

## God's Calling Requirements Part 17

### *Learning Valuable Lessons From What Was Taking Place During The Reign of King Ahaz*

*"1 In the seventeenth year of Pekah son of Remaliah, Ahaz son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign. 2 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. Unlike David his father, he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD his God. 3 He followed the ways of the kings of Israel and even sacrificed his son in the fire, engaging in the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. 4 He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the high places, on the hilltops and under every spreading tree. 5 Then Rezin king of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem and besieged Ahaz, but they could not overpower him. 6 At that time, Rezin king of Aram recovered Elath for Aram by driving out the people of Judah. Edomites then moved into Elath and have lived there to this day. 7 Ahaz sent messengers to say to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, "I am your servant and vassal. Come up and save me out of the hand of the king of Aram and of the king of Israel, who are attacking me." 8 And Ahaz took the silver and gold found in the temple of the LORD and in the treasuries of the royal palace and sent it as a gift to the king of Assyria. 9 The king of Assyria complied by attacking Damascus and capturing it. He deported its inhabitants to Kir and put Rezin to death. 10 Then King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria. He saw an altar in Damascus and sent to Uriah the priest a sketch of the altar, with detailed plans for its construction. 11 So Uriah the priest built an altar in accordance with all the plans that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus and finished it before King Ahaz returned. 12 When the king came back from Damascus and saw the altar, he approached it and presented offerings on it. 13 He offered up his burnt offering and grain offering, poured out his drink offering, and splashed the blood of his fellowship offerings against the altar. 14 As for the bronze altar that stood before the LORD, he brought it from the front of the temple—from between the new altar and the temple of the LORD—and put it on the north side of the new altar. 15 King Ahaz then gave these orders to Uriah the priest: "On the large new altar, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering, the king's burnt offering and his grain offering, and the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their grain offering and their drink offering. Splash against this altar the blood of all the burnt offerings and sacrifices. But I will use the bronze altar for seeking guidance." 16 And Uriah the priest did just as King Ahaz had ordered. 17 King Ahaz cut off the side panels and removed the basins from the movable stands. He removed the Sea from the bronze bulls that supported it and set it on a stone base. 18 He took away the Sabbath canopy that had been built at the temple and removed the royal entryway outside the temple of the LORD, in deference to the king of Assyria. 19 As for the other events of the reign of Ahaz, and what he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? 20 Ahaz rested with his ancestors and was buried with them in the City of David. And Hezekiah his son succeeded him as king." (2 Kings 16:1-20)*

From what we read we can conclude that Ahaz was a wicked king. Therefore, now let us go through his life and find out the wickedness he did and how we might be seeing the same today in the life of the church. There might be people who will do and behave the same as Ahaz, as in the following:

**1. He did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD his God:** He knew what God wanted him to do but he did not do it. Many Christians they know what God want them to do but they

fail God. It is not about what you want God to do to you, but it is about to do the things that God wants you to do for him, ***"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."* (James 4:17 KJV)**

**2. He followed the ways of the kings of Israel:** He worshipped God and he worshipped idols and lived in the sin. Many Christians today they profess and they worship God but they continue to live in the sin of greed, lust, adultery, telling lies, cheating, willfully sinning, wasting money, worldliness, worldly practices, honoring worldly idols, etc).

**3. Sacrificed his son in the fire:** Ahaz literally burned his children in fire, ***"3 He burned sacrifices in the Valley of Ben Hinnom and sacrificed his children in the fire, engaging in the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites."* (2Chronicles 28:3)** Christians who allow their children to do wrong things like allowing boys going out with girls, girls going out with boys, watching TV, attending parties, and spending times with friends, are exposing their children to demons and demonic influences; the same as burning their children in fire, because as they are exposed to bad influences they are burning them with the fire of hell. Some Christians they know these things are wrong but they will allow their children to be in atmospheres that will cause them to expose to temptation and finally to fall in sin.

**4. Engaging in the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites:** To get involved in traditional practices that contradict the word of God or to do similar worldly things that the non-believers are doing (like dancing class, doing yoga, taekwondo, etc). Christians should not do what other non believers are doing.

**5. He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the high places, on the hilltops and under every spreading tree:** The high places were the places the people they go and spend and offer things and do what they want without doing the will of God. In the Old Testament people were instructed to offer their sacrifices to God in the temple where the priests are there who will examine their lives, their motive and what they will offer to God. When they go to the high places, there they are doing what they want and the priests there are allowing them to do their own wishes. Now a day many who are called Christians getting involved in activities, parties and programs which are externally religious but in reality they are not representing God's will or God's way for life or worship.

