

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 05 June.....	1Kings 01-04.....	Granted
2) 12 June.....	1Kings 05-08.....	Repentance
3) 19 June.....	1Kings 09-11.....	Compromised
4) 26 June.....	1Kings 12-14.....	Divided
5) 03 July.....	1Kings 15-16.....	Return
6) 10 July.....	1Kings 17-18.....	Proven
7) 17 July.....	1Kings 19-22.....	Hope
8) 24 July.....	2Kings 01-05.....	God Heals
9) 31 July.....	2Kings 06-08.....	God Provides
10) 07 Aug.....	2Kings 09-12.....	God Honors
11) 14 Aug.....	2Kings 13-17.....	God Judges
12) 21 Aug.....	2Kings 18-21.....	God Hears
13) 28 Aug.....	2Kings 22-25.....	God Moves

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
 - ♦ God can even use the wicked to accomplish His will Pr 16:4
- So, what is stopping us from accomplishing great things for God?
 - Lack of Prayer? Lack of Guts? Lack of Opportunity
- **Remember:** Satan doesn't mind how many times we read the Bible, go to church, or pray – as long as we don't pray fervently!

Passage	Comments
2Kings 13:1-25	<p>Elisha Dies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv3-4. God's anger against Israel resulted in oppression from Syria. Israel's King Jehoahaz was desperate enough to try something new – He prayed to God – and God answered his prayer • vv5-6. God sent a deliverer on Israel's behalf and gave them a reprieve. BUT the Jews of Israel continued in their sinful ways. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What more can God do for His wayward kids? ♦ What should the Jews have done to receive more of God's favor? ♦ Stop sinning & start obeying? Eph 4:28 • vv14-20. Elisha gives K. Joash the opportunity to destroy Aram (Syrians). All he had to do was strike the ground 5-6x. But he only struck it 3x. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Though, Joash (King of Israel, not Judah) did the prophet's bidding, it was without any zeal or fervor; and probably without any earnest belief in the usefulness of what he was doing Jer 48:10 ♦ v25. Sure enough, Joash was able to defeat Syria advances 3 times ♦ How can we get ALL of God's blessings He wants to bestow on us and not shortchange ourselves, or worse, get "leanness to our souls"? Ps 106:15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Know God's will, not guess at it Rom 2:18; Rom 12:2; Eph 5:17; Col 1:9; 1John 2:17; 5:14 <input type="checkbox"/> Pray fervently, not half-heartedly Jms 5:16 <input type="checkbox"/> Obey for empowerment Acts 5:32 • v21. Elisha's Last Miracle. A dead man comes to life when his corpse touches the bones of Elisha
	<p>Judah's King Amaziah Serves God Faithfully</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v6. "...each shall be put to death for his own sin" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Sometimes this principle was observed, as here ♦ Sometimes it was ignored..... 2Sam 21:2-9 • vv8-19. Amaziah, a godly king, has some success on the battlefield, but gets cocky and takes on the more powerful king of Israel, and gets whipped <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Result: Amaziah, like his dad, Joash, is assassinated

Passage	Comments
15:1-38	<p>Azariah (Uzziah) and Jotham also Serve God in Judah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-5. Azariah did right in the sight of the Lord, yet the Lord strikes him with leprosy – WHY? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 2Chron 26:16-21 tells the whole story how he pridefully sacrificed in the temple, so God struck him • Jotham had a godly reign from start to finish – WHY? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Possibly because he had a very godly mother. She was the daughter of Zadok, a very godly priest Ezek 44:15 <p>Why Do Godly People Go Bad?</p> <p>As we walk with the Lord, aren't we supposed to grow "stronger and stronger" (Job 17:9); and get "brighter and brighter" (Pro 4:18) as we receive "grace upon grace" (John 1:16), & faith upon faith (Rom 1:17), & be renewed "day by day" (2Cor 4:16), with the intent to praise God "more and more" (Ps 71:14)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 3 Kings maintained a godly reign: Jotham, Hezekiah, Josiah • The following 8 kings started off good, but succumbed to moral failures: Saul, David, Solomon, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, and Uzziah • BUT one King went from Bad to Good: Manasseh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Recall he repented in his last days and took measures to reverse his previous idolatrous ways (2Chr 33:11-16), but it was not enough to curb God's wrath on Judah for the sins of Manasseh (2Kings 23:26) <p>Consider This: When we fail to "guard our steps" (Ecc 5:1), and to "watch and pray" (Mt 26:41), and to "take heed" (Heb 3:12), we are prone to fall.</p>
16:1-20	<p>Ahaz Sells Off Judah's Treasures to Buy Peace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-3. Ahaz sacrificed his first born son <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This son should have been the next ruler of Judah and the forebear of Christ, and not Hezekiah ♦ God is sovereign enough to work around man's sin • vv7-18. Ahaz copied an Assyrian altar for his personal worship in Jerusalem. So much for doing things God's way.
17:1-41	<p>Assyria Captures Samaria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv5-8. It took 3 years to capture Samaria. • vv6, 24, 41. Israel is disbursed to other nations, and other nations resettled in Israel, & God receives feigned obedience • vv9-20. Both Israel and Judah go from Bad to Worse • God's only recourse is to destroy. Fortunately, Israel and Judah will be reunited in the future Ezek 37:19; Zech 10:6

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 & PRAY FERVENTLY! James 5:16
 - ♦ With Passion – Focus – Persistence – Urgency!

NEXT WEEK: 2Kings 18-20. King Hezekiah, with Isaiah's help, holds steady for God under heavy persecution, and he uses Mob Rule to clean house around the nation. Plus, he prays for God's deliverance, and God answers by killing 185,000 soldiers.

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**