

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 05 Dec 2021 Ezekiel 01-07..... Commissioned
 2) 12 Dec Ezekiel 08-14..... Saves
 3) 19 Dec Ezekiel 15-24..... Judges
 4) 26 Dec Matthew 2..... Christmas Message: Sought
 5) 02 Jan 2022 Ezekiel 25-32..... Warns
 6) 09 Jan Ezekiel 33-48..... Offers
7) 16 Jan..... Ezekiel 16; 23; Ps 139..... Values
 8) 23 Jan Daniel 01..... Integrity Established
 9) 30 Jan Daniel 02-03..... Demonstrate Allegiance
 10) 06 Feb..... Daniel 04-05..... Humility Required
 11) 13 Feb..... Daniel 06..... Trust Exhibited
 12) 20 Feb..... Daniel 07-08..... Future Seen
 13) 27 Feb..... Daniel 09-12..... Confession Made

INTRODUCTION – OUR VALUES SHOULD MATCH GOD’S VALUES

- Yet, God has no problem with the following:
 - ♦ He wiped out the human race except for Noah’s family (8)
 - ♦ He wiped out Sodom & Gomorrah
 - ♦ He told the Israelites to annihilate the Canaanites – men, women, children, and their animals..... [Deut 2:34](#)
 - ♦ He nearly wiped out the Israelites – only a remnant were spared (and God did this twice – Babylonian captivity ~ 500 B.C, and Roman dispersion ~ 70 A.D.)
- The common denominator is in the level of wickedness
 - ♦ If a nation is unjust and oppresses the weak (widows, orphans, poor, and foreigners), and even condones child sacrifice – then watch out for God’s wrath..... [Zech 7:9-14](#)
- God has a soft spot for the weak members of society, and so should we
 - ♦ We need to know who to help, when to help, how to help, and how intensely to help
 1. Do we just throw a token quarter at the problem, or do we open up our doors and wallets to bed, clothe, mend, & feed?..... [Jms 2:15-17](#)
 2. Do we just give them our prayers or do we take a trip to the abortion clinic to protest..... [Ps 82:3-4, Pr 24:11](#)
- **Who should we not help?**
 - ♦ It is vain to help those who are foolish, lazy, angry, or wicked. We could even inherit God’s wrath for aiding the wicked [2Chron 19:2; Pr 19:19, 2Thes 3:10](#)
 - ♦ The biblical course of action is to patiently wait for them to come to their senses like the prodigal son [Luke 15](#)
 - ♦ BUT, we are to find opportunities to help our enemies (who are not wicked) with the basics, & the Lord rewards such actions [Pr 25:21-22](#)

Passage	Comments
Ezekiel 16:20-21	<p>Judgment Against Detestable Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv20-21. “<i>You slaughtered My children</i>” – an allusion to child sacrifice that both Israel and Judah performed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Some use this passage to universally show that all babies go to Heaven, but that is bad hermeneutics for this passage. ISSUE – At best we can only assume those children sacrificed were Heaven-bound, but not necessarily so. God also considered all Israel as His people, His children, His nation; but we know “they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel” (Rom 9:6). IOW, not all Israelites are Heaven-bound, though all Israelites are God’s children. ♦ For more details on whether or not all children go to even when they die, see Psalm 139 lesson plan on next page.

RELEVANCE TO SANCTITY OF LIFE

- **Capital Punishment**..... [Gen 9:5,6](#)
 - ♦ The Govt doesn’t carry the sword in vain [Rom 13:4](#)
 1. OT death penalty for man-killers, baby-killers, those who strike or curse parents, kidnappers, rapists, Sabbath-breakers..... [Ex 21:12-23](#)
- **Euthanasia** (No precedence in scripture)
 - ♦ The aged were taken care of w/ compassion to the end
 - ♦ Consider King David’s final years [1 Kings 1:1-4](#)
- **Abortion**
 - ♦ God commands life for life even when a fetus is killed..... [Ex 21:22-23](#)
 - ♦ Roe vs Wade (1973) declared the human fetus as non-human (evolutionary dogma)