Listen to this: Doing projects, plans and mobilizing money and resources without the knowledge and the approval of the leadership of the church is the same as what king Ahaz did in offering sacrifices in high places. Notice that King Ahaz offered incense in the high places. In the New Testament incense is the prayer of the saints. Many they will not open up to the leadership of the church their prayer concerns because they are not willing to be scrutinized and get corrected. So they will do like what King Ahaz did; they will just try to convince the brethren to pray for things that are of non God's will.

**6. He relied on people and money to solve his problems:** When all these bad things he did, the Lord allowed that he will be attacked by enemies who came and wage war against him. ***"5 Then Rezin king of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem and besieged Ahaz, but they could not overpower him. 6 At that time, Rezin king of Aram recovered Elath for Aram by driving out the people of Judah. Edomites***

*then moved into Elath and have lived there to this day.” (2 Kings 16:5-6) The Lord allowed that to happen to Judah because of the sin of Ahaz, “19 The LORD had humbled Judah because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had promoted wickedness in Judah and had been most unfaithful to the LORD.” (2 Chronicles 28:19) His enemies took a city from him, but they could not overcome him, because he used his money to hire the King of Assyria to fight for him, “7 Ahaz sent messengers to say to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, “I am your servant and vassal. Come up and save me out of the hand of the king of Aram and of the king of Israel, who are attacking me.” (2 Kings 16:5-6) Ahaz used his money and the money of the temple and gave to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria to fight for him, “8 And Ahaz took the silver and gold found in the temple of the LORD and in the treasuries of the royal palace and sent it as a gift to the king of Assyria.” (2 Kings 16:8) Many Christians when they face troubles they will not think that these troubles coming to them due to their sins and disobedience to God. “22 In his time of trouble King Ahaz became even more unfaithful to the LORD.” (2 Chronicles 28:22) Wicked Christians instead that they will repent when they will face trouble, they will use money to solve their problems, “9 The king of Assyria complied by attacking Damascus and capturing it. He deported its inhabitants to Kir and put Rezin to death.” (2 Kings 16:9) But that did not help him and will not help the wicked using their money to solve their problems unless they will repent, “20 Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came to him, but he gave him trouble instead of help. 21 Ahaz took some of the things from the temple of the LORD and from the royal palace and from the officials and presented them to the king of Assyria, but that did not help him.” (2 Chronicles 28:20-21)*

**7. He worshipped idols:** *“10 Then King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria. He saw an altar in Damascus and sent to Uriah the priest a sketch of the altar, with detailed plans for its construction.” (2 Kings 16:10) Ahaz went to Damascus to show his loyalty to Tiglath-Pileser, and while he was there he saw an altar in Damascus and sent to Uriah the priest a sketch of the altar, with detailed plans for its construction. Many Christians they go to different far places to show their loyalty to people and get their favor but they are not loyal to God. They will refuse the service and the ministry that God wants them to do. But for their own projects and programs you find them very diligent to go and spent. But they are not aware that such actions will bring to them troubles.*

**8. He introduced idol worship to the temple:** *“12 When the king came back from Damascus and saw the altar, he approached it and presented offerings on it. 13 He offered up his burnt offering and grain offering, poured out his drink offering, and splashed the blood of his fellowship offerings against the altar.” (2 Kings 16:12-13) Many Christian will not only live in idol worship but they will try to introduce their idols and evil ways into the church and pollute it with their worldliness. “15 King Ahaz then gave these orders to Uriah the priest: “On the large new altar, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering, the king’s burnt offering and his grain offering, and the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their grain offering and their drink offering. Splash against this altar the blood of all the burnt offerings and sacrifices. But I will use the bronze altar for seeking guidance.” (2 Kings 16:15) Some they want to be over the pastor of the church and dictate on him of what he need to do as what Ahaz did with Uriah the priest. The leadership of the church should be careful not to allow people who want to introduce things that are not in the Scriptures. We need to be discerning and not to allow people who move with wrong doctrine to try to convince us to approve things that are not in the Scripture.*

**9. He hindered the process of cleansing and the standard of holiness:** *“17 King Ahaz cut off the side panels and removed the basins from the movable stands. He removed the Sea from the bronze bulls that supported it and set it on a stone base.” (2 Kings 16:17) The sea was used by the priest to wash themselves and the basins were used to wash the sacrifices. So when Ahaz altered the setup of the basins and the sea in the temple, he disturbed the process of cleansing. Many Christians they will try to lower the standard of holiness and the discipline toward God’s word, by allowing wrong things to take place, and that will affect the work of God and will promote sin among God’s people and in the churches.*

