

## 22.2 Jotham<sup>11</sup> ☺, Ahaz<sup>12</sup> ☹ (2 Kings 15:29–38; 16:1–20; 1 Chronicles 5:25, 26; 2 Chronicles 27:1–9; 28:1–27; Isaiah 7–9; Micah 1; 2)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud, and they show answers to questions.

**Note:** This is a long lesson. If you wish to shorten the story, leave out paragraphs beginning with <. However, include as much as you can, especially Isaiah’s prophecies of Jesus.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Tape measure; paper and pencil; notepad or piece of paper
- Small tree branch with leaves

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *high places*: places, often on a hill or “high place,” where people worshiped God or, sadly, sometimes worshiped false gods
- *Valley of Hinnom*: a steep valley west of Jerusalem where false sacrifices took place. [Teacher use discretion about whether or not to say that even human sacrifice took place here.] It later became like a garbage dump and had continual burning so that Jesus likened it to hell.
- *abominable*: disgustingly bad. During the time of Moses before the children of Israel came to the Promised Land, people lived there who worshiped false gods. Their lifestyle and their religion were so abominable that God used Israel to conquer and destroy them. (✓It’s been said that if Israel had not annihilated these people, they would have destroyed the world with their diseases.)
- *spoil*: the things a conquering army takes from the people and land it conquers
- *Jericho, city of palm trees*: [locate] the first city Israel conquered when they entered the Promised Land; they walked around the city six days and the walls came down on the seventh day. [Show picture of a palm tree.] Evidently, many palm trees grew there during the time of the kings.
- *remnant*: the part of something that remains after the rest is used or destroyed—like fabric; people who escape from battle or people who stay true to God when everyone else does not
- *repent/relent*: to change one’s course of action and attitude about something

### Scripture: (ESV)

1 Chronicles 5:25 [T]hey [the two and one-half tribes east of the Jordan] broke faith with the God of their fathers, and whored after the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God had destroyed before them. 26 So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, the spirit of Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and he took them into exile, namely, the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and brought them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river Gozan, to this day.

2 Chronicles 27:1 Jotham was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Jerushah the daughter of Zadok. 2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord according to all that his father Uzziah had done, except he did not enter the temple of the Lord. But the people still followed corrupt practices. (2 Kings 15:35 Nevertheless, the high places were not removed. The people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places.) 3 He built the upper gate of the house of the Lord and did much building on the wall of Ophel. 4 Moreover, he built cities in the hill country of Judah, and forts and towers on the wooded hills. 5 He fought with the king of the Ammonites and prevailed against them. And the Ammonites gave him that year 100 talents of silver, and 10,000 cors of wheat and 10,000 of barley. The

Ammonites paid him the same amount in the second and the third years. 6 So Jotham became mighty, because he ordered his ways before the Lord his God. 7 Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all his wars and his ways, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. . . . 9 And Jotham slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David, and Ahaz his son reigned in his place.

28:1 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, as his father David had done, 2 but he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel. He even made metal images for the Baals, 3 and he made offerings in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom and burned his sons as an offering, according to the abominations 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 Therefore the Lord his God gave him into the hand of the king of Syria, who defeated him and took captive a great number of his people and brought them to Damascus. He was also given into the hand of the king of Israel, who struck him with great force. 6 For Pekah the son of Remaliah killed 120,000 from Judah in one day, all of them men of valor, because they had forsaken the Lord, the God of their fathers. 7 And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, killed Maaseiah the king's son and Azrikam the commander of the palace and Elkanah the next in authority to the king.

8 The men of Israel took captive 200,000 of their relatives, women, sons, and daughters. They also took much spoil from them and brought the spoil to Samaria. 9 But a prophet of the Lord was there, whose name was Oded, and he went out to meet the army that came to Samaria and said to them, "Behold, because the Lord, the God of your fathers, was angry with Judah, he gave them into your hand, but you have killed them in a rage that has reached up to heaven. 10 And now you intend to subjugate the people of Judah and Jerusalem, male and female, as your slaves. Have you not sins of your own against the Lord your God? 11 Now hear me, and send back the captives from your relatives whom you have taken, for the fierce wrath of the Lord is upon you."

12 Certain chiefs also of the men 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 were coming from the war 13 and said to them, "You shall not bring the captives in here, for you propose to bring upon us guilt against the Lord in addition to our present sins and guilt. For our guilt is already great, and there is fierce wrath against Israel." 14 So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the princes and all the assembly. 15 And the men who have been mentioned by name rose and took the captives, and with the spoil they clothed all who were naked among them. They clothed them, gave them sandals, provided them with food and drink, and anointed them, and carrying all the feeble among them on donkeys, they brought them to their kinsfolk at Jericho, the city of palm trees. Then they returned to Samaria.

