Main Thought  Evil King Ahaz of Judah refused to be TRANSFORMED to the Lord but chose to be CONFORMED to the world (Rom. 12:2).

He was 20 years old and reigned over Judah for 16 evil years (731-715 BC).

Conformed to the World

He Imitated Israel (1-4; 2 Chron. 28:1-4).
- He walked in wicked Israel's ways (Psa. 1:1).
- He sacrificed his sons (2 Chron. 28:3) in the fire like the other nations (Lev. 18:21-22; Duet. 18:9-11); his grandson King Manasseh did the same (21:6).
- He offered sacrifices at the high places and under spreading trees – symbols of fertility (Isa. 57:5; Jer. 2:20).

He Imitated Assyria (5-18; 2 Chron. 28:24-25).
- He copied in detail an altar in Damascus and had Uriah the priest replicate it to replace the Bronze Altar at Solomon's Temple.
- However he kept the Bronze Altar for guidance from the Lord (15b).
- He replaced the bronze bulls with mere stones under the laver (17-18).
- He altered (cheapened) the Temple to please Assyria (2 Cor. 5:8; Col. 1:10).

Transformed by God

He Refused David's Example (2; 2 Chron. 28:1). David, "a man after His own heart" (Acts 13:22), set the right example for Ahaz to imitate (Heb. 13:7, 17) but he refused (Acts 7:39; 2 Thess. 2:10).

He Refused Obed the Prophet (2 Chron. 28:9-15).
- After Judah suffered a humiliating defeat by Israel and were enslaved, Obed the prophet counseled their release and kindness shown to them.
- Israel did show mercy, but Ahab still sought Assyria's protection (16).
- Many believe this is the backdrop for "The Good Samaritan" (Luke 10:25-37).

He Refused Hosea the Prophet (Hos. 5:13-15).
- Hosea warned Ahaz that Assyria would help but hurt them like a lion tear them to pieces (Hos. 5:13-14) or a club (Isa. 10:5-6).
- God would wait for them to admit their guilt and seek his face (Hos. 5:15).

He Refused Isaiah's Prophetic Sign (Isa. 7:9-17).
- Isaiah offered Ahaz a sign from God but he refused.
- The sign was given anyway – the virgin (HEB=alma – young woman [Isaiah's wife]) birth of IMMANUEL – God with us. This is quoted by Matthew (GK=parthenos – virgin [Mary]) to show how God is with us in Jesus to DELIVER (2 Cor. 1:10) us from our enemies (Matt. 1:23).