**10. He did not honor the sabbath:** *“18 He took away the Sabbath canopy that had been built at the temple and removed the royal entryway outside the temple of the LORD, in deference to the king of Assyria.” (2 Kings 16:18) The Sabbath canopy was used as shade for the crowded worshippers who went and came to the house of God. The royal entryway was a special way for the king to go to and to come from the Temple of God. King Ahaz removed them because he was ashamed that the King of Assyria in his visit to Jerusalem will see him and the people of God with their intimacy to God. Many Christians they are ashamed that the non believers will see their intimacy and commitment to God. We need to make it a point that we need to be in God’s church every week as a testimony to others. Let us keep the Sabbath holy and let us do all what we can to secure that we are with the brethren for worship.*

*For all these reasons from the life of Ahaz, there will be many people like his example. Therefore the call of God will become more mandatory and important in the life of the church and especially the pastors and the leaders of the church, to teach such kind of people like Ahaz the right faith, to restrain them from doing wrong, to object their wrong and false suggestions and to fight against any trial to alter the sound teaching.* The priest Uriah did not do well toward God, and he failed in doing the following responsibilities and allow harm to come to the temple, to the worship, to the worshipper and the people of God. We need to adopt the following points to protect the church and the brethren from those who try to introduce foreign practices contradict the Word of God:

**1. The responsibility of making disciples:** *Ahaz and people like Ahaz with their sinful mind, sinful life, and practices that are affecting their families and children, needed to be orientated and taught by the church with God’s Word of how to raise up Godly children, how to avoid worldliness, how to be away from evil and traditional practices and how to move away from activities and programs although they are religious externally but they are non biblical. They needed to be taught about total commitment to God and to his Word. They need to be taught how to adopt the ways of God in their lives.*

**2. Train the people to trust God and not to rely on man or money to solve their problems:** *“5 This is what the LORD says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD. 6 That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. 7 “But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. 8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” (Jeremiah 17:5-8) Uriah the priest should direct Ahaz toward God through repentance from his sins. He should prohibit him to go to the King of Assyria and to use his money to bribe him for help. The*

church should teach the people who are in troubles that their problems will be solved only when they repent from sins and turn back to God. They should teach them that spending money and using friends will not help them to solve problems unless they will repent and come back to God.

**3. The church should not give way for the money off the church to be used for wrong purposes:** Ahaz took the money of the temple and gave them to the King of Assyria. The Priest Uriah should prohibit him to do that. The church should be discerning and not to allow the church members to use the money of the church for wrong and personal purposes.

**4. Not to accept worldliness or idol worship and introduce them into the church:** The priest Uriah complied totally with the wickedness of Ahaz, ***“16 And Uriah the priest did just as King Ahaz had ordered.” (2 Kings 16:16)*** He should not accept the introduction of the new altar that Ahaz saw in Damascus. The Temple of God and all the contents of it were ordained by God who instructed David by The Holy Spirit to write all the details that was handed over to Solomon who built the temple. ***“12 He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the courts of the temple of the LORD and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things. 19 “All this,” David said, “I have in writing as a result of the LORD’s hand on me, and he enabled me to understand all the details of the plan.” (1Chronicles 28:12,19)*** The priest Uriah should not agree to alter anything in the Temple of God because all the details are ordained by God and are written in the scripture. The pastors and the church leaders should not accept alteration in the doctrine, teaching and the practices of the church because they are inspired and are instituted from the Scriptures. Alteration in the teaching and the doctrine will affect the salvation of the people and will direct the service and the ministry of the church away from God and toward Satan and demons. Pastors should not be selfish or after their stomach to please the people. Uriah failed to rebuke Ahaz or to correct him because he was afraid that Ahaz will take away his sacrifices and offered them in the high places and he will lose that. Many pastors they are man pleasers and compromise with them because they are not willing to lose the people tithes, offerings and gifts. “7 The more priests there were, the more they sinned against me; they exchanged their glorious God for something disgraceful. 8 They feed on the sins of my people and relish their wickedness. 9 And it will be: Like people, like priests. I will punish both of them for their ways and repay them for their deeds.” (Hosea 4:7-9) Pastors should not feed themselves on the sins of the people by condoning their wrong doings.

