

/We will now begin the twentieth lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / Today we will begin with 2 Kings chapter 22. / In 22:1-2, it speaks of King Josiah's faith. / Since his father passed away early, he became king when he was eight years old.

/King Josiah was a good king who walked the path of his father David and who did right things in the eyes of the LORD. / Even though his father Amon and his grandfather Manasseh were wicked kings, he did not take after them. He served God faithfully.

/King Josiah did right in the eyes of the LORD. / It is difficult to do the right in the eyes of people, and it is even more difficult and worthy to do right in the eyes of the LORD.

/In verses 3-7, Josiah gives orders the repair of the temple. / He began repairing the temple on the eighteenth year of his reign. / On the eighth year of his reign, Josiah sought the God of his father David.

/In the twelfth year of his reign, he made Judah and Jerusalem clean. / He destroyed the high places and the Asherah poles and other idols.

/Before he began repairing the temple, he first sought the LORD God, walked the path of his father David, and destroyed all idols. / That became the foundation of the repairing of the temple.

/King Josiah prepared his faith for eighteen years. / He sent the secretary Shaphan to tell the high priest to repair the temple.

/He told the high priest to use the money collected in the temple for the necessary repairs. / Supervisors and carpenters, builders, stonecutters, and other craftsmen were involved in the work.

/Even in today's time, we need different people with various skills to do the works of God. / They did not need to account for the money because they all were honest before God and trusted one another.

/When we act with conscience before God and act truthfully with faith, we account for ourselves. / However, it is good to account for money.

/This is because we are all prone to make mistakes and forget things, so it is recommended to

account for finances.

/In verses 8-11, the Book of the Law is found, and the king tears his robes when he hears the words of the Book of the Law. / They found the Book of the Law when they were repairing the temple. / The high priest gave the Book of the Law to the secretary, and the secretary read it and reported it to the king.

/Josiah heard the words of the Book of the Law and tore his robes. / He had never heard the Book of the Law until he was twenty-six years old. / He was shocked at what he heard, and he tore his robes when he realized that God's punishment would be on them because of the sins of his forefathers.

/Tearing of the robes symbolizes heart-wrenching repentance. / Even in today's time, if a family that served God does not read the Bible for a long time, they will forget God's word.

/Yet, if they seek God once again and have faith to repair the spiritual temple, they will find God's word once again.

/In verses 12-14, the king asks a prophet. / The king read the Book of Law and feared God's wrath, so he gave the order to ask for more details from the LORD. / The king sent five people to speak to the prophetess Huldah.

/She was the wife of Shallum, the keeper of the wardrobe. / She had a family and was a prophetess of God. Even with such duties, she was not hindered in her duties.

/Huldah prayed to God and received God's command, and she spoke to the king's messengers.

/In verses 15-20, God promised to show mercy. / The prophetess addressed the king as "the man who sent you to me." / This implied that the king was a mere human being before God.

/The message was the same as what the king read in the Book of the Law that God's judgment would surely come. / God's word is fulfilled no matter what. / What were the reasons for the destruction of the people of Judah? / First, they abandoned God.

/Second, they burnt incense to other gods. / Disaster would be upon the people of Judah because

of their idolatry. /However, God promised to show mercy to King Josiah.

/First, it was because King Josiah tore his robes after he realized what God's Book of the Law meant. / Second, his heart was responsive. / Third, he was humbled before the LORD. / Fourth, he wept bitterly.

/We must first understand God's word, fear God, be gentle and humble in heart, and have responsive and broken hearts. / God judges according to his word.

/God has mercy on King Josiah and promised that he would not see disaster before he is buried in peace.

/In 23:1-3, the king and the people renew the covenant to obey the LORD. / The king read the Book of the Law that was found in the temple of the LORD to the people.

/It was God's great grace and blessing that the people heard the Book of the Law through King Josiah after a long period of time. / The king renewed the covenant between the people and God to fulfill the words of the covenant.

/The first promise of the covenant was to obey the LORD with all their hearts and souls. / The second was to keep the commands, decrees, and laws. / Third was to fulfill God's word of the covenant.

/The king and the people resolved to completely obey the word of God. / They did not stop teaching and hearing God's. / They vowed to live for God's word and build it up.

/In verses 4-14, King Josiah begins to purify the country. / We can read that King Josiah began to put God's word into action. / First, he removed all the articles made for Baal and Asherah and all the starry hosts from the temple of the LORD, and he burned them outside Jerusalem.

/Second, as written in verse 5, he did away with the pagan priests who burned incense to Baal, the sun and moon, and the constellations. / Third, he brought out the Asherah pole from the temple and burned it in the Kidron Valley. He scattered the dust over the graves of the common people.

/Fourth, as written in verse 7, he tore down the quarters of the male shrine prostitutes that were in

the temple of the LORD. / The shrine prostitutes indicated idolaters and homosexuals. / Fifth, as written in verse 8, he tore down all the high places.

