

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 05 Dec..... 1Kings 1-4..... What Money Can't Buy
- 2) 12 Dec..... 1Kings 5-9a..... Why Prayer Deserves Priority
- 3) 19 Dec..... Mat 1-2..... Worship the King of Kings
- 4) 26 Dec..... 1Kings 9b-11..... Where Compromise Takes You
- 5) 02 Jan..... 1Kings 12-16a..... Anatomy of a Grave Decision
- 6) 09 Jan..... 1Kings 16b-22..... A Hill on Which to Stand
- 7) 16 Jan..... 2Kings 21-23..... Building a Culture for Life
- 8) 23 Jan..... 2Kings 1-5..... Sick of Greed?
- 9) 30 Jan..... 2Kings 6-8..... Right Not to Remain Silent
- 10) 06 Feb..... 2Kings 9-10..... Danger! Unbridled Passion
- 11) 13 Feb..... 2Kings 11-17..... U-Turn Here – and Now!
- 12) 20 Feb..... 2Kings 18-20..... Got to Have Hope
- 13) 27 Feb..... 2Kings 23-25..... Keep Hope Alive

INTRODUCTION

- Does God wait for special people to come on the scene to accomplish great things for Him?..... Sometimes
- Can God use any of us to accomplish great things? YEP
- So what is stopping us from accomplishing great things for God? Lack of Prayer? Lack of Humility?
- Remember – Satan doesn't mind how many times we read the Bible or even go to church – as long as we don't pray!

Passage	Comments
2Kings 18:1-8	<p>It Took Military Action to Clean Things Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-4. Hezekiah comes on the scene and he initiates religious reform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Moses' bronze serpent was initially used to heal people by faith after being bitten by snakes (Num 21:4-9); 600 years later it became an object of worship ♦ It probably took military action sanctioned by the king to slaughter this "sacred cow" • v7. The Lord was with Hezekiah and caused him to prosper since his heart was like David's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Only 4 kings out of 21 were likened to King David – Asa, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Josiah
18:9-37	<p>Assyria Captures Israel (Samaria)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv9-12. Assyria captured Israel, disbursed the Jewish elite throughout their conquered territories, left the poor to care for the land, and resettled displaced foreigners throughout Israel which caused wide-scale intermarriages which diluted the Jewish culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ So, how will God reunite all Jews.....Ez 37:19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2Chron 10:17 – Loyalists from the 10 tribes stayed in Judah when Jeroboam split Israel off • 2 Chron 30 – When Hezekiah initiated the Passover, loyalists from Israel traveled to Judah • Archeology reveals Israelites from the northern 10 tribes fled to Judah during Assyria's onslaught • Note: This destroys the Mormon belief that they are the lost 10 tribes of Israel • Assyria begins to march on Judah & Jerusalem • Even bad things happen when God's faithful servants are in high places of leadership - Joseph had to endure 7 years of famine in Egypt • vv14-16. Hezekiah tried to appease the wicked, but it is never enough – they always want more
19:1-37	<p>God Waits for Hezekiah to Pray & Seek Counsel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-2. Hezekiah humbled himself, went to the house of God, and sought counsel from Isaiah • Notice that God did not move prior to prayer

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv14-19. Hezekiah prays for God's glory to be made known through Judah's deliverance • What would have happened if Hezekiah did not pray as he did to secure Judah's deliverance? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Would God still have delivered Judah? ♦ Or would God allow Judah to be destroyed? ♦ Answer – God is mighty enough to accomplish His will through either scenario • v35. One of God's angels slays 185,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Hiroshima and Nagasaki – 120,000 died ♦ Battle of the Bulge – 104,000 died ♦ Possibly, God's angel used a hot south wind called a "Simoom" common to that region, which still destroys whole caravans to this day with temps greater than 130 degrees (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simoom) ♦ Consider Rev 7:1 where God has four angels controlling "the four winds of the earth"
20:1-21	<p>Hezekiah Given 15 More Years of Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-11. Hezekiah prays for God to reconsider taking him home, and God grants 15 more years • God also provides a one-of-a-kind confirmation miracle of the sun or earth reversing direction by "10 steps" or 10 degrees or about 40 minutes • Hezekiah also needed more time to produce a son (Manasseh) or God was going to have to find another means to continue David's lineage • Hezekiah's son, Manasseh, becomes the most wicked of all Judean kings • Did Hezekiah do good to pray for a longer life? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Absolutely! Wouldn't we all pray like that?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- God wants us to be involved with His plan for the ages
- God wants us to pray, He waits for us to pray, and He moves when we pray – so PRAY!

NEXT WEEK: 2Kings 23-25. Josiah, the greatest king since King David, tries to correct Judah's destructive tendencies

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



That night the angel of the Lord went out and killed 185,000 men in the Assyrian camp, like an Old Testament Terminator! **2 Kings 19:35**