



**Reaching,  
Restoring,  
Raising Up**

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**L.I.F.E. Group Questions—I Kings 19**

*Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.*

1. Share with the group how big of a problem depression is with you. Have you always been that way, or is it more of a recent thing?
2. Talk about a time when physical depletion or illness led to depression for you. Why does one often lead to the other? Do you think Christians pay much attention to this area?
3. Think about some of the ways we experience loss in life. What have you found to be the best way to deal with these situations when they occur in your life?
4. Discuss how guilt or "worst case scenario" thinking leads to depression. How can close relationships really help in these areas?
5. Share with the group which area you need to work on most right now—the physical, the spiritual (relationship with God), or the emotional (relationship with others). What specific steps will you take?
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

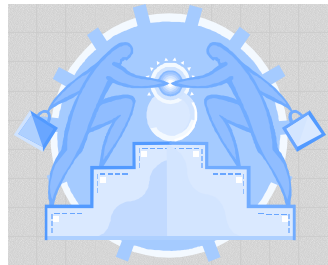
**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find  
Yours Below and Join Us!**

**Adult Bible Fellowships**

**Locations, Times, Descriptions**

**9:00**

**10:45**



**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS  
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

Rm104	30s-50s—Waller-Crary	Rm 104	Open—Bower-Chappell
Rm 112		Rm 112	Women—Byrum
Rm 201	30s-40s—Sims	Rm 201	20s—Alexy/Jones
Rm 202		Rm 202	30s—Tripp-Tripp
Rm 203	Young Singles —Franklin/Reynolds	Rm 203	Singles—Bentzel
Rm 204		Rm 204	30s—Heritier-Sharp
Rm 205	40s&Up—Christensen-Hasler	Rm 205	Engaged/Young Married —Houston/Baker
Rm 206	Experiencing God (starts Sept 12)	Rm 206	
Rm 207	40s-50s—McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 207	How People Grow (Starts Sept 12)
Rm 208	Women—Knox-Anderson	Rm 208	Open—Regis-Anderson

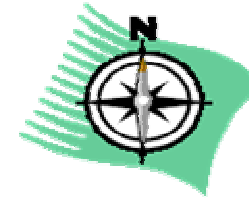
Aug 1, 2004

**Living Like a King**  
*Fulfilling Our Call to Royalty from 1 & 2 Kings*

**Celebration Fellowship**

**The More Things Change...**

**A preview of II Kings 12-14**



Volume 2, Issue 52

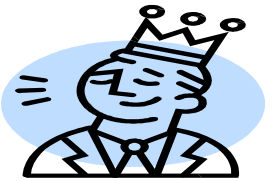
August 1, 2004

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The old saying, "The more things change, the more they stay the same" certainly describes the situation in Israel and Judah in this week's study. While the kingships changed rapidly, their evil ways, and God's care never changed. In Judah, Joash did well by repairing the temple, yet he relied on bribes rather than faith in God to turn away the enemy. He was blessed while following God, but his failure to continue on this path eventually led to his assassination. His son, Amaziah, did well also, but became prideful after defeat-

ing Edom; this led to his defeat at the hands of Israel. In Israel Jehoahaz did evil, and experienced God's discipline at the hands of Hazael of Aram. However, when Jehoahaz called on God, He responded by giving them a temporary deliverer. Just as the unchanging evil of the kings always led to God's discipline, when they did call on Him, He always responded with mercy. Yet they turned away from Him again, as the next king of Israel, Joash, illustrated. He failed to seize Elisha's deathbed offer from God to totally defeat Aram; but God,



**We can live like kings when we follow the King, Jesus.**

in fulfillment of Elisha's prophecy, led Israel to defeat Aram 3 times. Finally, Jeroboam II became Israel's king and, in spite of his evil, was blessed because of God's mercy. So, while the kings changed, their evil never did; but God's faithfulness remained the same as well.

**Without a Trace**

As the current television show depicts, missing persons often disappear "without a trace". In the 2 Kings study this week, God anointed Jehu to remove everything left behind by Ahab and Jezebel, so that their influence would be gone from Israel "without a trace". When the prophet who anointed Jehu left, Jehu's associates wanted to know the purpose of his visit; hearing the news, they applauded the appointment and announced "Jehu is king". Jehu's commission from God tells us that while God is very patient, there will come a time when God will decisively deal with evil. Jehu, taking his orders very seriously; immediately conspired to kill Joram, Ahab's son, and told his advisors that, if they really were on his side, they should tell no one of his plan. He then began to furiously drive his chariot to Jezreel to kill Joram, and as he neared he was met first by one, and then another, of Joram's messengers. Both asked if he

came in peace, but he told them he had nothing to do with peace, so they rode on with him. Jehu provides a good example for obedience; he wasn't casual in his mission, but zealously carried it out. When Joram saw that neither rider returned, he rode out to meet Jehu, asking again if he came in peace. But Jehu boldly asked how he could have anything to do with peace while the harlotries and the sorceries of his mother, Jezebel, were so many. This referred to the Baal worship that she had spread throughout Israel, which amounted to nothing less than spiritual adultery. Idol worship and sorcery both called for capital punishment in Moses' law, so Jehu determined to carry this out. As Joram alerted Ahaziah to Jehu's treachery, Jehu shot an arrow through his shoulders and heart, so that he died. Significantly, he died in the field of Naboth, just as Elijah had prophesied during Ahab's reign, thus gaining vengeance for the inno-