**5. Not to allow those who are wicked to corrupt others by influencing them:** Ahaz, told instructions to Uriah the priest, not only about his sacrifices but as well as the sacrifices of the people, ***“15 King Ahaz then gave these orders to Uriah the priest: “On the large new altar, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering, the king’s burnt offering and his grain offering, and the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their grain offering and their drink offering. Splash against this altar the blood of all the burnt offerings and sacrifices. But I will use the bronze altar for seeking guidance.” (2 Kings 16:15)*** When Uriah compromised with Ahaz, Ahaz started to push his corrupted view to other people. Many pastors who are weak, they yield to the wrong and the evil desires of their people and finally you find them fully surrender to the people and they are without stand. That will add more to the church corruption and bring more people away from God and make them lose their salvation.

**6. Correct the people who lack knowledge:** ***“15 King Ahaz then gave these orders to Uriah the priest: “On the large new altar, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering, the king’s burnt offering and his grain offering, and the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their grain offering and their drink offering. Splash against this altar the blood of all the burnt offerings and sacrifices. But I will use the bronze altar for seeking guidance.” (2 Kings 16:15)*** Ahaz said to Uriah the priest that he will use ***the bronze altar for seeking guidance***, that can show that Ahaz was still want to use the temple and the priesthood to seek guidance from the Lord when he is cornered and does not know what to do. But the more serious than that is in what Ahaz said to the priest: ***“But I will use the bronze altar for seeking guidance:*** What was in the mind of Ahaz is that the bronze altar is used for seeking guidance. But that is not correct and it is not ordained by God for seeking guidance. Ahaz had wrong information that needed to be corrected by Uriah the priest who knew very well the Word of God and God’s instructions in the temple worship. Many pastors they know very well the Word of God but they will not tell the truth to their members who lack it in order to take advantage of them. That is cheating to their members by not telling them the truth.

**7. When the church fail to correct their members and instruct them with the truth, that what is false and was introduced into the ministry will pass to the next generations:** The new Altar that Ahaz introduced was kept to next kings; Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, and was only removed during the reign of Josiah, ***“12 And the altars that were on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, did the king beat down, and brake them down from thence, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron.” (2 Kings 23:12)*** So four generations laps before what Ahaz introduced was removed. The church and the pastors should know that wrong practices and teaching that introduced in the ministry they needed to be removed because it will affect and infect the next coming generations.

**My Dear and Beloved:** At this time that corruption and spiritual deterioration in God’s churches is all over the world, then we are called to be more discerning to what the enemy would try to introduced into the life of the church from compromises and schemes of the devil and wrong doctrine that will put the church in bondage. We are called today to observe and do the following:

1. We are responsible today to go and to make disciples in a correct way using the Word of God.
2. We are responsible to train the people to trust God and not to rely on man or money to solve their problems.
3. We are responsible not to give way for the money of the church to be used for wrong purposes.
4. We are responsible not to accept worldliness or idol worship and introduce them into the life of the church.
5. We are responsible not to allow those who are wicked to corrupt and badly influence others.
6. We are responsible to correct the people who lack knowledge.
7. We are responsible not to fail to correct our members and instruct them with the truth, so that what is false and has introduced into the ministry will not pass to the next generations of our disciples and children.

**My Prayer:** *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your Word that imparted to me the truth.*

*Lord I confess to you my sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Let us confess to God our sins, our wrong practices and our lack of commitments and compromises.*

*Let us commit to the Lord by abiding to the principles that we learn from the message*

*Lord,*

1. We are responsible today to go and to make disciples in a correct way using the Word of God.
2. We are responsible to train the people to trust God and not to rely on man or money to solve their problems.
3. We are responsible not to give way for the money of the church to be used for wrong purposes.
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5. We are responsible not to allow those who are wicked to corrupt and badly influence others.
6. We are responsible to correct the people who lack knowledge.
7. We are responsible not to fail to correct our members and instruct them with the truth, so that what is false and has introduced into the ministry will not pass to the next generations of our disciples and children.

*Lord cleans your church from the wrong practices and lead us to rebuke those who are behaving like Ahaz so that they will stop doing wrong to themselves, to the church and to others. Lord we commit ourselves to work with you to achieve this purpose of yours in the life of your church.*

*Lord bless our Brothers and Sisters who had committed themselves to serve you wholeheartedly and who committed themselves to stand against all the compromises. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them discernment and boldness and the spiritual gifts that they need to be more fruitful and effective in their service unto you.*

Lord bless your church and bestow on us the spiritual gifts that we need to go on and make disciples of all nations. Lord enable us to evangelize and to reach the lost and new areas with the Gospel of Jesus. Lord help us to plant more Bible studies and to raise up more disciples to serve you. Lord continue to protect us and provide all our needs. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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