

4th week of July
God's Discipline and Faithful Love

- **Text:** 2 Kings 16:1~5 (July 26 text)
- **Bottom line:** God is still merciful to our sins and transgressions.

≡ **1. Praise**

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≡ **2. Prayer**

Thank you, God, for making worship a priority for our family. At this time, let us enjoy the peace of being in Your arms and learn to fear Your joyfully.

≡ **3. The Word**

Read 2 Kings 16:1~5 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

16 In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham, king of Judah, began to reign. 2 Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord his God, as his father David had done, 3 but he walked in the way of the kings of Israel. He even burned his son as an offering, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel. 4 And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree. 5 Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, came up to wage war on Jerusalem, and they besieged Ahaz but could not conquer him.

<NASB>

16 In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham, king of Judah, became king. 2 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. 3 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. 4 And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree. 5 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.

Understanding Text

Ahaz, the king of Judah, was not an upright king in God's eyes, unlike David. He imitated the abominations of northern Israel and other nations and committed all kinds of sins. The combined attack by Syria and northern Israel was God's discipline against Judah. But God, faithful to His covenant, did not hand Judah over to them.

Understanding the text for leaders

Northern Israel had long since strayed from God by following the sins of Jeroboam. However, as time passed, Judah became close to Zerael and fell into the sin of idolatry. Nevertheless, God was faithful and remembered His promise to the Davidic dynasty (2 Samuel 7:16) and protected Judah. Ahaz is considered the most wicked king of Judah. The most abomination of all his sins was the sin of worshiping Moloch. Moloch is an Ammon idol characterized by human sacrifices. A mother performs a ritual in which she burns her son in a fire. Ahaz did not hesitate to commit these sins. They worshipped idols not only in the high places, but in all the places where sacrifices to idols could be made. The combined invasion of the king of Syria and the king of northern Israel was God's discipline against Ahaz and the people of Judah. Even though He disciplined Judah, God did not completely destroy Judah, saying through the prophet Isaiah that Syria and northern Israel would be nothing more than two smoking poker stubbles (Isaiah 7:4). The text says that the combined forces of the two nations were unable to defeat Ahaz. God wanted Ahaz to rely only on God, who was in control of the whole world. However, Ahaz did not listen to God's word even though he experienced the grace of salvation (Isaiah 7:10~12). Despite Ahaz's evil deeds, God was faithful and warned him through the prophet and waited for him to turn back.

4. Sharing

1) What evil did Ahaz, King of Judah, do? But what kind of grace did God give him? (verses 2~5)

Upper Grades

What sin did Ahaz, King of Judah, commit? But what did God do? (verses 2~5)

Lower Grades

Ahaz did a lot of bad things. But how did God protect him? (verse 5).

Question Guide

Look specifically at the evil deeds of Ahaz, King of Judah. Nevertheless, let's share how God does not judge us right away, but is merciful, gracious, and waiting.

Comments for Leaders

Ahaz followed the abominable sins of northern Israel and the Gentile nations. In verses 3~4, we read about the evil things he did. It records that he sacrificed to Moloch and that he sacrificed in high places and all kinds of idolatrous places. However, God remembered His promise to David and showed mercy to Ahaz, who had committed all kinds of evil deeds, and gave him a chance, telling him to come back through the prophet Isaiah.

2) What are some of the things I inadvertently follow or do these days that are not right in God's eyes, and how should I change them?

■ **Upper Grades**

Do you unknowingly imitate the wrong actions or words of other friends? Ponder and share.

■ **Lower Grades**

Have you ever imitated a friend's bad behavior or words?

□ **Question Guide**

Ahaz imitated the sins of northern Israel and the Gentile nations and committed evil deeds. We can casually imitate or imitate the wrong behavior of others. I want us to look at how we are accustomed to sin.

□ **Comments for Leaders**

Ahaz followed the path of the kings of northern Israel, who were predestined to be judged by God, and followed the abominable sins of the Gentile nations. No matter how good it looks and how good people say it's okay, if God isn't pleased, you should firmly reject it and stay away from it. Sin cleverly deceives us, and it tempts us by whispering that everyone else is doing the same. Therefore, we must always be alert and sensitive to sin. Remembering the love of God, who is enduring with us and is enduring with us.

≡ **5. Be Grateful**

Thank God for knowing our weaknesses and waiting for us until the end and loving us.

≡ **6. Prayer**

Thank you, loving God, for lovingly caring for us, who are vulnerable to the temptation of sin. Now, let us glorify You by living a life that is pleasing to You, like David.

- End the family worship service with the "Lord's Prayer"