- **Suicide (self-murder)**
 - ♦ There are only 7 incidences of suicide in the Bible (8 if you count Jesus’ death as a suicide), and none sustained any moral condemnation:
 1. Ahithophel hanged himself after betraying David [2Sam 17:23](#)
 2. Zimri burned down his house while he was in it..... [1Kings 16:18](#)
 3. Saul intentionally fell on his sword [1Chron 10:1-4](#)
 4. Saul’s armor bearer took his life..... [1Chron 10:5](#)
 5. Abimelech had his armor bearer put him down [Judg 9:52-54](#)
 6. Samson caused a building to collapse on him [Judg 16:18](#)
 7. Judas hanged himself out of remorse [Matt 27:3-5](#)
 8. Jesus picked the time, the day, the place, the perpetrators, and the means of His death, then He gave up His spirit..... [John 15:13; 19:30](#)
- **God-directed Genocide for Atrocious Sins**
 1. Noahic Flood (due to extreme wickedness)..... [Genesis 6-8](#)
 2. Command to Jews to ethnic-cleanse the Promise Land (due to extreme wickedness – incl. child sacrifice)..... [Deut 7:1-6](#)
 3. Slay the Amalekites for Antisemitism..... [1Sam 15:2-3](#)
 4. Future annihilation of ungodly world inhabitants by fire [2Pet 3:7-10](#)

Passage	Comments
Ezekiel 23:36-49	<p>Judging Disgraceful Actions (Sin Upon Sin)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v39. They slaughtered their kids in God’s house • vv46-49. After progressing from sexual sins (pornography), then to murdering of innocents, they progress to the worst sin of all in God’s eyes – Idolatry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Therefore, God pronounces final judgment – death, terror, and destruction. Then they will know that God is God

REFERENCED PASSAGES

- Exod 23:24** You shall utterly destroy them...
- Deut 2:34** And we took all his cities at that time, and utterly destroyed the men, and the women, and the little ones, of every city
- 1Sam 15:3** Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.”
- 2Chron 19:2.** ...Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD and so [bring] wrath on yourself from the LORD?
- Isaiah 5:4.** What more could have been done for my vineyard (Israel) than I have done for it?
- Zech 7:9-12** God says, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother: And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart. But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. therefore, came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.
- Ps 82:3-4** Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy.
- Pr 19:19** A hot-tempered man (or any other type of fool) must pay the penalty; if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.
- Pr 24:11** Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter.
- Pr 25:21-22** If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. ... and the LORD will reward you.
- 2Thes 3:10** ...If a man will not work, he shall not eat.
- James 2:15-17** Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.
- 2Peter 3:7** But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.



THE VALUE OF LIFE – WHAT IS AT STAKE?

- 1) The soul of the child
- 2) The future life of the child – who would have an opportunity to know the Lord and lead a fruitful life with rewards in Heaven
- 3) Our own soul – it is either enriched or impoverished depending on our support for the unborn, the weak, the perishing, for we are to deliver those being taken away to slaughter. [Proverbs 24:11-12](#)

Passage	Comments
Psalms 139:13-16	<p>God's Sovereignty Over Every Birth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This passage highlights the wonders of embryonic development – and God's involvement • We are not human tissue to be discarded like garbage, but purposefully made to fulfill a specific plan by God (“<i>My days were ordained for me before there was even one</i>”) • When we disrupt God's intent for someone's life (including our own) through murder (suicide) or sin, we do not thwart God's sovereign will, but we do shortchange ourselves, and we impact others for generations
Do ALL Babies and the Mentally Handicapped go to Heaven?	<p>Scripture is conspicuously silent on this volatile subject. There is no explicit teaching on it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the best affirmative responses comes from Albert Mohler, a staunch Calvinist, and President and Professor of Christian Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBST) in Louisville, KY, http://www.albertmohler.com/2009/07/16/the-salvation-of-the-little-ones-do-infants-who-die-go-to-heaven/ • Issues. Naturally, God being gracious and merciful, we think the prospect for Him to doom innocent infants and mentally handicapped to Hell is inconceivable. However, there are issues to consider: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conceivably, since a sovereign God knows which babies would be miscarried, aborted, mentally handicapped, or die in infancy/childhood before the so-called age of accountability He could easily choose to instill a 'chosen' or 'elect' soul into those infants, and thereby circumvent the need for reconciliation since they would not need to atone for any sins (Mohler's position). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which means they died without sinning. Though, no one is perfect, God's grace through Christ presumably saves them • ISSUE: God becomes a respecter of persons based on someone's age or mental capacity. 2. If ALL babies do go to Heaven, then, conceivably, the best form of evangelism is abortion and infanticide. ISSUE: Satan would be fighting for pro-life 3. If ALL babies do go to Heaven, then at what point is the age of accountability when babies flip from being Heaven-bound to Hell-bound? ISSUE: If it is not 20 years of age as noted in Numbers 14:28-31, then it is very subjective and undiscernible. • Problem with Calvinism on this Issue: John Calvin says God was our enemy until we were reconciled to Him by Christ [Calvin's Institutes 2.16.2]. A conclusion can be drawn from this (and other similar statements by Calvin) that all babies and mentally handicapped individuals who do not have the ability to participate in the reconciliation process are unable to attain Heaven. This is why true Calvinists (Presbyterians) believe in the salvation aspect of infant baptism. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calvin agrees with Plato that children of loyalty (i.e., the elect) are distinguished at birth with some special qualities [2.3.4]. • ISSUE. Calvin has no Scriptural basis for this belief. If it was possible to test babies at birth for their distinguished special qualities that mark them as the elect, then some would want to have mercy on the others and abort/slay them before they add sin upon sin & be judged even harsher at the end of their lives • Scripture Justification. There are passages of Scripture that are often used to show that the infant-minded are Heaven bound: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 2Samuel 12:14-23. King David's son, from his immoral relationship with Bathsheba, died, and David commented that "I will go to him, but he will not return to me." Some use this passage to show that all babies go to Heaven.

