

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 9) 31 July2Kings 06-08..... God Provides
- 10) 07 Aug2Kings 09-12..... God Honors
- 11) 14 Aug2Kings 13-17..... God Judges
- 12) 21 Aug2Kings 18-21..... God Hears**
- 13) 28 Aug2Kings 22-25..... God Moves

INTRODUCTION

- We see the ultimate breakdown of Jewish society as they sacrifice their children in the hopes their false gods would improve their living conditions
- Our modern society also sacrifices their children to the god of convenience through abortion and neglect to hopefully improve one's financial situation
 - ♦ Even some major corporations now cover travel costs for their employees to have abortions out of state. [Link to Citicorp Announcement](#)
- God judges more harshly when innocent victims such as children, widows and orphans are mistreated
- Why doesn't God stop child sacrifices after a few incidences instead of allowing millions of innocents to be killed?
- What can we do about the child sacrifices that are happening in our society? Should Christians be Vocal? Militant? Silent? Lukewarm?

Passage	Comments
2Kings 18:1-8	<p>It Took Military & Mob Action to Clean Things Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-4. Hezekiah comes on the scene and 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." We are also told mobs of Israelites roamed the countryside smashing idolatrous altars and idols2Chron 31:1 • This sounds awfully Taliban-ish! How do we answer the skeptics? REMEMBER: Do we wipe out idolatry or does God wipe us out? • v7. The Lord was with Hezekiah and caused him to prosper since his heart was like David's. Only 4 kings out of 21 were likened to King David – Asa, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, and 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 1. 2Chron 10:17; 11:16; 15:9 – Loyalists from the 10 tribes stayed in or moved to Judah when Jeroboam split Israel off 2. 2Chron 30:1-11 – When Hezekiah initiated the Passover, loyalists from Israel traveled to Judah 3. Archeology reveals Israelites from the northern 10 tribes fled to Judah during Assyria's onslaught 4. Note: This destroys the Mormon belief that they are the lost 10 tribes of Israel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Assyria begins to march on Judah & Jerusalem ♦ v12. Even bad things happen when God's faithful servants are in high places of leadership – WHY? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "This happened because most refused to obey God's laws" • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Notice, God did not move prior to prayer • vv14-19. Hezekiah prays for God's glory to be made known through Judah's deliverance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What would have happened if Hezekiah did not pray as he did to secure Judah's deliverance? ♦ 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 • v30. Better days are coming for Israel. They will one day sprout. • 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 (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simoom) ♦ Consider Rev 7:1 where God has four angels controlling "the four winds of the earth"

Passage	Comments
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 provided 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 – possibly through an unnamed brother, uncle, or nephew of Hezekiah • 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?
21:1-18	<p>Manasseh Seduced them to do more evil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manasseh had a god-fearing father (sort of), but having good parents, a great environment, and living the good life didn't help him to be godly • Can people be made to sin? Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Satan 'deceived' Eve Gen 3:13 ♦ Manasseh 'seduced' Judah 2Kings 21 ♦ The rich 'forced' the poor to take on debt and sell their children into slavery Neh 5:1-6 ♦ Husbands 'caused' their wives to commit adultery Mat 5:32 ♦ BUT whenever we sin, we are culpable since God does provide a way to escape 1Cor 10:13 → in other words, there is no excuse • Manasseh, the most wicked king ever in Judah's history also reigned the longest (55 years) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ vv2,6,9. He did more evil than the abominations of the dispossessed nations. These sins included homosexuality, murder, idolatry, adultery, bestiality, child sacrifice – All of these sins are in America today! ♦ To Manasseh's credit he did seek God's mercy in his later years (after he was captured and tortured by the Assyrians) and tried to reverse the evil he had done 2Chr 33:10-18; Hos 5:15 ♦ God is patient and is not willing for any to perish – even the most wicked 2Peter 3:9 • It is hard to imagine a society can slip into total evil and seek to slay its weakest members for fun or profit – and many societies are heading there today with abortion, euthanasia, & suicide bombers
21:19-26	<p>Manasseh's Son, Amon, Continues Evil Reign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv23-24. Amon was assassinated after a short 2 year reign, and his assassins were also killed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Were the assassins behaving biblically or did they add sin to sin?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- We need to personally and corporately as a church body contend with the wicked – challenge them through reasoning, arguing, defending; but we are never commanded to be militant or physically combative
 - ♦ God only gave governments the responsibility to kill to protect society from evil doers
 - ♦ ...and God is ultimately responsible to take vengeance on those who harm His people or the innocent
 - ♦ In the meantime, we need to be gentle, peaceable, considerate, reasonable, and full of mercy [1Tim 3:3](#); [Titus 3:2](#); [James 3:18](#)

SUPPORTING PASSAGES:

Hos 5:15 ...In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.

NEXT WEEK: 2Kings 22-25. Josiah, the greatest king since King David, tries to correct Judah's destructive tendencies.



Modern Day Child Sacrifices