:26 2Ki 15:29 1Ki 15:20 Isa 9:1}**

**3265c AM, 3975 JP, 739 BC, 4 SK, 1 NK**

**609. SK-Ahaz, having now made himself a servant to the king of Assyria, {#2Ki 16:7 18:7} found out that he had received more harm than help from him. {#2Ch 28:20,21} Isaiah had previously intimated this to him using the allegory:**

**"The Lord shall shave off the hair of thy head and feet with a hired razor, from beyond the river, even the king of Assyria, and it shall also consume the beard." {#Isa 7:20}**

**610. Therefore, Ahaz built a secret passage from the king's house to the house of the Lord, because he feared the king of Assyria. {#2Ki 16:18} Tremellius understood this to mean that he did this out of fear that the king of Assyria would assault him from the direction of the temple and break into his palace. [E65] In the midst of all of his afflictions, he sinned still more and more against the Lord. {#2Ch 28:22}**

**3277c AM, 3987 JP, 727 BC, 1,16 SK, 4 NK**

**618. SK-In the last year of his reign, Ahaz made his son Hezekiah viceroy with him in the kingdom. This was toward the end of the third year of Hoshea, king of Israel. Hezekiah**

**reigned for twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. {#2Ki 18:1,2}  
[L95]**

**3278b AM, 3988 JP, 726 BC**

**620. SK-Ahaz died in this year.**