



HORIZON

Overall Theme: Kingdom of Heaven is

Class Themes: “Kingdom Characteristics.”

We have 10 classes each class goes over a King from the Bible. Five good characteristics and Five negative characteristics.

Class 1. David-Faithful

It is easy for us to fall into a spirit of fear when our life circumstances seem unsure. David, the second king of Israel, is known for being a man after God’s own heart. He was full of faith in times when it was not easy to see the outcome God had planned. David was a lowly shepherd when God chose him to become the next king of Israel. He was faithful to God knowing that it was Him at work during his battle with Goliath, and who worked through him to defeat the giant. **1 Samuel 17 (Specifically verses 45-47)**. The Kingdom of God is filled with great Faith.

Class 2. Asa-Peaceful

Often we find ourselves turning towards stress and worry, leading us away from focusing on the Lord. When we trust the Lord and dedicate our lives to living the way He has called us, He will grant us peace that surpasses our understanding. Asa was a king who did exactly that. He listened to the word of the Lord and made changes to the kingdom in order to live a life called by God. God granted peace on the Land and gave rest to Asa during his time. **2 Chronicles 14 (Specifically verses 1-6)**. The Kingdom of God is filled with Peace.

Class 3. Josiah-Reformed

We frequently hear in the church how important it is to turn from sinful ways and to repent, but what does that truly mean? We can take a look at the reign of King Josiah and see what he did. Josiah was doing right in the eyes of the Lord, yet when confronted with the word of God, he knew there was more change that needed to be done. His repentance led him to reform the way of life in the kingdom. He renewed a covenant with God and vowed to keep all of His commandments. Through this passage, we can learn the importance of turning away from evil. **2 Kings 22 (Specifically verses 18-20)**. The Kingdom of God is filled with Reform (it has been made better).

Class 4. Jesus-Compassion

There are many character traits we can pick out from the life of Jesus. I chose to go with compassion because the New Testament is overflowing with the compassion of Jesus. The kingdom of God is filled with people who have compassion for others (Matthew 20:16 shows that humble themselves and show compassion towards others will be lifted up). Jesus was compassionate to many. We see that He is always willing to give and lift up the people who turn to Him, **Matthew 11:28-30**. The kingdom of God is filled with compassion.

Class 5. Hezekiah - Trust

We constantly have to face struggles and battles that can overwhelm and overpower us. When King Hezekiah was threatened by the massive army of Assyria, he sought the Lord's prophet, Isaiah, for prayer. When Assyria pressed further, Hezekiah went before the Lord, asking for deliverance. Through his prayers, he and Judah were spared from Assyria. In the same way, we only find deliverance when we trust in the Lord who can provide it. **(2 Kings 18:28-35; 2 Kings 19:3-19)** The Kingdom of God is filled with trust of the Lord. *Other information about Hezekiah can be found in 2 Kings 18-20 and 2 Chronicles 29-32.*

Class 6. Solomon-Lust/Idolatry

Solomon is known for being the king with the most Wisdom. He followed in his father, David's footsteps. He did many great works for the Lord (building and dedicating the temple). Solomon walked with the Lord in the first years of his reign. However, he turned away from God when he was tempted by his many wives to worship other gods. **1 Kings 11 (Specifically verses 1-13)**. Worldly kingdoms are filled with lust and idolatry.

Class 7. Saul-Jealous

It is easy for us to see the things others have and begin to compare ourselves, leading to jealousy. King Saul was jealous of the reputation of David and became so filled with jealousy, he spent most of his time as king trying to kill David. He focused so much on what David had that he didn't, that he was not able to see the blessings that were right in front of him. **1 Samuel 18 (Specifically verses 6-9)**. Worldly kingdoms are filled with jealousy and comparison.

Class 8. Herod-Fearful

We have all experienced some version of cruelty in our lives, on many different levels. It is not often that anyone is as cruel as King Herod was throughout his life. He killed members of his own family (Wives, Sons, etc.) and most famously, ordered that all babies 2 and under be killed. The cruelty of Herod was fueled by fear that he would no longer hold all control and power. **Matthew 2 (Specifically verses 2-6, and 16)**. Worldly kingdoms are filled with fear.

Class 9. Nebuchadnezzar-Prideful

We can think for a minute on what strengths we have. We may be good at sports, or good at math, etc. Those things are blessings from God. King Nebuchadnezzar was blessed by God. He was a very powerful and very wealthy king. These are things God wants for us. However, King Nebuchadnezzar became prideful, rather than grateful for what God had given to him. **Daniel 5 (Specifically verses 18-20)**. Worldly kingdoms are filled with pride.

Class 10. Ahab – Denial

Ahab got to witness Yahweh in big ways. He was king when Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal and Asherah. He saw that Yahweh was the only one who accepted the sacrifice, while the others proved to be unreal. He saw Yahweh restore the land after a

famine. Yahweh later handed Ahab victory in battle 2 years in a row while severely outmanned. When Ahab and Jehoshaphat wanted to reclaim territory, they sought answers from Yahweh and found out that Ahab was going to die in battle. Rather than accept that, Ahab attempted to blend in with the army, only to be hit by a random arrow. Even after being a witness to the glory and power of Yahweh at least 3 times, Ahab refused to recognize Yahweh as the one true God. How often do we see Yahweh at work, just to ignore his call and crown ourselves king? **(1 Kings 21)** Worldly Kingdoms are filled with denial. *All of Ahab's stories are in 1 Kings 18-22.*