

**“BEWARE : WHEN
SINNING MAKES
SENSE!”**

2 KINGS 16:7-11

**(MARCHING THROUGH
2 KINGS)**

OBSERVATIONS

- The racial tension in this country has now begun to generate somewhat uncomfortable conversations between whites and blacks; and I would dare say, even in the body of Christ
- Most recently, entering the conversation has been the idea that slavery was a “necessary evil,” that this country had to experience



SENATOR TOM COTTON, REPUBLICAN FROM ARKANSAS

“We have to study the history of slavery and its role and impact on the development of our country because otherwise we can’t understand our country. As the Founding Fathers said, it was the necessary evil upon which the union was built, but the union was built in a way, as Lincoln said, to put slavery on the course of its ultimate extinction.” July 2020

Interview: Arkansas Democrat Gazette

If chattel slavery—a system that allowed you to own people, rape their women, torture their men and sell their families **FOR PROFIT** can be categorized as **NECESSARY**, what else can be used to **JUSTIFY** a means to an end?



THE IDEA OF RATIONALIZING EVIL TO CREATE GOOD IS NOT NEW!

In 2 Kings Chapter 16 We Find King Ahaz

“Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king (Judah), 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.

But he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel; indeed he made his son pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast from before the children of Israel.”

2 Kings 16:2-3

IN 2 KINGS 16:7-9, KING AHAZ PLEADS FOR AN “IDOL-SERVING KING” TO HELP HIM!

“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 rises up against me.’ 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 (payment) to the king of Assyria.

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 (King of Syria)”

OBSERVATIONS

- Again, in 2 Chronicles 28:16, Ahaz asked the idolatrous nation Assyria and its King, Tiglath-Pileser, to help his country, Judah, because he had been attacked and defeated by the armies of Edom and the Philistines, not understanding that he was being defeated because his sins. Verse 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.” God humbled Judah due to unfaithfulness; Isaiah 9:16*
- So when the Assyrian king comes to Ahaz, verse 20 says that rather than help him, he attacks and humiliates him too!
- Verse 21 says that king Ahaz took valuable items out of God’s temple and from his officials and gave them to the king of Assyria thinking that would buy him some favor, but it didn’t

WHAT WAS KING AHAZ'S THINKING?

This Was His Thinking

“Now in the time of his distress King Ahaz became increasingly unfaithful to the Lord. That is that King Ahaz. For he sacrificed to the Gods of Damascus that defeated him, saying, “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 all Israel.”

2 Chronicles 28:22-23



WHAT TRUTHS DO WE LEARN FROM THIS STORY

#1 When Things Go Wrong In Your Life, Check Yourself First (2 Corinthians 13:5)

- Ahaz misinterpreted his situation. God was humbling Judah due to King Ahaz's unfaithfulness. Instead of seeing his defeat as a punishment for his unfaithfulness to God, (2 Chronicles 28:19), Ahaz thinks it proves his opponent's God is stronger than his own.
- So Ahaz starts worshipping whichever God seems to win battles, which angers his God, making his situation worse. Isaiah 59:1-2
- God's correction doesn't mean that He doesn't love us. The opposite is true; *"For whom the Lord loves he corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights."* Proverbs 3:12 God cannot perpetually reward us for sinful behavior (when sinning makes sense, remember sin has consequences)

#2 AVOID PREMATURE JUDGEMENTS ON PEOPLE YOU ADMIRE!

“They seem to be doing alright!”

- Ahaz, God’s child, admired and envied King Tiglath; he was a conqueror, he was smart, cool, popular, successful (R. Kelly, G. Maxwell, B. Cosby, H. Weinstein, M. Jackson, Prince, Whitney)
- On a trip to meet with the Assyrian king, he admired one of his altars (2 Kings 16:10), and sent some drawings back to Jerusalem to get one made that looked like that. He then removed anything in the temple of the Lord that was offensive to the King of Assyria, verse 18
- Can you imagine changing or reducing your worship life to accommodate someone else’s immoral life? (personal habits, language, Rx., etc., because you want them to like you)
- Sin has pleasures but they are short term; Hebrews 11:24-25; Ecclesiastes 8:11 (therefore to some, sinning makes sense for a while, relying on God’s longsuffering character)

***God's Tolerance Of Our Sins Is Not
Because of His Approval of Us, But
His Longsuffering For Us***

***“Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness
and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing
that the goodness of God leadeth to
repentance.” Romans 2:4;***

2 Peter 3:9-11

#3 BEWARE OF MAKING LOST PEOPLE YOUR BEST FRIENDS

- Like the kid who wants to make friends with the school bully. The kid who has a “Bully” nature won’t be a friend by nature
- Israel’s King Ahaz wanted to be friends with the evil King Tiglath of Assyria. He even tried to imitate or replicate the Altar he had constructed to his foreign god. Sinning to win the favor of an evil friend made sense to him.
- Beware of making lost/immoral people your best friends and associates. Lost friends don’t care anything about your eternal welfare or development of your character
- Don’t throw a Godly conscience under the bus for the sake of evil associations (our willingness to please others first)

#4 DON'T ENVY THE PROSPERITY OF THE UNGODLY! PSALMS 37:1-2

- **Let God define your self esteem, John 15:14**
- **Being righteous may cause you to walk a sacrificial and suffering road**
 - **You may not be thought of as the successful one**
 - **You may not be admired as the smart/cool one**
 - **You actually may be thought of as the “slow, dull, no-fun one”**

1 PETER 4:14-16 (NIV)

“If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer, or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.”

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 2:38

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38