INTRODUCTION

- First and 2nd Kings seem to go easier on the Judean kings since they do not record more of the gory details and sinful behavior reported in 1st and 2nd Chronicles.
- Some kings start off well (e.g., Solomon, Jehoash, Azariah), but they lose focus and corrupt themselves. Why?

### Passage | Comments
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2Kings 11:1-21 | **Judah ruled by Queen Athaliah for 6 years**
- Athaliah was Ahab’s daughter, & she had to have the support of Judah’s military to seize power.
- It baffles us why a grandmother would want to murder all of her grandkids just to have power.
- The Bible sheds some light on the wicked.
  - They are wicked from birth. **Ps 58:3**
  - They do not think through the consequences of their actions. **Lam 1:9**
  - They develop a seared conscience. **1 Tim 4:2**

12:1-21 | **Athaliah’s 7 yr old grandson, Jehoash, Becomes King**
- Thanks to the help of Athaliah’s daughter or stepdaughter, Jehosheba, Jehoash is hidden for 6 yrs.
- Jehosheba (or Jehoshabeath) was married to a priest, Jehoiada. **cf 2Chron 22:11**
- Jehosheba is a great success story – she overcame her dysfunctional family by apparently seeking the help of God to rescue the bloodline of Christ.
- vv1-3. Jehoash (aka Joash) is faithful to the Lord – AS LONG AS JEHOOIADA WAS ALIVE!
  - **2Chron 24:15-22** depicts the evil Jehoash does, including killing Jehoiada’s son, Zechariah.
- After 40 yrs, Jehoash is assassinated.

13:1-25 | **Elisha Dies**
- vv5-6. God sends a deliverer, but the Jews revert back to their sinful ways just like a pig heads back to wallow in the mud after being washed.
- What should the Jews have done to permanently turn things around for God?
  - Stop sinning, start obeying. **Eph 4:28**
- vv14-20. Elisha gives Joash the opportunity to destroy Aram (Syrians). All he had to do was strike the ground 5-6x. But he only struck it 3x.
- 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**
- v21. Elisha’s Last Miracle. A dead man comes to life when his corpse touches the bones of Elisha.

#### CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:
- God is going to accomplish His will for His people whether they like it or not, and whether they follow Him or not. He finishes what He starts. **Phil 1:6**
- It is the same with us. Why fight God? Choose to follow Him in all things and position yourself to be blessed.
- Let’s stay on course and finish strong.

#### APPLICABLE PASSAGES:
**Jer 48:10** “Cursed is he who does the work of the LORD with slackness, and cursed is he who keeps back his sword from bloodshed. [ESV]**

**NEX WEEK:** 2Kings 18-20. King Hezekiah, with Isaiah’s help, holds steady for God under heavy persecution.