

DEFILING THE TEMPLE – LESSON 25 (ABC)

QUESTION

1 Corinthians 3:17

If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.(NKJ)

READ 2 KINGS 16 AND 2 CHRONICLES 28.

USING AHAZ AS A MODEL, SHOW THE FEATURES OF A DEFORMER – ONE WHO CONFIGURES INACCURACIES IN THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

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ANSWERS

1. INACCURATE LIFESTYLE

2 Chr 28:1

Ahaz 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, as his father David had done.(NKJ)

He felt no divine accountability. The sight of the Lord did not dictate his lifestyle.

2. CHOOSES INACCURATE PATTERNS

2 Chr 28:2

For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made molded images for the Baals. (NKJ)

He did not choose David as his pattern. He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel. He followed many inaccurate patterns(kings of Israel).

3. INSTABILITY AND INSECURITY

2 Chr 28:3-4

3 He burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

4 And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.(NKJ)

He burned incense in many inaccurate locations. The golden altar of incense was the prescribed place for burning incense by the priest. The many locations he chose demonstrated insecurity and instability. This is like moving from inaccurate church to inaccurate church.

He usurped the role of the priest. He was zealous for worship, but his worship was inaccurate. He burned incense on foreign altars – the altars of Baal.

4. BURNING HIS CHILDREN IN THE FIRE

2 Chr 28:3

...burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

He followed a system of worship that was clearly outlawed by God – child sacrifice. God removed the Canaanites from the promised land because of this practice. Instead of equipping his children as princes, Ahaz killed them in the fire. The strange fire of occultic manifestations in some churches has made believers worthless for kingdom advancement. This fire kills(stifles spiritual growth) instead of equips.

5. DEFEAT

2 Chr 28:5

Therefore the LORD his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria. They defeated him, and carried away a great multitude of them as captives, and brought them to Damascus. Then he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who defeated him with a great slaughter.(NKJ)

His inaccuracies led to defeat, poverty and captivity.

6. INACCURATE RESPONSE TO PROPHETIC GRACE

2 Chr 28:9-16

9 But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name was Oded; and he went out before the army that came to Samaria, and said to them: "Look, because the LORD God of your fathers was angry with Judah, He has delivered them into your hand; but you have killed them in a rage that reaches up to heaven.

10 "And now you propose to force the children of Judah and Jerusalem to be your male and female slaves; but are you not also guilty before the LORD your God?"

11 "Now hear me, therefore, and return the captives, whom you have taken captive from your brethren, for the fierce wrath of the LORD is upon you."

12 Then some of the heads of the children of Ephraim, Azariah the son of Johanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai, stood up against those who came from the war,

13 and said to them, "You shall not bring the captives here, for we already have

offended the LORD. You intend to add to our sins and to our guilt; for our guilt is great, and there is fierce wrath against Israel."

14 So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the leaders and all the assembly.

15 Then the men who were designated by name rose up and took the captives, and from the spoil they clothed all who were naked among them, dressed them and gave them sandals, gave them food and drink, and anointed them; and they let all the feeble ones ride on donkeys. So they brought them to their brethren at Jericho, the city of palm trees. Then they returned to Samaria.

16 At the same time King Ahaz sent to the kings of Assyria to help him.
(NKJ)

He refused to change despite prophetic grace. The captives were returned because of prophetic intervention. Instead of turning to God, he turned to the kings of Assyria.

7. DEGRADATION OF THOSE UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP

2 Chr 28:17-19

17 For again the Edomites had come, attacked Judah, and carried away captives.

18 The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the lowland and of the South of Judah, and had taken Beth Shemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, Sochoh with its villages, Timnah with its villages, and Gimzo with its villages; and they dwelt there.

19 For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had encouraged moral decline in Judah and had been continually unfaithful to the LORD.
(NKJ)

Judah suffered because of his inaccuracies. He made God's people worthless. This set man conferred degradation, poverty and humiliation upon the people of God.

8. INACCURATE RESPONSE TO TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

2 Chr 28:22

Now in the time of his distress King Ahaz became increasingly unfaithful to the LORD. This is that King Ahaz.(NKJ)

Instead of turning to God, in the time of trial he became increasingly unfaithful.

9. WORSHIPPED FOREIGN GODS THAT DEFEATED HIM

2 Chr 28:23

For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus which had defeated him, saying, "Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, I will sacrifice to them that they may help me." But they were the ruin of him and of all Israel.(NKJ)

He misinterpreted his trials. He did not recognise that his lifestyle brought defeat. His defeat fostered the delusion that foreign gods were stronger than Jehovah.

10. DESTRUCTION OF THE ARTICLES OF WORSHIP

2 Chr 28:24

So Ahaz gathered the articles of the house of God, cut in pieces the articles of the house of God, shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and made for himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem.(NKJ)

He destroyed the candlestick, the table of shewbread and the golden altar of incense.

Candlestick – apostles' doctrine

Table of shewbread – fellowship and breaking of bread

Golden altar of incense – prayer

Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.(NKJ)

A deformer is antagonistic to the above articles of worship.

11. DENIES ACCESS TO REVELATION

2 Chr 28:24

So Ahaz gathered the articles of the house of God, cut in pieces the articles of the house of God, shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and made for himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem.(NKJ)

He shut the doors to the house of the Lord.

