

# The Corruption of Compromise

Isaiah 7-10; 2 Kings 16

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>*

Peace is not the absence of Pain or Problems, but an awareness that we're on the right side of this cosmic conflict, in partnership with "The Prince of Peace"! (Is. 7:14; 9:6) Jesus came to make this partnership possible! (Luke 2:8-14) Since Peace (from eiro) literally means to join; Our Peace (or lack thereof) is related to who (what side) we choose to join/partner with. It was to wicked King Ahaz that God revealed the promise of the Prince of Peace. (Is. 9:6) "Peace" in Hebrew (OT) is Shālôm (safety) and comes from shalem meaning to pay/restore.

Jesus came to pay the price for our peace! (partnership) Isaiah 53

## Reflection:

1. The Choice(s) of Ahaz. 2 Kings 16:2,3 *"(He) did not that which was right in the sight of the Lord his God... he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire,,,"*

## 2. The Challenges and Chastening of Ahaz

A. God chastens those he loves! Heb. 12:6,7

B. This Chastening came in the form of war. (Is. 7:2,3) *(Sin always affects others)*

C. God usually has to shake us up to wake us up!

*God's goal is not condemnation, but restoration!*

## 3. God's "second" chance.

A. Even after Ahaz' sinful choices, Isaiah was sent to counsel him to accept God's offer of peace (partnership). Isaiah 7:4-11

B. He rejected God's offer of peace (partnership) Is. 7:12

1) He did this primarily because he had already formed a partnership with God's enemy.

Is. 8:19,20 *"should not a people seek unto their God?"*

2) This led to a poisonous partnership that brought pain, treachery and conflict for decades.

## Direction: Ahaz' choices led to Corrupting Compromises

### 1. He chose Practical Compromise over Principled Character.

A. He Robbed God's Temple to do this. 2 Kgs 16:8 *"So Ahaz took the silver and gold in the house of the LORD... and sent it for a present to the king of Assyria."*

B. He also robbed God of an opportunity to demonstrate His Power!

1) King Asa made the same compromise 200 years earlier (2 Chr 16:9)

2) How often do we make this compromise?

Mal. 3:8-12 *"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me."*

### 2. Corrupting Compromises often "work" in the short term.

A. It produced relief ("victory"?) for Ahaz!

1) Assyria invaded Syria and defeated them, then went to war with Israel. (2 Kings 17)

2) This took the immediate pressure off Ahaz, but made him (and Judah) a vassal to Assyria.

a) A vassal is defined as: *"A person who held land from a feudal lord and received protection; A bondman and/or slave; a subordinate or dependent."*

Ro 6:16 *"know ye not that to whom ye yield yourself...his servants ye are.."*

1 Cor. 10:20 *"I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils"*

## **B. This is the bait/snare Satan often uses!**

- 1) Asaph struggled over this paradox. Ps 73:3,16,17 *"I was envious ...when I saw the prosperity of the wicked... When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; 17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end."* **Finish the story!**
- 2) The Pleasures of Sin are seasonal! Heb. 11:24-27

## **3. Compromise Brings Consequences. (It always has a price!)**

*The phrase: "Politics makes strange bedfellows" is from Shakespeare's play "The Tempest": The exact quote is: "Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows."*

*It was spoken by shipwrecked man who finds himself seeking shelter beside a sleeping monster!*

### **A. In our "Feelings" (Thinking/Reasoning)**

- 1) Compromising (principles) produces "callouses".
  - a) This "clouds" (or cauterizes) our conscience. 1 Tim 4:1-2

### **B. In our Faith: 2 Kings 16**

- 1) Ahaz replaced the Altar in God's Temple with one similar to what the Syrians used in their temple to worship devils! Vs 10,11
  - a) If the Syrian "gods" couldn't help them against the Assyrians, why would he trust them?

### **C) In Our Family. (Ex. 20:5)**

- 1) His son "inherited" this vassal relationship. (Requiring an annual "tribute" offering)
- 2) Hezekiah initially refused, then capitulated: 2 Kings 18:13-14
  - a) To pay this, he also robbed God's Temple. 2 Kings 18:15,16 (See Ex. 20:5)
  - b) Assyria took the money and came anyway! 2 Kings 18:17 (See John 10:10)

## **Conclusion:**

Many, like Ahaz, try to "buy" their own "stairway to heaven" (PEACE) not realizing who's actually "selling it". Led Zeppelin 1971 "Stairway To Heaven" illustrates this.

*"There's a lady who's sure, All that glitters is gold, And she's buying a stairway to heaven...  
There's a sign on the wall, But she wants to be sure; Cause you know sometimes  
words have two meanings...And it's whispered that soon, If we all call the tune,*

**Then the piper will lead us to reason.**

*And a new day will dawn For those who stand long And the forests will echo with laughter...*

*there are two paths you can go by, But in the long run,*

*There's still time to change the road you're on!? (is there? Gen. 6:3)*

*Your head is humming and it won't go In case you don't know*

**The piper's calling you to join him!"**

Hezekiah decided to "change the road" he was on and look to the LORD for help. 2 Kings 19:1  
God sent 1 angel and destroyed the 186,000 Assyrians camped against Jerusalem. 2 Kings 19:31

Both Ahaz & Hezekiah faced an overwhelming force. God sent to counsel and comfort both.

Both heard the same promises and partnership offered in Is. 7:14 and 9:6.

**Only one Chose to parther with the "Prince of Peace"**

Isaiah 9:7 *"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end..."*

Your "government" and (ability to maintain) peace will eventually end.

**Which are you partnering with: The "Piper" or the Prince of Peace?**