

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 07 Dec Esther 1-3 Deliverance is Needed
- 2) 14 Dec Esther 4-10 God Provides Deliverance
- 3) 21 Dec Luke 2 God Provides a Savior
- 4) 28 Dec Ezra 1-6 God Ordains Restoration
- 5) 04 Jan Ezra 7-10 God Commands Obedience
- 6) 11 Jan Nehemiah 1-2 God Inspires the Work
- 7) 18 Jan Sanctity of Life Protect Human Life**
- 8) 25 Jan Nehemiah 3-6 Be Faithful in Adversity
- 9) 01 Feb Nehemiah 7 Do Your Appointed Part
- 10) 08 Feb Nehemiah 8 Get an Understanding
- 11) 15 Feb Nehemiah 9 Return to the Restoring God
- 12) 22 Feb Nehemiah 10-13 Commit Your Way to the Lord
- 13) 01 Mar Nahum 1-3 God is

INTRODUCTION

- Since our nation is not a Theocracy, should we be for or against capital punishment? How should we stand on Abortion? Assisted Suicide? Euthanasia? Should we have a soft stance (let each one choose) or a hard stance (give financial, spiritual, political, and physical support to save each life)
- A case can be made that since we are in the Age of Grace, capital crimes, as identified in the OT, such as rape, incest, adultery, idolatry, and even murder should no longer require the death penalty
 - ♦ After all, even the Apostle Paul voiced that a man who slept with his step-mom should be kicked out of church, but there was no mention of hanging or stoning the guy and his step-mom. Such a crime, if it had occurred in Israel during OT times would have definitely warranted a visit to the local rock quarry
 - ♦ So is a life-time prison sentence the worst that should happen to such capital offenders in our day and age?
- And does the elimination of the death penalty and the acceptance of abortions, assisted suicide, & euthanasia minimize the value of life as defined by God? Yes; No; Don't know; Maybe

Passage	Comments
Psalms 8:4-8	<p>Value of Human Life is Higher than Angels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God created man to have ruling authority, even over angels, though for a time we have a lower existence (we do not have visibility into the angelic world at this time) • If we, like the angels, will exist forever, why should we be concerned about valuing our physical existence? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Our eternal salvation is solely based on us accepting God while in our physical body – not afterwards ♦ THEREFORE – Each life is very, very precious
Proverbs 24:10-12	<p>Call to Action – Rescue those who are Perishing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God expects us to rescue those being taken to an early grave undeservedly – and we cannot plead ignorance • THEREFORE – what are we doing about it?
Philippians 2:12-16	<p>Put Faith into Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v12. We need to work out our salvation with fear and trembling – IOW, we need to take our faith seriously, and know when to do something, what to do, how to do it, where to do it, and how intensely to do it • v16. To live a Christian life half-heartedly is “<i>running in vain</i>” – THEREFORE – How are we doing?
Consider This	<p>Since we are living in a Post-Christian world, where God is being removed from the public and civic venues at an ever increasing pace, then Capital Punishment becomes a moot point</p> <p>Capital Punishment, like Marriage, is only valid and meaningful from a Bible-centric perspective where every human life from conception has high value</p> <p>In other words, if God is ruled out of society, then marriage, capital punishment, and even the speed limit are all meaningless practices</p> <p>Someone might argue that the speed limit saves lives. BUT in an evolutionary, secular, naturalist worldview – who cares? The goal from such a godless worldview is to “eat, drink, & be merry for tomorrow we die”</p>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- It's a quandary why those who support abortion, assisted suicide, and euthanasia are very often against capital punishment. They prefer to kill the innocent and spare the guilty
- This illogical and irrational thinking can only be explained from a biblical worldview where the wicked call evil good and good evil (Is 5:20), they “*suppress the truth in unrighteous*” (Rom 1:18), and they do not consider the consequences of their actions (Lam 1:9)

NEXT WEEK:
Nehemiah 3-6.
 Nehemiah makes wall-building a family affair; he also contends with internal conflict, so he incites a mob against the leaders to restore justice and mercy; and finally the walls of Jerusalem are completed within a short 52 days.



More than 1,000 babies are executed each and every day on America's abortion tables. 56 million have been slain since 1973. What are we doing about it?

Passage	Comments
Genesis 9:1-7	<p>Life for Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the Flood, God instituted some new Laws because mankind proved to the world that “<i>the intent of his heart is evil from his youth</i>” Gen 8:21 • vv1,7. After the Flood, God reiterated the command He gave to Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth Gen 1:28 • vv2-4. But, to preserve mankind and animal-kind, animals will now have an inherent fear of man especially as man receives God's permission to augment their original vegan diet (Gen 1:29) with meat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ A stipulation is made that an animal's life-giving blood was forbidden food. This established a respect for life • vv5-9. It's interesting that capital punishment for man and beast wasn't established till after the flood – BUT mankind proved to the world that “<i>the intent of his heart is evil from his youth</i>” Gen 8:21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The meaning is straightforward: a murderer must be put to death. Moreover, the command charges mankind with the task of executing the murderer— “...by man the murderer is to be put to death” ♦ The reason given for the command is likewise straightforward: “<i>because in the image of God, He made man</i>” ♦ And this command was to be timeless for all mankind of all ages and cultures (v9)
Consider this:	<p>How does the death penalty promote the value of life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we did not execute “life for life” then we would be conveying that one life is worth less than another. IOW, the life of the murderer is worth more than the victim