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
• Babylon captures Judah. There were 3 major deportations
  1. 605 BC – Daniel and other Jewish elite
  2. 597 BC – King Jehoiachin and the prophet Ezekiel
  3. 587 BC – Remaining Jewish leaders and the wealthy
• King Josiah, a very good king, came to the throne when he was 8 years old and was killed in battle by Egypt’s Pharaoh Neco when he was 39 years old
  • King Josiah had 4 sons (see 1Chron 3:15), and 3 of them became kings of Judah:
    1. Son #4 – Shallum (aka Jehoahaz) was 23 yrs old, but was only on the throne for 3 months before being removed by Pharaoh Neco
    2. Son #2 – Jehoiakim (aka Eliakim) was 25 yrs old when Neco put him on the throne & he reigned 11 yrs
    3. Son #3 – Mattaniah (aka Zedekiah) was 21 when the king of Babylon made him king and he reigned 11 yrs
  • Josiah was a young teen of no more than 14 when he started having his children, and Josiah became one of the best kings of Judah – though his kids were not as good
  • Moral of the story – Don’t judge too harshly those who have kids very young in life. Like King Josiah, they still have potential to do great things for God

Passage | Comments
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2Kings 23:31-37 | Josiah’s Bad Boys, Jehoahaz & Jehoiakim
  • I must leave [my legacy] to the man who will come after me, and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Ellicott’s Commentary on the Bible
  • King Jehoiakim only reigned 3 months. Just enough time to tick off Egypt’s Pharaoh Neco
  • King Jehoiakim (Eliakim) is so bad he burns Jeremiah’s scroll

24:1-20 | Babylon Captures Jerusalem and Deports Jews
  • vv3-4. God’s intent is to remove the Jews from their homeland because of the sins of Manasseh – and “the Lord will not forgive” …say what?
  • Don’t the mercies of God last forever? They do, but His mercies may take a different form (discipline) to remove sin from His land and to try to change the heart of His people … Ex 34:7
  • Isn’t God always ready to pardon? Absolutely – when His people are truly ready to repent
  • Can’t God do something else? What more can be done? Isaiah 5:4; 27:11
  • vv8-16. King Jehoiachin, Jehoiakim’s son, surrenders to the king of Babylon along with Jerusalem’s “men of valor” and top craftsmen

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:
• God warned His people from Day 1, but they refused to have Him as their God. His judgment was completed for this time period – Israel and Judah were captured, almost annihilated and dispersed outside their homeland
• God would rather bless than judge – so we should seek to remain faithful to Him all our days
• Final judgment is coming according to Revelations. So we need to prepare by warning, witnessing, and living for God

SUPPORTING PASSAGES
Ex 34:7 “keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children...

Isa 5:4 What more could have been done to My vineyard that I have not done in it?

Isa 27:11 …for [they are] a people of no understanding; therefore He who made them will not have mercy on them

NEXT WEEK: Philippians 1. God finishes what He starts