



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 18. Kings C

- **Review**

- Kings was written to answer the major questions raised by the Exile about God and His promises, but especially to answer 'How did we [Israel] get here?' as well as prove that it wasn't God's fault.
- Main themes:
 - God's faithfulness & man's sinfulness
 - God's sovereignty & man's responsibility
 - God's justice & mercy
 - The importance of pure devotion to God
 - The importance of divine revelation
 - The importance of godly leadership

- **Elishah & the House of Ahab**

- Elisha requesting a 'double portion' of Elijah's spirit was him asking for a spiritual version of the right of the _____ (cf. Deut. 21:17) so he could take his place.

- The main point of Elisha's miracles was to reassure Israel that YHWH was still working there despite some its worst rulers leading them away from Him.
- These terrible rulers were related to _____, so a significant portion of the narrative is devoted to their terrible actions/character, the political intrigue that follows such sinful behavior, and their ultimate judgment to fulfill what God promised.
- Jehu's slaughter of the family is unsettling, but it makes a strong point about how seriously God takes _____, especially leading others into it, especially when someone has the responsibility to lead others in following Him.

- **The Fall of Israel**

- A _____ king is spared from the judgment to keep the promise alive, and Judah has some decent kings for a while.
- Jehu gets his promised four descendants on the throne, but the kings in Israel get steadily worse until they are conquered by the Assyrians.
- Chapter 17 lays out exactly why Israel (and Judah) fell:
 - Betraying YHWH by turning to other gods and other nations' customs YHWH had condemned (vv7–8)

- False worship practices (vv9–12)
 - Ignoring YHWH's revelation through His prophets and His Word (vv13–16)
 - Occult practices (v17)
 - [Judah followed their example and fell later (vv18–20).]
- Israel becomes inhabited by a bunch of pagans who learn how to be syncretists, so at least some honor is given to YHWH in the land.

- **The Fall of Judah**

- Hezekiah offers some hope for Judah, but the prophecy at the end of his narrative confirms that they will share the same fate.
- His son Manasseh ultimately seals their fate by taking their wickedness and other personal affronts to God to new heights.
- Josiah appears to be the most dedicated and repentant of all the kings, so the judgment is delayed until after he is gone.
- Babylon's _____ is detailed to make sure the reader feels the weight of God's wrath poured out on Israel for her rebellion and break of the covenant with YHWH.

- All the descriptions of the _____ earlier in Kings make its destruction that much more poignant and emblematic of Israel's fall.
- Kings ends with a note of hope:
 - Judah is largely brought together to Babylon (instead of scattered)
 - A Davidic king is released from prison 25 years later and shown some degree of honor.

Discussion:

1. How are all judgments on Israel and her kings spelled out in Kings edifying to our faith today?
2. Why is it so important that Israel's history doesn't end with the Exile?

FOR REFLECTION: How do you see God's plan working out across your whole lifetime, and how do you see it working out across multiple lifetimes, including yours?

Blanks: firstborn, Ahab, idolatry, Davidic, violence, Temple,