/The high places in verse 5 were those used for idols, and the high places in verse 8 were for worshipping God. / Sixth, in verse 9, he forbid the priests in the high places to go up to the altar in the Jerusalem temple, and they were only allowed to eat unleavened bread.

/Seventh, he desecrated Topheth which was in the Valley of Ben Hinnom. / Topheth was the place where the people burned their children alive as sacrifices to Molech.

/Eighth, he removed from the entrance to the temple of the LORD the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, as written in verse 11. / Ninth, he went to Bethel and destroyed the golden calves and altars that Jeroboam the son of Nebat made, and he also burned the Asherah poles.

/This happened just as a young prophet from Judah prophesied in 1 Kings 13:2. / Tenth, as written in verse 21, he celebrated the Passover in the eighteenth year in a way greater than all the ways it was celebrated in the history of Israel.

/Eleventh, as written in verse 24, Josiah got rid of the mediums and spiritists, the household gods, the idols and all the other detestable things seen in Judah and Jerusalem. He did this to fulfill the requirements of the law.

/In verses 26-27, God said that he would abandon the temple because of the sins of Manasseh. / How could God abandon Jerusalem and the temple in Judah when Josiah served God with all his heart, strength, and soul and obeyed his laws and pleased him?

/This was to build the righteousness of God. / This happened because God, who declared judgment upon the nation during the reign of Manasseh, is faithful. / However, God would reward Josiah for the good things he did.

/This was God's righteousness and love. / God sent his one and only Son to save his chosen people through his righteousness and love.

/In verses 28-30, it tells of how King Josiah died. / He was a good king who served the LORD his entire life and completely observed the law, but he died because he failed to be wise regarding

one thing.

/King Josiah did wrong in fighting with Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt. / It was wrong because, first, Pharaoh Neco was not trying to fight with Judah, but was heading to Assyria.

/Second, God told Josiah through the mouth of Pharaoh not to fight against him, and he still fought. / King Josiah died in battle while trying to keep his pride and land.

/King Josiah died for his lack of wisdom. / No matter how deep a believer's faith may be, he will perish if he does not have wisdom. / He will fall to the lies of the devil if he lacks wisdom.

/In verses 31-37, it speaks of King Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim's reign. / After Josiah's death, his son Jehoahaz became king at the age of twenty-three, and he reigned for three months in Jerusalem. / However, he was captured by the king of Egypt and killed.

/His father Josiah was a good king, and even though he saw his father fear God and worship him, Jehoahaz did not follow his father's example and died.

/We can learn from this that a good son does not always come from a good father. / It teaches that faith comes only from grace. / Pharaoh Neco captured Jehoahaz and made his son Eliakim king, and changed the name to Jehoiakim.

/King Jehoiakim ordered the people to give gold and silver to give to Pharaoh Neco of Egypt. / Jehoiakim became king at the age of twenty-five and reigned over Jerusalem for eleven years.

/However, Jehoiakim was like his forefathers and did evil, and he died in battle and had the burial of a donkey. / It was just as it was prophesied in Jeremiah 22:19.

/Jeremiah 22:30 says, "None will sit on the throne of David." Jehoiachin, the son of Jehoiakim, reigned for three months, and the short period of reign was not acknowledged.

/In 24:1, Jehoiakim rebels against the king of Babylon. / When Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, Jehoiakim made a covenant to serve the king of Babylon. Then he rebelled against the king three years later.

/Thus, the Babylonian king became enraged and captured and brought Jehoiakim to Babylon.

/In verses 2-5, the LORD sends nations to attack Judah. / Because Jehoiakim betrayed the king of Babylon and committed much evil like his forefathers, God sent armies of different nations to strike Judah.

/This happened because of the detestable sins Manasseh committed. / Manasseh was the great-grandfather of Jehoiakim, and his evil influence was passed down to Jehoiakim.

/The people committed evil once again in Jehoiakim's time. / It is difficult to set things right once they are misled. / Judah was to be destroyed for the sins Manasseh committed.

/In verses 6-7, Jehoiakim dies and his son Jehoiachin becomes king. / Jehoiachin became the king. / On the third year of Jehoiakim's reign, the people of Judah were taken captives to Babylon, and this was the first exile to Babylon.

/At the time, the power of the king of Babylon reached from Egypt to the Euphrates River, so the king of Egypt could not leave the land.

/In verses 8-16, the king of Babylon takes Jehoiachin and the people captive. / King Jehoiachin is also known as Jeconiah or Coniah. / He became king when he was eighteen years old, and he became a captive of Babylon after he ruled for three months.

/In 597 B.C., in the third month of Jehoiachin's reign, Nebuchadnezzar invaded and conquered Jerusalem for the second time. / This was the second exile to Babylon.

/In verses 17-20, it speaks of Zedekiah's reign. / The king of Babylon made Jehoiachin's uncle Zedekiah king. / Zedekiah became king when he was twenty-one years old and ruled for eleven years.

/He did not take after the faith of his father Josiah, but took after his brother Jehoiakim and rebelled against the king of Babylon. / Thus, Babylon invaded again. / God became angry with Jerusalem and Judah, and God sent them all away from his presence.