(2 Kings 16:6 At that time Rezin the king of Syria recovered Elath for Syria and drove the men of Judah from Elath, and the Edomites came to Elath, where they dwell to this day.) 16 At that time King Ahaz sent to the king of Assyria for help. 17 For the Edomites had again invaded and defeated Judah and carried away captives. 18 And the Philistines had made raids on the cities in the Shephelah and the Negeb of Judah, and had taken Beth-shemesh, Aijalon, Gederath, Soco with its villages, Timnah with its villages, and Gimzo with its villages. And they settled there. 19 For the Lord humbled Judah because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had made Judah act sinfully and had been very unfaithful to the Lord. 20 So Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came against him and afflicted him instead of strengthening him. 21 For Ahaz took a portion from the house of the Lord and the house of the king and of the princes, and gave tribute to the king of Assyria, but it did not help him.

(2 Kings 16:7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, saying, "I am your servant and your son. Come up and rescue me from the hand of the king of Syria and from the hand of the king of Israel, who are attacking me." 8 Ahaz also took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the Lord and in the treasures of the king's house and sent a present to the king of Assyria. 9 And the king of Assyria listened to him. The king of Assyria marched up against Damascus and took it, carrying its people captive to Kir, and he killed Rezin. 10 When King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, he saw the altar that was at Damascus. And King Ahaz sent to Uriah the priest a model of the altar, and its pattern, exact in all its details. 11 And Uriah the priest built the altar; in accordance with all that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus, so Uriah

the priest made it, before King Ahaz arrived from Damascus. 12 And when the king came from Damascus, the king viewed the altar. Then the king drew near to the altar and went up on it 13 and burned his burnt offering and his grain offering and poured his drink offering and threw the blood of his peace offerings on the altar. 14 And the bronze altar that was before the Lord he removed from the front of the house, from the place between his altar and the house of the Lord, and put it on the north side of his altar. 15 And King Ahaz commanded Uriah the priest, saying, “On the great altar burn the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering and the king’s burnt offering and his grain offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their grain offering and their drink offering. And throw on it all the blood of the burnt offering and all the blood of the sacrifice, but the bronze altar shall be for me to inquire by.” 16 Uriah the priest did all this, as King Ahaz commanded.)

22 In the time of his distress he became yet more faithless to the Lord—this same King Ahaz. 23 For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus that had defeated him and said, “Because the gods of the kings of Syria helped them, I will sacrifice to them that they may help me.” But they were the ruin of him and of all Israel. (2 Kings 16:17 And King Ahaz cut off the frames of the stands and removed the basin from them, and he took down the sea from off the bronze oxen that were under it and put it on a stone pedestal. 18 And the covered way for the Sabbath that had been built inside the house and the outer entrance for the king he caused to go around the house of the Lord, because of the king of Assyria.) 24 And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and he shut up the doors of the house of the Lord, and he made himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem. 25 In every city of Judah he made high places to make offerings to other gods, provoking to anger the Lord, the God of his fathers. 26 Now the rest of his acts and all his ways, from first to last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel. 27 And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, in Jerusalem, for they did not bring him into the tombs of the kings of Israel. And Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

### **Introduction/Review:**

<Have you noticed how many prophets’ names we say when we recite the books of the Old Testament? Do you wonder why there are so many prophets? Do you suppose there was a lot of sin going on, and God was warning His people to turn from their sin and to repent? We know that every king in Israel in the north [locate] was evil, and the people always served idols. Do you suppose God would soon fulfill His warning that Israel will be exiled?

This week we will learn about two more kings of Judah in the south [locate]. Some of the kings of Judah were good, causing their people to serve the one true God, and some were bad, causing the people to serve false gods. Uzziah was a good king and didn’t serve false gods. Even good kings sometimes sinned. Uzziah got proud and offered incense in the Temple. What happened to him? [He became a leper.]

### **Story:**

#### ***Jotham, good king***

Uzziah’s son was the next king of Judah. His name was Jotham. Would he be a good or bad king? Listen to what the Bible says about him: “He did what was *right* in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that his father Uzziah had done only he did not invade the temple of the Lord.” So was he good or bad? [Good.] He served the Lord, even building a special gate to the Temple, ✓making it more convenient for the people to serve God. Jotham built cities and forts and towers in Judah. He fought with the king of the Ammonites [locate Ammon] and won the war. Three years in a row the Ammonites paid Judah 7500 pounds of silver and 60,000 bushels of wheat and 60,000 bushels of barley.

Do you see how God blesses those who love and serve Him? Over and over we’ve seen God’s blessing on the kings of Judah who loved God. One might think that a godly king would have a godly son because he had seen all the blessings of God upon his father, but that was not always the case. Being a godly father doesn’t guarantee one will have a godly son, and being an ungodly father doesn’t guarantee one will have an ungodly son.

Jotham died when he was only 41 years old. His son was Ahaz. What do you think? Was he good or bad? I'll tell you later, but I'll give you a hint now: The Bible says that before Jotham died, "The Lord began to send Rezin the king of Syria [locate] and Pekah" king of Israel [locate] against Judah. The Lord was preparing judgment because—why? It was because Ahaz was evil and would be punished.

