

Leader Notes- Josiah

Day 1

Yay! You made it to the last week! Congratulations! It is a big deal to finish a bible study to the very end- and this study on 1 and 2 Kings has not been the easiest. We are ending on the study of Josiah. Take a little time to look at the chart on page 162 and 163. It is important to note that there are only 4 more kings in the Southern Kingdom, and then it too, falls to Babylon in 586BC. My hope this study wiped away some of the intimidation of the Old Testament because we covered some history that is not covered as often as other parts of the Bible.

Lysa brings up some good points this day:

- We have to realize how crucial it is to get into God's word and let God's word get into us. Like she says in the margin of page 165- When instruction from God is what we heed, we are more able to discern His direction for what we need. And it rhymes- so maybe we can all memorize this important truth. What are some ways we can saturate ourselves in God's word?
- I never realized that Manasseh repented at the end of his life. What does that say about the forgiveness and lovingkindness (*hesed*) of God?
- Josiah left a different kind of legacy than his father. We can break the patterns of sin that may exist in our family line too!

The obedient kings displayed patterns in their lives- they are listed on page 169.

- Their job was not easy- they had to turn their people back toward God.
- They battled an enemy.
- They had to rebuild the temple and tear down objects of false worship.
- None of their reforms concluded ideally- they were not perfect.

How can you implement agents of change in your life?

Day 2

This is a great day to really dig into the importance of the Law. The king was to write it down- his own copy. He was to adhere to it, and not turn to the right or left. God's word must lead our thoughts not the other way. How dedicated are we to saturating our mind with the words and thoughts of God.

There are good lessons on humility in this day. Are we going to practice exegesis or eisegesis? (Page 173) Are we going to let God's word lead our thoughts, or the other way around?

How will we respond when God's word convicts us? Will we respond emotionally and act intentionally? DO we respond both personally and publically? Take time to look up and read the verses listed on page 177.

Day 3

This day we talk about covenants. A covenant is a relationship, a promise and an expectation. In the Bible, God is the initiator of covenants, and the one who sees the promise to completion. We go through a lot of covenants this day which is helpful to get them organized in our minds. They should be highlighted and marked as such in our bibles. It is also helpful to see how they build on each other:

The Edenic Covenant- Gen 3:15

The Abrahamic Covenant- Lysa uses Gen 15 (I always think of it as Gen 12:1-3)

The Mosaic Covenant- Exodus 19:1-9

The Davidic Covenant: 2 Samuel 7:1-17 (I always think of 1 Sam 7:11-15)

The New Covenant – Jeremiah 31:31-34 I included this description of the New Covenant as contrasted with the Old Covenant if it is helpful:

The New Covenant (or New Testament) is the promise that God makes with humanity that He will forgive sin and restore fellowship with those whose hearts are turned toward Him. Jesus Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant, and His death on the cross is the basis of the promise (Luke 22:20). The New Covenant was predicted while the Old Covenant was still in effect—the prophets Moses, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel all allude to the New Covenant.

The Old Covenant that God had established with His people required strict obedience to the Mosaic Law. Because the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), the Law required that Israel perform daily sacrifices in order to atone for sin. But Moses, through whom God established the Old Covenant, also anticipated the New Covenant. In one of his final addresses to the nation of Israel, Moses looks forward to a time when Israel would be given “a heart to understand” (Deuteronomy 29:4, ESV). Moses predicts that Israel would fail in keeping the Old Covenant (verses 22–28), but he then sees a time of restoration (30:1–5). At that time, Moses says, “The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live” (verse 6). The New Covenant involves a total change of heart so that God's people are naturally pleasing to Him.

The prophet Jeremiah also predicted the New Covenant. “‘The day will come,’ says the Lord, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and

Judah. . . . But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day,' says the Lord. 'I will put my law in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people'" (Jeremiah 31:31, 33). Jesus Christ came to fulfill the Law of Moses (Matthew 5:17) and to establish the New Covenant between God and His people. The Old Covenant was written in stone, but the New Covenant is written on our hearts. Entering the New Covenant is made possible only by faith in Christ, who shed His blood to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). Luke 22:20 relates how Jesus, at the Last Supper, takes the cup and says, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood" (ESV).

The New Covenant is also mentioned in Ezekiel 36:26–27, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws." Ezekiel lists several aspects of the New Covenant here: a new heart, a new spirit, the indwelling Holy Spirit, and true holiness. The Mosaic Law could provide none of these things (see Romans 3:20).

The New Covenant was originally given to Israel and includes a promise of fruitfulness, blessing, and a peaceful existence in the Promised Land. In Ezekiel 36:28–30 God says, "Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. . . . I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine." Deuteronomy 30:1–5 contains similar promises related to Israel under the New Covenant. After the resurrection of Christ, Gentiles were brought into the blessing of the New Covenant, too (Acts 10; Ephesians 2:13–14). The fulfillment of the New Covenant will be seen in two places: on earth, during the Millennial Kingdom; and in heaven, for all eternity.

We are no longer under the Law but under grace (Romans 6:14–15). The Old Covenant has served its purpose, and it has been replaced by "a better covenant" (Hebrews 7:22). "In fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises" (Hebrews 8:6).

Under the New Covenant, we are given the opportunity to receive salvation as a free gift (Ephesians 2:8–9). Our responsibility is to exercise faith in Christ, the One who fulfilled the Law on our behalf and brought an end to the Law's sacrifices through His own sacrificial death. Through the life-giving Holy Spirit who lives in all believers (Romans 8:9–11), we share in the inheritance of Christ and enjoy a permanent, unbroken relationship with God (Hebrews 9:15).

Day 4

Josiah was good at eliminating distractions. He stuck with his plan to follow God and this overrode other human tendencies. It allowed him to establish patterns of faith and trust in his

daily routines. What fights for our attention over our trust in God? Why? I think what Lysa is getting at with the exercise of the day is to point out that we are created to put our faith and trust in something greater than ourselves- Jesus. The problem is we don't recognize that a lot of the time, we are putting our faith and trust in everything BUT Jesus.

Day 5

In this lesson, we talk about how the Old Testament narratives on the kings of Israel ultimately point to the one true king- Jesus. I really liked how Lysa designed this lesson. We see on page 192 how none of the kings fulfilled all the commands, and then Lysa goes through how Jesus fulfilled each of these commandments

- Jesus was the king of the kingdom that defeated Satan and his purposes (as God foretold in Genesis 3:15).
- Jesus came from the seed of the woman- he was a "brother" in that he was a human. Deut. 17:15
- Jesus did not acquire earthly wealth, which God warned about in Deut. 17:16-17.
- Jesus kept the word of God, and was called the Word of God. This is in fulfillment of the requirement of the kings to write down the law for themselves, so that they would know it well.

If you have time, look at the Digging Deeper on page 196-197. It talks about how Adam was originally intended to be an earthly, king, prophet and priest. That was broken under the effects of sin, but demonstrated again under Jesus.