CHILDREN’S SACRIFICE

Someone suggested that Luchiezzi, a smart entrepreneur in South America, seek out a priest from Afro-Brazilian occultist religion. Why not try it? he thought. After paying for the animal sacrifices and for the priest’s services, his business started to grow. The more he advanced in that cult, the more he prospered.

He ended up owning a large fleet of brand-new trucks, while living in luxury. But Luchiezzi became terrified when the priest told him that the guiding entity was asking for his son in sacrifice. He left horrified, never to return.

A few days later he received a message from the priest saying that if he would not come back, he would lose all that he had gained, and even his life. Nightmares replaced sleep, and fear was now controlling him. That week he started to lose, one by one, all his trucks. Accidents, fire, thefts, and arrests gradually ravaged his properties.

He started to wonder if there wouldn’t be another side in the spiritual realm. That same day an Adventist offered him a Bible study. After a while the whole family was baptized. Starting a new business from scratch, he said to the pastor, “I now have peace and freedom because I worship the Creator of heaven and earth.”

The story of King Ahaz will reveal the terrible loss implied in rejecting God’s invitation to test Him. It will also show us that sacrificial giving is not necessarily a virtue or a positive trait of character, unless we choose the right recipient. We will also discover that offerings, when directed to demons, become far more costly than surrendering our whole lives to the Creator!
Write out 2 Chronicles 28:16–27 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out 2 Chronicles 28:19. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in 2 Chronicles 28:16–27. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

If it is too risky exposing our family to worldly influences, should we leave the world to perish without mingling with them? How do you find the balance?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw07-3
Meditate on 2 Chronicles 28:16–27 again and look for where Jesus is.

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What do you believe was the main reason behind Ahaz’s refusal to become acquainted with God?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw07-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Isaiah 1:10–12
Isaiah 59:1, 2
Deuteronomy 28:45–51
Deuteronomy 30:15–20
Ezekiel 33:11
Matthew 22:36–40
Isaiah 58:10, 11
Malachi 3:7–12

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with 2 Chronicles 28:16–27?

Review your memorized verse from 2 Chronicles 28:16–27
How do you explain the fact that the Bible says that the Lord does not desire sacrifice (Hosea 6:6), but at the same time asks us to regularly bring tithes and offerings?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?


What Should Trigger Your Decision to Bring Regular Offerings?
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study, what changes need to take place in your private life?

What changes need to take place in your public life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/stw07-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Why did the Lord protect David, Jehoshaphat, and others from their enemies, but did not protect Ahaz? Isn’t God a God who discriminates, a respecter of persons? Explain.

Why is it so serious if someone refuses to test the Lord when God Himself is inviting us to test Him?

Ahaz gave a lot of his own resources to worship idols (and spirits). What was his motivation? By contrast, what should motivate true Christians to bring regular offerings and the tithe?

Why won’t sacrificing too much and giving too much necessarily promote God’s acceptance of my offering?

If we are supposed to return tithes and regular offerings in recognition of blessings and not in expectation of them, why does God still promise to bless us after we bring them?

Ahaz: The Wicked Giver