### ***Ahaz, bad king***

Oh, I hate to tell sad Bible stories! I love to tell about good kings and good deeds done for our Lord. To tell you about Ahaz makes me very, very sad. He was the worst king Judah had to this point. The Bible states he "walked in the ways of the kings of Israel." What does that mean? What had all the kings of Israel done? They worshiped false gods. That's what Ahaz did. He made images for the Baals; he burned incense in the Hinnom Valley; he burned terrible sacrifices [Teacher, younger students should not hear that he burned his sons as an offering] just as the abominable nations had done in his land before God brought Israel there. Ahaz didn't stop with these abominable practices: he also "sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree." Ahaz was a wicked king!

### ***Consequence #1: Rezin of Syria took captives***

What happens when we do wrong? We should have consequences—punishment. What kind of punishment did God usually bring upon the disobedient kings? [Wars with other nations.] That's what happened to Ahaz. Remember Rezin, king of Syria [locate]? Down he came to Judah and took "a great number" of people captive and took them back to Damascus [locate], his capital city.

### ***Consequence #2: rumor of Syria and Israel coming***

Wake up, Ahaz! God is telling you to repent. Ahaz didn't repent, but he was plenty scared when he got news that Israel to the north had joined with Syria with the purpose to destroy Jerusalem [locate] utterly. The Bible states that Ahaz and the people of Jerusalem were so scared that their hearts shook as the "trees of the forest shake in the wind." [Teacher, shake tree branch.]

### ***Isaiah's encouragement and warning***

God sent a prophet named Isaiah to Ahaz. Isaiah is the same man who saw a vision of angels with six wings praising God in the Temple. As an illustration to King Ahaz, God had instructed Isaiah to name his infant son Shear-jashub, which means a remnant (something remaining, left over).

Then God told Isaiah, "Take Shear-Jashub and go talk to Ahaz." Isaiah went, and this is what he said: "Don't worry about being destroyed by Syria and Israel. Those nations are just like smoking torches that have no fire. Within sixty-five years Israel will be completely broken in pieces and will no longer be a nation and Rezin, king of Syria will be no more.

Do you understand? What would happen within sixty-five years? Israel would be gone; so would Rezin.

<"Now, Ahaz," said Isaiah, "ask the Lord for a sign [the following example is not in Isaiah's text]—✓a sign like wet fleece and dry ground as Gideon had asked. Ahaz, ask for any sign—any sign from heaven to hell."

<"Oh, no! I won't ask for a sign nor tempt the Lord," answered Ahaz.

<Isaiah replied, "The people are tired of you. Do you weary God also? Listen to me. God Himself shall give you a sign. This is it: "The virgin shall become pregnant and have a son, and his name shall be called Immanuel—God with us."

<Students, right in the middle of His encouragement and His warning to Ahaz, God gave a wonderful prophecy about Jesus Christ's birth to the virgin Mary. Jesus wouldn't be born for another 730 years; yet God, through Isaiah, told us about our Savior, who would be "God with us."

<Isaiah gives us several other prophecies of Jesus. Another one is Isaiah 9:6 and 7: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; . . . and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end."

<Now, why did God want Isaiah to take Shear-jashub, whose name means “a remnant,” with him to see Ahaz? ✓One reason was that God had said, “Before Shear-jashub shall be able to refuse evil and choose good,” Israel and Syria would both lose its king—Pekah of Israel and Rezin of Syria. The second reason is that Shear-jashub’s name indicated a “remnant” would come back to Judah.<sup>1</sup> We’ll see this in the next consequence that came to Ahaz.

<Isaiah had much more to say, and he had another son with a special name—Maher-shalal-hashbaz—to help him with his message. *Maher-shalal-hashbaz* means “to the spoil, to the spoil,” “Because,” said God, “before Maher-shalal-hashbaz learns to say, ‘My father!’ or ‘My mother!’ Assyria will take away the spoil of Damascus in Syria and Samaria in Israel.”

<Despite these encouraging outcomes, Ahaz was not going to get by without some dreadful trouble before these prophecies were fulfilled.

### ***Consequence #3: Pekah of Israel kills 120,000; takes 200,000 captives***

Pekah, king of Israel, did come down to Jerusalem and Judah. He couldn’t conquer Jerusalem, but in Judah he slew 120,000 strong, brave soldiers in one day! That would be like [Teacher, compare to a city known by your students] the population of twelve cities the size of Lamar, Colorado. One Israelite soldier slew Ahaz’s own son, the commander of the palace, *and* the man next to the king in authority like Joseph to Pharaoh in Egypt. Oh, what a slaughter! Why did all of this happen? The Bible says it was “because they had forsaken the Lord, the God of their fathers.”

The king of Israel not only slaughtered all these people but also took lots of spoil, *and* he took 200,000 people (more than the people in 20 cities of Lamar’s size) captive, intending to make them slaves. He marched them all the way from Jericho [locate] almost to Samaria [locate].

### ***Oded’s warning to Israel***

But a prophet of the LORD, whose name was Oded, was waiting. He met the army outside Samaria and said to the soldiers, “Look here. Because the LORD, the God of your fathers, was angry with Judah, He gave them into your hand, but you have slain them in a raging anger that has reached up to heaven. Now you intend to make the people of Judah your slaves. Don’t you have sins of your own against the LORD your God? Now listen to me: Send back these captives, who are your brothers and sisters, for the fierce wrath of the LORD is upon you.”