/2 Kings 25:1-7 speaks of the destruction of Judah, and Zedekiah's captivity. / One hundred and forty years after Israel's destruction in 2 Kings chapter 17, Judah was destroyed by Babylon.

/Babylon attacked Jerusalem because the prophet Jeremiah said that the people must not rely on Egypt and must serve the king of Babylon, but the people did not listen but betrayed Babylon.

/On the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign and on the tenth day of the tenth month, Babylon marched against Jerusalem and encamped outside the city until the eleventh year of the ninth day of the fourth month. / Because of this, Jerusalem was without food and famine became severe.

/In verse 4, the Babylonian army broke through a wall to make way to get into the city. / Zedekiah led the army and fled at night by taking a different path. / The Babylonians found out that Zedekiah had fled, and they pursued him, and Zedekiah's soldiers separated and scattered.

/Even though the soldiers should have protected the king with their lives, they ran for their own lives when the king was captured. / True servants protect the king by risking their lives no matter how dangerous it may be.

/The Babylonian army captured and took King Zedekiah to Riblah, where the king of Babylon was, and pronounced sentence on him. / Then they killed Zedekiah's sons before his eyes and then put out his eyes. / They then chained Zedekiah and took him to Babylon.

/A victorious king put out the eyes of the exiled king or officials to keep them from getting revenge. / This was the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy, which said that Zedekiah would see King Nebuchadnezzar.

/This was also the fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy, which said that Zedekiah would not see Babylon.

/In verses 8-17, the king of Babylon sets fire to the temple and the palace, and takes the people and articles to Babylon. / This happened on the seventh day of the fifth month in the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, but in Jeremiah 52:29, it says it took place on the eighteenth year. The years are different.

/Judah counted the first year one ascended to the throne. /Babylon counted the year after one year of one's ascension. / Jeremiah followed the Babylonian method. / The number in verse 8

followed the method of Judah.

/The commander of the imperial guard Nebuzaradan set fire to the temple of the LORD and the royal palace. / This was the third exile. Refer to Jeremiah 52:28-30 and 2 Kings 24:14-16 for the number of captives.

/Nebuzaradan burned down the important buildings in Jerusalem, and captured and took many people to Babylon. / However, the poorest and most powerless people remained in Judah and worked in the vineyards and fields.

/The articles and treasure in the temple of God were either destroyed or moved to Babylon under the command of Nebuzaradan the commander of the imperial guard of Babylon. / This was the fulfillment of the prophecy of prophets of the past.

/When people sin, God would let even the temple and its articles be taken by the enemies. / Today, if people disobey God after they say they serve God, the church and the believers will be taken away by the enemy.

/In verses 18-21, the king of Babylon kills the high priest and officers. / Many political and religious leaders were killed by the hand of the king of Babylon. / All this misery came because of the sins of Zedekiah and the people.

/What were the sins of Zedekiah? / First, he did evil in the eyes of the LORD and did not obey the word of God told through the prophet Jeremiah. / Second, he rebelled against Babylon.

/Third, he remained stiff-necked and hard-hearted. / Fourth, he caused the priests, elders, and people to sin and defile the temple with detestable idols.

/Fifth, he scorned and mocked the messenger of God and spoke badly against the prophet.

/In verses 22-25, Ishmael kills Gedaliah the governor of Judah. / The king of Babylon made Gedaliah the governor to rule over the remaining people in Judah.

/The army officers and their men came to Gedaliah after they heard the news. / Among them were officers like Ishmael and Johanan.



/Gedaliah told them that as long as they served the king of Babylon they would have peace in Judah. / However, Ishmael and his ten men killed Gedaliah along with the men of Judah and Babylonians who were with him at Mizpah.

/They also killed seventy people who came to offer sacrifices to God. / Ishmael killed the Jews who were with Gedaliah, and first, he did not think about building up God's kingdom.

/Second, Ishmael did not try to seek and obey God's will. / Third, he was envious of Gedaliah the governor. / Fourth, he got revenge for the Babylonian soldiers.

/Ishmael killed the Babylonians to get revenge, but it brought about greater woe on him and the nation of Judah.

/In verse 26, the army commanders and the people flee to Egypt. / After killing Gedaliah, Ishmael tried to take the people left in Mizpah with him to the descendants of Amon.

/Johanan tried to destroy Ishmael and take the people to Egypt. / They wanted to go there because, first, they were afraid of the Babylonians. / Second, it would be extremely difficult to rehabilitate the empty land.

/Third, they did not have the heart to continue to live in Judah. / They saw no hope as well. / The people of Judah went to Egypt for prosperity, but they all died in the end.

/In verses 27-30, the king of Babylon treats Jehochin with kindness. / On the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin, the king of Babylon released Jehoiachin. / This indicated restoration of status.

/Whoever does not do evil to others will one day receive good treatment.

/With this we will conclude the last lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / Thank you.