Matt 23:13

"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.(NKJ)

12. FRANCHISED INACCURATE MINISTRY

2 Chr 28:25

And in every single city of Judah he made high places to burn incense to other gods, and provoked to anger the LORD God of his fathers.(NKJ)

He opened inaccurate branches everywhere. His inaccurate ministry flourished.

Exponential growth does not validate ministry. He franchised a defeated ministry.

13. LEANS ON THE ARM OF FLESH

II Ki 16:5-9

5 Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, came up to Jerusalem to make war; and they besieged Ahaz but could not overcome him.

6 At that time Rezin king of Syria captured Elath for Syria, and drove the men of Judah from Elath. Then the Edomites went to Elath, and dwell there to this day.

7 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 Syria and from the hand of the king of Israel, who rise up against me."

8 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 it as a present to the king of Assyria.

9 So the king of Assyria heeded him; for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus and took it, carried its people captive to Kir, and killed Rezin.(NKJ)

Instead of turning to God for help in the face of the Syrian attack, Ahaz solicited the help of the king of Assyria.

Jer 17:5

Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD.(NKJ)

14. "ALTAR BELIEVER"

II Ki 16:10-16

10 Now King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, and saw an altar that was at Damascus; and King Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the design of the altar and its pattern, according to all its workmanship.

11 Then Urijah the priest built an altar according to all that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus. So Urijah the priest made it before King Ahaz came from Damascus.

12 And when the king came from Damascus, the king saw the altar; and the king approached the altar and made offerings on it.

13 So he burned his burnt offering and his grain offering; and he poured his drink offering and sprinkled the blood of his peace offerings on the altar.

14 He also brought the bronze altar which was before the LORD, from the front of the temple-- from between the new altar and the house of the LORD-- and put it on the north side of the new altar.

15 Then King Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, "On the great new altar burn the morning burnt offering, the evening grain offering, the king's burnt sacrifice, and his grain offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, their grain offering, and their drink offerings; and sprinkle on it all the blood of the burnt offering and all the blood of the sacrifice. And the bronze altar shall be for me to inquire by."

16 Thus did Urijah the priest, according to all that King Ahaz commanded.
(NKJ)

15. INACCURATE CONCLUSIONS

Ahaz ascribed Assyrian success to the altar.

He could not see that his failure was the result of inaccurate lifestyle. The Assyrian success was intended to provoke him to seek God more diligently.

16. SINGULAR FOCUS

He destroyed every article of worship and operated exclusively at the altar. He now had 3 types of altars:-

One type of altar for sacrifice

one for enquiry

one for incense

He represents a Christian stuck at the cross – who fails to progress in his relationship with God.

17. RIGHT OFFERINGS ON THE WRONG ALTAR

15 Then King Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, "On the great new altar burn the morning burnt offering, the evening grain offering, the king's burnt sacrifice, and his grain offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, their grain offering, and their drink offerings; and sprinkle on it all the blood of the burnt offering and all the blood of the sacrifice. And the bronze altar shall be for me to inquire by."

IN PRESENT CONTEXT:- TITHE TO MISSIONS, WIDOWS PRAYER IN AN INTERFAITH CONVENTION

18. LATERAL MIGRATION – SAME LEVEL

14 He also brought the bronze altar which was before the LORD, from the front of the temple-- from between the new altar and the house of the LORD-- and put it on the north side of the new altar.

Ahaz placed the bronze altar on the north side of the new altar.

The altars were side by side on the same level.

He sacrificed on the altar of Damascus and enquired at the bronze altar.

This was a new movement.

He was moving in the same room – laterally.

He was not moving level to level.

Lots of people are moving on the same floor, on the same level and calling it reformation.

19. MIXTURE

He incorporated the Assyrian altar into the temple of God.
This is a mixture of the world and Spirit. He tried to marry God and the devil.

20. DESTROYED FOUNDATIONS

II Ki 16:17

17 And King Ahaz cut off the panels of the carts, and removed the lavers from them; and he took down the Sea from the bronze oxen that were under it, and put it on a pavement of stones.(NKJ)

He destroyed the foundations of the laver - the carriers of the water. He destroyed prophetic ministry(water for cleansing).
He removed the foundation of the Molten sea i.e. the bronze oxen – apostolic ministry.

Eph 2:20

having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone,(NKJ)

21. DESTROYED FELLOWSHIP

II Ki 16:18

Also he removed the Sabbath pavilion which they had built in the temple, and he removed the king's outer entrance from the house of the LORD, on account of the king of Assyria.
(NKJ)

The Sabbath pavilion was a covering that protected the worshippers. By removing the pavilion he discouraged worshippers from staying after worship. He inculcated a worship and leave mentality/

22. CUT HIMSELF FROM THE PRESENCE OF GOD

II Ki 16:18

Also he removed the Sabbath pavilion which they had built in the temple, and he removed the king's outer entrance from the house of the LORD, on account of the king of Assyria.
(NKJ)

He destroyed the king's outer entrance which was a private connection between the palace and the temple. By this he cut himself from the presence of God literally and symbolically.

AHAZ IS A PICTURE OF A SET MAN THAT DEFILES AND DEFORMS THE TEMPLE OF GOD.