Four chiefs of Israel also stood up with Oded against the army. Agreeing with Oded, they said, “You shall not bring the captives to Samaria. If you do, you will bring God’s anger upon us. We are guilty of many sins, and God is already angry against us. Do you want to add to His wrath and punishment?”

### ***Four chiefs’ help for Judah’s captives***

So the army turned over the captives and the spoil to these four chiefs outside Samaria. With the money and clothes they had gotten from the spoil, these chiefs clothed all the captives who needed clothes. They gave them sandals, food and drink, and they took care of the sick. If someone was too feeble to walk, the chiefs put them on donkeys. The rest walked as the chiefs led them back to their families at Jericho, the city of palm trees. The *remnant* (Shear-jashub) had returned.

After completing their duty, the chiefs returned to Samaria. Weren’t they nice? This is one pleasant part in the middle of a pitiful story.

### ***Consequence #4: Edom and Philistia capture cities***

Meanwhile, Ahaz was getting hit with another consequence for his sin: Edom [locate] rebelled against Judah and took back Elath [locate: it’s at the top of the Gulf of Aqaba; see map inset], chasing out people of Judah who lived in the city and repopulating it with Edomites. In addition, the Philistines [locate] invaded Judah and took over six cities.

I think that if I had been Ahaz, I certainly would have wondered why all this was happening to me. Surely, he must have known, and he should have repented.

### ***Consequence #5: Tiglath-pilezer hurts more than helps Ahaz***

To the contrary, Ahaz did *not* repent. Instead, he gathered up all the treasures he could find in the Temple and in the king's house and sent them to Tiglath-pilezer, king of Assyria [locate]. This Assyrian king had already taken captive and exiled all the people of the two and one-half tribes—Reuben, Gad, and one-half Manasseh [locate]—that had been on the east side of the Jordan River. Assyria is the country with Nineveh as its capital, where Jonah had gone about thirty years before.<sup>2</sup>

"I am your servant," Ahaz said to Tiglath-pilezer, the Assyrian king. "Come rescue me from Syria and from Israel."

Tiglath-pilezer agreed to this deal, went up against Syria, and slew Rezin, Syria's king. Rezin was dead, just as Isaiah had prophesied. However, all was not well, for 2 Chronicles 28:20 states, "Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came against [Ahaz] and afflicted him instead of strengthening him."<sup>3</sup>

<Maher-shalal-hashbaz still didn't know how to choose the good and refuse the evil, but Assyria had taken away the spoil of Damascus in Syria and the spoil of Samaria in Israel.

### ***Ahaz's new altar***

Ahaz went up to Damascus to see Tiglath-pilezer, ✓maybe to thank him for slaying Rezin. But while Ahaz was in Damascus, he saw a beautiful altar to a false god. Oooh! He really liked it, and he wanted one like it. [Teacher, pretend to measure with your tape measure, draw an altar on a piece of paper, and jot down figures of measurement.] Measure; jot; measure; jot; draw; jot; measure; draw. He made a model and got every detail of that altar down on paper. He sent that paper back to Uriah, the *priest* in Jerusalem and commanded him, "Make me an altar like this." Uriah did what King Ahaz had said—he built the new pagan altar.

By the time Ahaz returned from Damascus, the altar was complete, and Ahaz was pleased. He moved the God's bronze altar aside and put his own altar in its place.

<He cut up the stand on which the laver stood and put the laver on a stone base. He cut in pieces the tools used by the priests in the Temple. He took down the king's entrance to the Temple grounds. He shut the doors of the Temple, barring the proper worship of the Lord.

I am sorry to say Ahaz worshiped the gods of Syria at the altar he had made. He set up altars in every corner of Jerusalem. He made high places in every city of Judah where the people could burn incense to other gods. Oh, he did abominably! He was an abomination to the God of his fathers. Even though God warned him with prophets and with trouble, he never repented.

This is a sorrowful story, but it's one that many people live today: despite many warnings and many troubles that should turn them to the Lord, they go on in their own way, neglecting God's ways and doing their own thing. Their eternal judgment will be like that of King Ahaz.

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<sup>1</sup>These two reasons are given in Matthew Henry's *Commentary on the Whole Bible*.

<sup>2</sup>According to the site, [What year did Jonah go to Nineveh? - Answers](#), Jonah was in Nineveh about 760 BC. Tiglath-pilezer conquered Damascus, Syria, in 732 BC ([Tiglath-Pileser \(c.-770 - -727\) - Genealogy \(geni.com\)](#)). That means only 28 years had elapsed from the time Nineveh had repented until Tiglath-pilezer and Ahaz met at Damascus. In another ten years, 722 BC, Assyria would take Israel into exile.