Passage	Comments
Do ALL Babies and the Mentally Handicapped go to Heaven? (continued)	<p>ISSUE. However, that is a misapplication. First, if David's son did go to Heaven, and David knew it to be so, it could have been because David was also a prophet, and God could have revealed that information to him. So, this passage could not be applied to all babies. In all likelihood, David was referring that he would join his son in the grave as he too would die one day.</p> <p>b) 1Kings 14:13. King Jeroboam's son died young because God saw something good in him. Again, some take this to universally show that all young children go to heaven if they were to die in their innocence. ISSUE. That interpretation applies bad hermeneutics since the passage is only addressing one particular child; and his eternal destiny is not directly indicated as being Heaven bound; only that God's grace would keep him from being eaten by dogs as the rest of his family would be.</p> <p>c) Ezekiel 16:21. "You have slain my children." This was God's charge against Israel for sacrificing "His" children to false idols. Again, some use this to universally show that all babies go to Heaven, but again, that is bad hermeneutics for this passage. ISSUE. At best we can only assume those children sacrificed were Heaven-bound, but not necessarily so. God also considered all Israel as His people, His children, His nation; but we know "they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel" (Rom 9:6). IOW, not all Israelites are Heaven-bound, though all Israelites are considered God's people, God's children.</p> <p>d) Mat 19:14. Jesus said, "Permit little children to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." ISSUE. Childlikeness is what gets someone into Heaven; and not just being a child. Isaiah 9:17 reflects children who went to Hell – "Nor does [God] have pity on their orphans or their widows; for every one of them is godless and an evildoer"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last Thoughts. Scripture is very silent on this subject of whether or not some, ALL, or no infants and the infant-minded automatically go to Heaven upon their death. Arguments abound pro and con, but they all have weaknesses. The Catholics, not finding a reasonable solution in the Bible, contrived in the 13th century the concept of LIMBO for unbaptized infants & the mentally handicapped. In recent years the Catholic church has formally and officially backed away from that belief and concluded that all children who die do so in the expectation of "the universal salvation of God" and the "mediation of Christ", whether baptized or not. In effect, they believe that all children who die go to Heaven. Recall that Calvin's answer to this predicament, like the Catholics and Presbyterians, was to have all infants baptized to assure their entrance into Heaven. • CONCLUSION. We have to admit that "secret things belong onto God" (Deuteronomy 29:29). We can only go as far as the Bible goes and assume the best – that God will do what is righteous and just. When we get to Heaven ourselves, we will more fully understand, and we will glorify God whether some, none, or ALL infant-minded souls are covered under the blood of Christ.

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- What are we doing to protect and nurture the unborn?
- We need to look at the unborn as having the unalienable right to live, to grow, and to make a choice for or against God

NEXT WEEK: Daniel 01. What are the godly to do when confronted with ungodly choices? Compromise? Capitulate? Flee? Fight? Daniel opted to Negotiate by conducting a dietary experiment.

