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 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**
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2Kings 18:1-8 | It Took Military Action to Clean Things Up
- vv1-4. Hezekiah comes on the scene and he initiates religious reform
  - 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
  - Only 4 kings out of 21 were likened to King David – Asa, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Josiah

18:9-37 | Assyria Captures Israel (Samaria)
- 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
  - So, how will God reunite all Jews......Ez 37:19
    - 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 | God Waits for Hezekiah to Pray & Seek Counsel
- 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**
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- 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?
  - 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
  - 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
- Consider Rev 7:1 where God has four angels controlling “the four winds of the earth”

Hezekiah Given 15 More Years of Life
- 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?
  - 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

HASTA-LA-VISTA ASSYRIA!

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