<sup>3</sup>John Gill explains, "[Tiglath-pileser] exhausted "[Ahaz's] treasures, and laid a tribute upon him, but did not help him against the Edomites and Philistines, or recover for him the cities they had taken from him" ([2 Chronicles 28:20 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

## Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:  
As Ahaz listened, God, through Isaiah, gave a wonderful prophecy about Jesus Christ's birth to the virgin Mary: "The virgin shall become pregnant and have a son, and his name shall be called Immanuel—God with us" (Isaiah 7:14).
- Take warning from the bad examples we find in the Scripture. Look to the Lord and His Word for direction of your life.
- No matter how bad things may seem to be, God is at work, just as He was during the childhood of Isaiah's sons.
- <Read the Bible for encouragement. Isaiah gives us good advice. Instead of being afraid of what might happen to us, we should "Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread" (Isaiah 8:13). When you are not sure if something is good and right, think about this verse: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word [the Bible], it is because there is no light in them (Isaiah 8:20).

## Activities:

- Play dough: towers like one that Jotham built; trees with leaves; clothes; sandals; donkeys
- Snack: Make small (1/4 piece of bread size) sandwiches. Stack 3 or 4 to look like towers.
- Let students choose which names they enjoy hearing or pronouncing: Pul or Tiglath-pilezer (king of Assyria), Shear-jashub (Isaiah's son), Maher-shalal-hashbaz (Isaiah's son), Rezin (king of Syria), Pekah (king of Israel), Oded (a prophet).
- Review questions: (Game: Print and cut out the letters, A, H, A, Z, and the symbol ⊗ found at the end of this lesson. Students may place a letter or the symbol in a pocket chart or on the flannel board after answering a question correctly. Unscramble the letters.)
  1. After good King Jotham of Judah died, who became king? [His son, Ahaz.]
  2. What kind of king was Ahaz? [Bad; he worshiped idols and encouraged the people to do so.]
  3. Name one of the consequences God sent to Ahaz for his abominations. [1) Rezin of Syria took captives; 2) Ahaz heard rumors of Syria and Israel coming against him; 3) Pekah of Israel killed 120,000 men of Judah and took 200,000 captives; 4) Edom and Philistia captured cities; 5) Tiglath-pilezer hurt more than helped Ahaz.]
  4. Name one of the prophets who preached during Ahaz's reign. [Isaiah, Oded, also Micah.]
  5. What did Ahaz find in Damascus that he commanded the priest to make in Judah? [An altar.]

## Memory Verses:

- Psalm 139:1–18, 23, 24 (NKJV)

(A very nice song book with black-and-white visuals [I water colored mine] and a CD is available as a learning tool at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](http://thywordcreations.com). Learning this psalm may take six months or more. Some teachers think saying/singing the whole psalm every week is a good way to learn it. However, this Psalm 139 song book breaks the passage after verse 13; therefore, a suggestion is to work on verses 1–13 for thirteen weeks and then the rest of the psalm for an additional eight weeks or more. Take one or two lessons to say/sing the whole psalm.)

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

<sup>2</sup>You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

<sup>3</sup>You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

<sup>5</sup>You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.*

<sup>7</sup>Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

<sup>8</sup>If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

<sup>9</sup>*If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,*

<sup>10</sup>Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

<sup>11</sup>If I say, “Surely the darkness shall fall on me,” Even the night shall be light about me;

<sup>12</sup>Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are both alike to You*.

<sup>13</sup>For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb.

<sup>14</sup>I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

<sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

<sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.

<sup>17</sup>How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup>*If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. . . .*

<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

<sup>24</sup>And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- Alternative verse: You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm (Jonah 4:2).

### Handwork:

- Color tower found at end of this lesson. Use rock-patterned contact paper, cut in small squares to stick to some of the blocks of the tower. Draw a tree in the background.



high places

Valley of Hinnom

Abominable

spoil

Jericho, city of palm trees

remnant

repent/relent

# *Ahaz's Consequences*

- 1) Rezin of Syria took captives.*
- 2) Ahaz heard rumors of Syria and Israel coming against him;*
- 3) Pekah of Israel killed 120,000; took 200,000 captives;*
- 4) Edom and Philistia captured cities;*
- 5) Tiglath-pilezer hurt more than helped Ahaz.*

