

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

- We skip 2Kings 1-20 so we can address issues pertaining to the sanctity of life found in 2Kings 21-23
- In these passages we see the ultimate breakdown of Jewish society as they succumb to sacrificing their children in the hopes their false gods would improve their living conditions
- In similar fashion, modern society also sacrifice their children to the god of convenience through abortion and neglect to hopefully improve their financial situation
- 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 militant?

Passage	Comments
2Kings 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? <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 divorced 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 2 Peter 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

Passage	Comments
21:19-26	<p>Manasseh's Son, Amon, Continues Evil Reign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amon was assassinated after a short 2 year reign
22:1-20	<p>Josiah, a good king, Receives God's Word</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josiah was king at 8 yrs old and sought God • v8. His decree to fix up the temple led to the discovery of "the book of the law" • vv13-23. Josiah has the priests to "inquire of the Lord" for more specifics about the judgments promised to Israel for their disobedience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jeremiah and Zephaniah were prophets during Josiah's reign, but apparently not in town ♦ Huldah, the prophetess, confirms God's judgment, but it will come after Josiah's death ♦ A woman prophetess is a rarity in Scripture (Miriam - Ex 15:20, Deborah - Judges 4:4, Hannah - 1Sam 2, Elisabeth & Mary - Luke 1, and Philip's daughters - Acts 21:9) ♦ The office of prophets/prophetesses ceased along with the Apostles after the foundation of the church was established..... Eph 2:20;
23:1-30	<p>Josiah Sparks a Revival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv5-7. Josiah cleaned house and removed male cult prostitutes from God's temple complex • v10, 20, 22, 24. He also stopped child sacrifice, slaughtered the idolatrous high priests, removed mediums and restored temple worship • v26-27. "However, the Lord did not turn from His fierce wrath" because of Manasseh's wickedness. God wiped out Israel and will soon wipe out Jerusalem, Judah, and His temple • There comes a time when God's mercy is expended and only wrath remains ... Gen 6:3; Rev
23:31-37	<p>Josiah's sons Jehoahaz & Jehoiakim did evil in the sight of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecc 2:18-19. ...I must leave [my legacy] to the man who will come after me, and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- We need to personally 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 in order to protect society from evil doers
 - ♦ ...and God is ultimately responsible to take vengeance

SUPPORTING PASSAGES:

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

NEXT WEEK: 2Kings 1-5. Elijah anoints Elisha to carry on the ministry



Modern Day Child Sacrifices