

# PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

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## THE ALL TOO COMMON ATTITUDE OF KING AHAZ

There once was a king in the land of Judah named Jotham. He was the son of Uzziah (2 Kg. 15:32). He reigned as king for sixteen years (2 Kg. 15:33). His epitaph was and still is: “*He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord...*” (2 Kg. 15:34). After his death, Jotham’s twenty year old son – a lad named Ahaz – began to reign as king over Judah (2 Kg. 15:38). Surely this fellow would follow in the footsteps of his daddy right? Wrong! This dude was just as wicked as can be. The Bible records:

- “...Ahaz...did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD... he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen... and he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree” (2 Kg. 16:2-4).
- “...king Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and saw an altar that was at Damascus: and king Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the fashion of the altar, and the pattern of it, according to all the workmanship thereof. And Urijah the priest built an altar according to all that king Ahaz had sent from Damascus: so Urijah the priest made it against king Ahaz came from Damascus. And when the king was come from Damascus, the king saw the altar: and the king approached to the altar, and offered thereon. And he burnt his burnt offering and his meat offering, and poured his drink offering, and sprinkled the blood of his peace offerings, upon the altar. And he brought also the brasen altar, which was before the LORD, from the forefront of the house, from between the altar and the house of the LORD, and put it on the north side of the altar” (2 Kg. 16:10-14).

From the texts above we learn: (1) Ahaz was an idolater, and (2) Ahaz ran roughshod over God’s house. Sadly, the attitude displayed by Ahaz is all too common amongst “church of Christer” today. How so, you say? Glad you asked. Keep reading.

### I SEE THE ATTITUDE OF AHAZ WHEN I SEE “MEMBERS” OF THE CHURCH WHO ARE PRO-CHOICE

Ahaz killed his children (2 Kg. 16:3; 2 Ch. 28:3; cf. Jer. 19:4-5; Ez. 16:20-21). Informed people know abortion is a big problem in America with approximately 1.3 million abortions happening each year – most occurring as a selfish means of birth control. Now, one shouldn’t find it odd that people who are past feeling (Eph. 4:17-19), and who comprise a community of wickedness (1 Jn. 5:19), think it’s fine to murder unborn, developing humans (<http://www.abortiontruth.com/pictures.html>). But no one who has been added to the body of Christ ought to think such (Eph. 4:20). Yet, I’ve met carnal “Christians” who are pro-choice. Folks, shedding innocent blood is something God hates (Prv. 6:16-19) and a lack of natural affection makes one worthy of death before God (Rom. 1:31-32).

### I SEE THE ATTITUDE OF AHAZ WHEN I SEE “MEMBERS” OF THE CHURCH WHO ARE IDOLATERS

Ahaz was an idolater (2 Kg. 16:2; 2 Ch. 28:2). Idolatry certainly is a sin (1 Sam. 15:23; 1 Cor. 6:9-10). Idolatry is something that God’s people are to flee from (1 Cor. 10:14) and keep away from (1 Jn. 5:21). However, I have met self-willed “Christians” who engage in such. I have known some who bow down at the altar of covetousness (Col. 3:5) and I’ve even seen statues of Mary in someone’s house (Lk. 11:27-28). How sad. How very sad! Let’s remember the final destination of idolaters: “*But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone...*” (Rev. 21:8; cf. Lev. 17:7; 1 Cor. 10:20).

### I SEE THE ATTITUDE OF AHAZ WHEN I SEE “MEMBERS” OF THE CHURCH WHO EMBRACE INNOVATION

As stated, Ahaz thought he could do whatever he wished to God’s house – in his day, the temple (Ez. 8:16). How presumptuous! Today, the church constitutes God’s house (1 Tim. 3:15) and so many people are just as presumptuous as Ahab, on both a congregational and individual level. When I see the social gospel at work, I see the spirit of Ahaz. For an example of such (from the Mt. Comfort church of Christ) see <http://bywhatauthority.com/socialgospelatwork.pdf>. When I see women usurping a man’s authority (e.g. <http://www.highlandchurch.org/resource/bulletin/2010-02-14>), I see the spirit of Ahaz. When I see folks organize and create Bible departments at “Christian” schools like Freed-Hardeman University, Harding University, Florida College, etc., I see the spirit of Ahaz. When I hear soft and cutesy sermonettes filled with jokes, human stories, etc., I see the spirit of Ahaz. When I see congregations offer a leftover Lord’s Supper, I see the attitude of Ahaz at work. On and on I could go.

There’s no proof Ahaz ever repented. Thus, we can infer he learned too late the fate of those who kick against God (Lk. 16:19-26). Sadly, I’m afraid many “members” of the church will be shocked to be cell-mates with him one day.