# *Kings of Nations*

*Israel*

*Pekah*

*Judah*

*Ahaz*

*Syria*

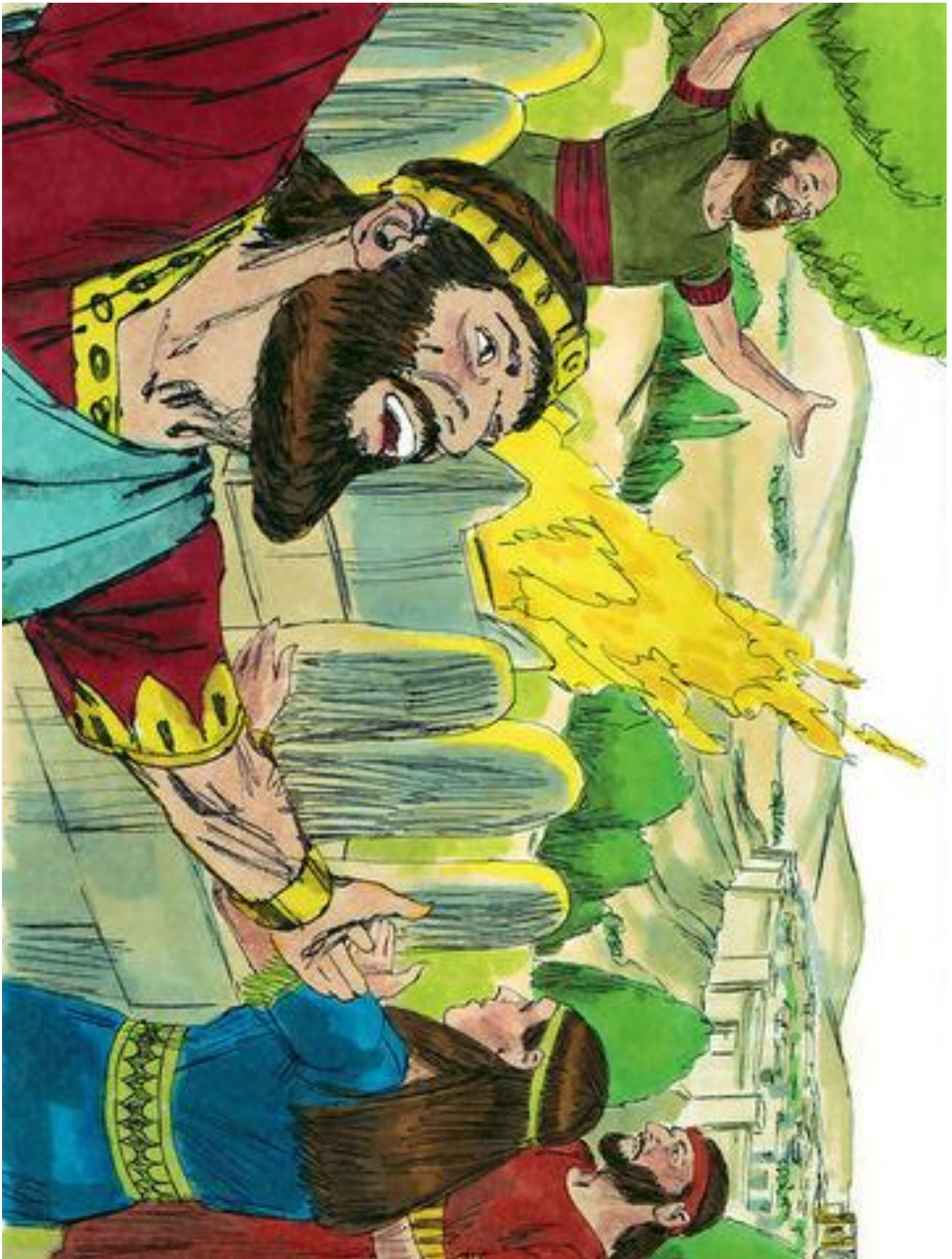
*Rezin*

*Assyria*

*Tiglath-  
pilezer*











**KING PEKAH**  
of Israel



**KING REZIN**  
of Aram  
(Syria)





<https://thelonghaulwithisaiah.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/29a4d-00isemeetshaz5.jpg>



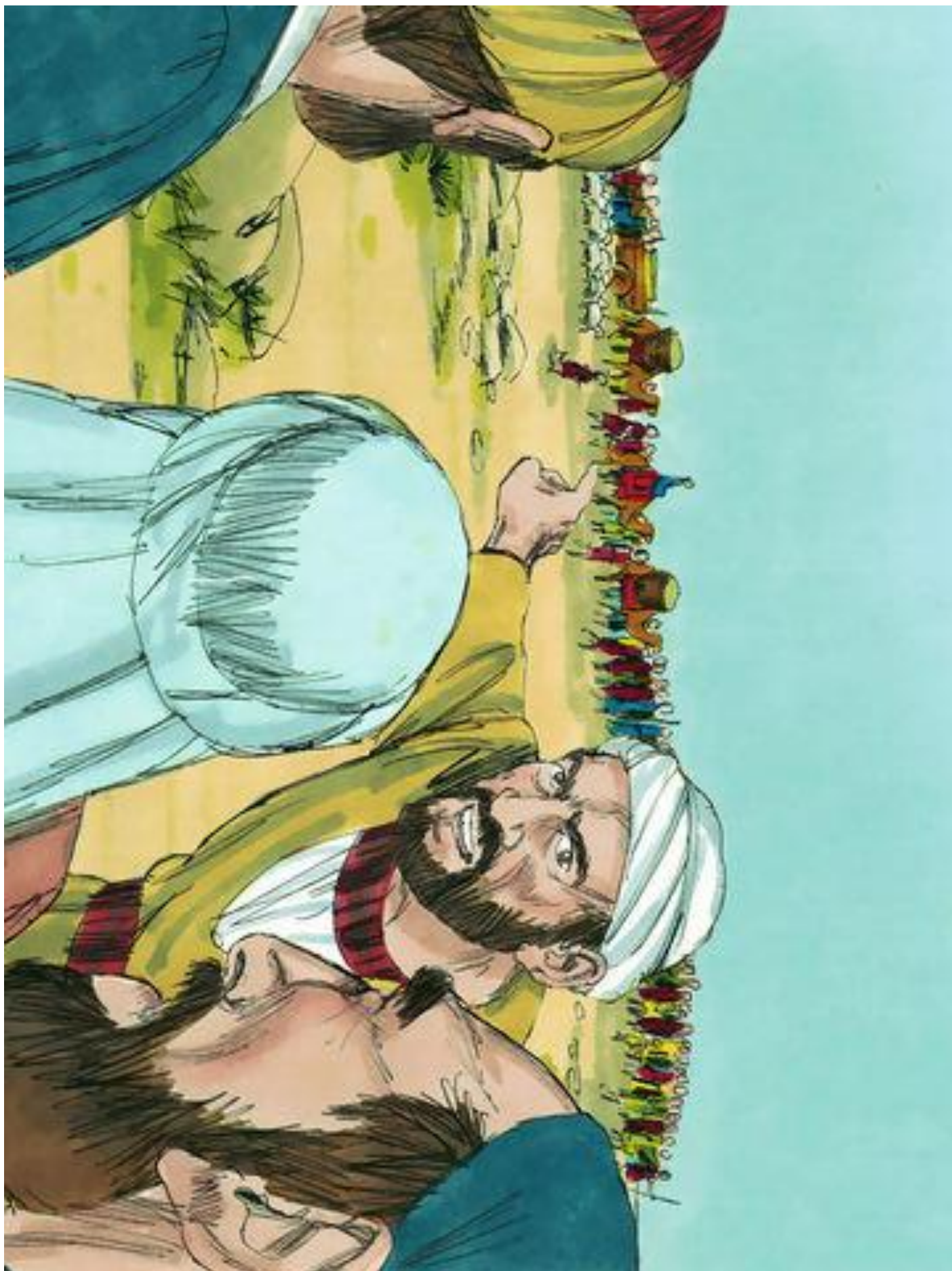






[FreeBibleimages](#) :: Oded rescues captured women and children :: The prophet Oded warns against the capture of women and children prisoners (2 Chronicles 28:1-14)

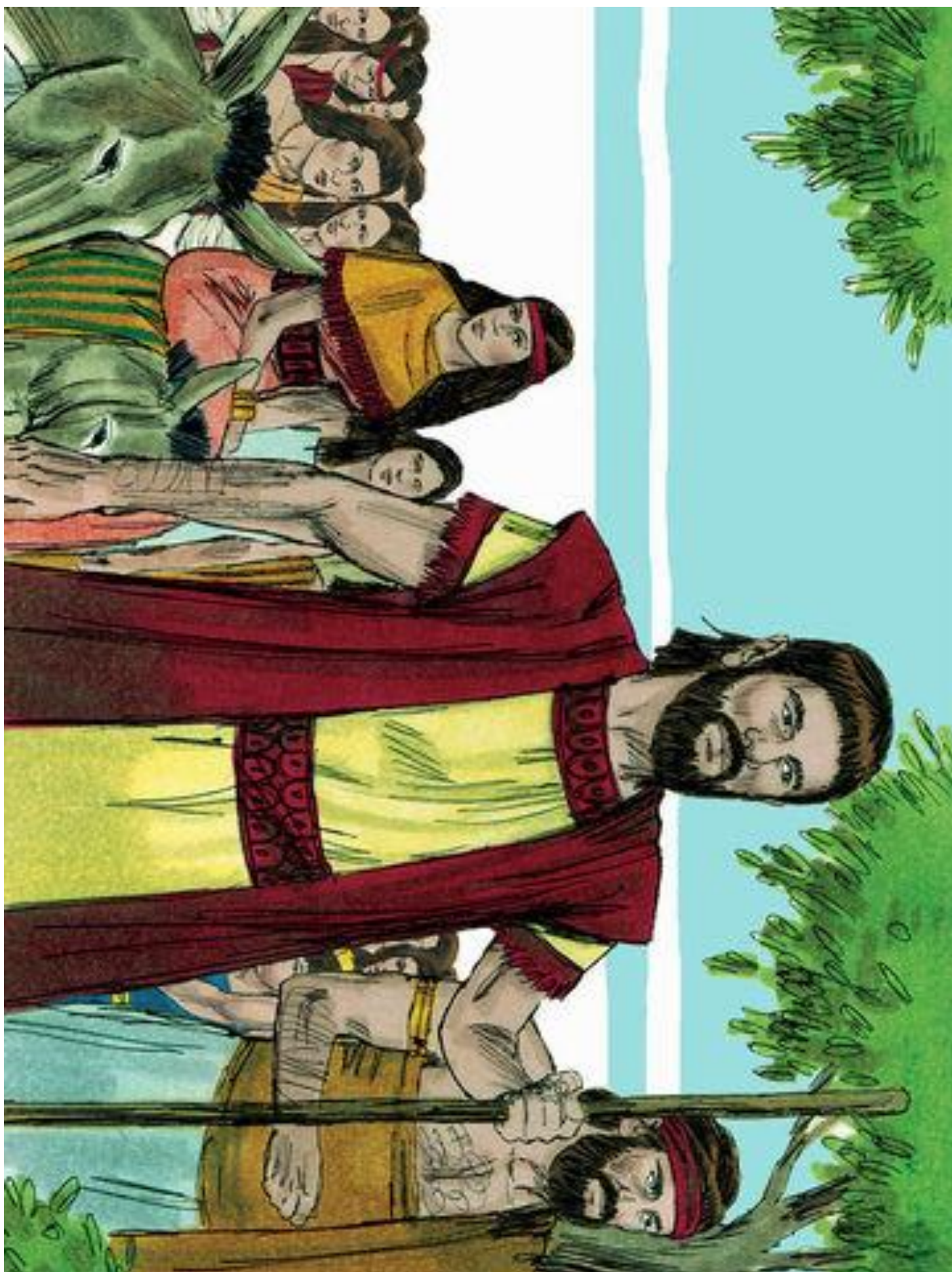














sketch by Jeff Alexander





<http://www.carpescriptura.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2-Kings-16.jpg>

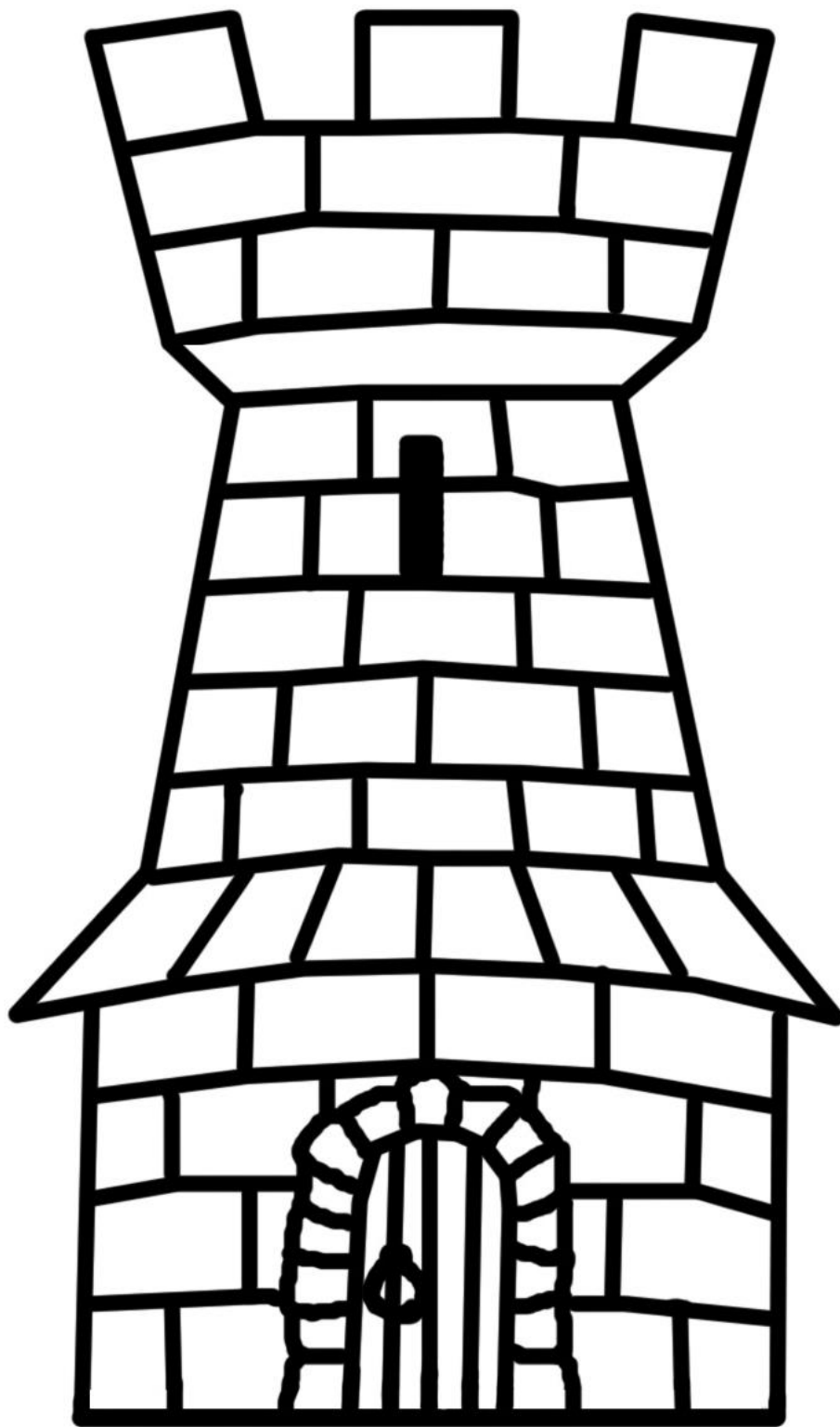
A

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*2 Chronicles 27  
1 Jotham was  
twenty-five  
years old when  
he began to  
reign, and he  
reigned sixteen  
years in  
Jerusalem. . . .  
2 And he did  
what was right  
in the eyes of  
the Lord 3 He  
. . . built cities in  
the hill country  
of Judah, and  
forts and  
towers on the  
wooded hills*