**(2 Kings 9-11)**

cent blood of Naboth that Jezebel had caused to be shed. Although Ahaziah fled, Jehu caught up with him and ordered his execution as well. Through his influence Baal worship had infiltrated Judah as well, so his punishment was just. Thus, Jehu dealt not only with Ahab and Jezebel's evil influence on Israel, as he had been commanded, but also with their influence on Judah. This shows us that, while it is hard work, we must go all the way in eradicating evil if we want to fully halt its effects. In the next segment Jehu stuck to the task as he rode into Jezreel. He was greeted by the painted face of old Jezebel, looking out the window at him. In an effort to power up on him, she absurdly put her best "face" on, although she was old enough to have a 23 year old grandson. In another absurdity, she compared Jehu to Zimri, a usurper to Elah's throne; but in reality, Jehu was only acting under God's orders to destroy the family of Ahab. Jehu did not respond to her; instead he asked

*(Continued on page 2)*

**The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life**

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

## II Kings 9-11 (continued from pg 1)

who was on his side, and then instructed them to throw her down. When they did her blood spattered against the wall, and the dogs ate her flesh. When Jehu honorably ordered a proper burial for her, there was nothing left to bury, thus fulfilling Elijah's prophecy in 1 Kings 21:23. Jehu then targeted Ahab's 70 sons in Samaria for execution. He called upon the royal officials to recruit one or two of the sons to fight Jehu for the lives of the 70. They refused, being deathly afraid that they could not defeat him since he had already killed 2 kings. So, Jehu called upon the officials, who had pledged their allegiance to him, to behead the sons themselves; when they did they delivered the 70 heads to Jehu. He then ordered his servants to put their heads in 2 piles on both sides of the gate for all to see. As he gathered everyone together the next day he told them they were innocent, even though they had beheaded the sons; since they were only carrying out God's orders through Jehu they had no reason to feel guilty. After this Jehu moved on, and was able to illustrate his zeal for the Lord in 2 ways. First, running into 42 relatives of Ahaziah, king of Judah, (who were on their way to visit his mother, daughter of Ahab) he ordered them to be

taken to the pit of Beth-eked, and be killed. He was determined to eliminate Ahab's influence anywhere he found it. Then, meeting Jehonadab, who, due to religious conviction, refused to build a home, plant a vineyard, or partake of alcoholic beverage, Jehu partnered up with this "kindred spirit". These 2 zealots then called for a gathering of Baal worshippers so that he could kill them, too. He baited them by calling for a feast to Baal, and offered them festive robes. Then, with 80 guards stationed outside he commanded them to be killed. He then tore down the sacred pillars and temple to Baal, and turned it into a latrine. Like Jehu, in dealing with evil we should also expose it, destroy it and treat it with utter



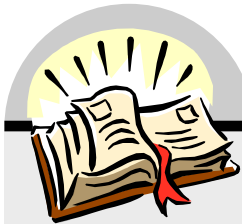
**"In dealing with evil we should expose it, destroy it, and treat it with utter disdain."**

disdain. After this, though, Jehu failed to carefully obey all of God's laws, and continued in the false worship of Jeroboam. Consequently, God began to reduce the size of Israel in his days. In the same way God wants 100% obedience from us, or our influence for Him will be diminished. The scene then shifted to Judah, where Ahab's daughter, Athaliah, attempted to seize the throne of her son, Ahaziah, by killing all her grandsons. But God, as He always does, foiled her (and Satan's) attempt to end the Davidic dynasty by initially using Jehosheba, his aunt, to hide Joash, who was one year old at the time. For 6 years Jehoida, the priest, hid Joash, but in his 7th year he was publicly made king. When he did, Athaliah declared treason, although it was she who had usurped the Davidic throne. But they dragged her outside the temple, and killed her at the gate. To complete God's work Jehoida went to Baal's temple, tore down his temple and altar, and killed Mattan, his priest. Then they officially made Joash king at the palace, and the land finally had peace. This shows that when we deal with evil completely, the turmoil subsides in our lives. Through Jehu and Jehoida the influence of Ahab had vanished "without a trace".

## Study Questions for 2 Kings 12-14

*Israel and Judah's kings, except for isolated events, continue to do evil in spite of God's offers of help.*

1. Read 2 Kings 12:1-8. What did Joash order (v4-5) and for what purpose (v5)? What problem occurred (v6), and how did Joash deal with it (v7)? What example does this tell us to avoid (v6) and follow (v7)?
2. In 2 Kings 12:9-18 what was the solution to the collection problem (v9-11), and what was the result (v14)? What principle can we apply from this story?
3. From 2 Kings 12:17-21 what other problem did Joash face (v17), and how did he handle it (v18)? What does this show about his attitude (see 2 Chron 24:15-27), and what was his final outcome (v20-21)?



**"Problems always come when we rebel against God's ways."**

4. In 2 Kings 13:1-5 who was Israel's next king (v1), how did he act (v2), and what was God's response (v3)? What did the king then do (v4), and how did God then respond (v4-5)? What does this show us about God?

5. Looking at 2 Kings 13:6-13 who was Israel's next king (v10)? How did Israel act in the days of Jehoahaz (v6) and his son, Jehoash (v11)? What was the result (v7), and what does this teach us about sin?

6. Using 2 Kings 13:14-19 what 2 things did Elisha tell Jehoash to do (v15-18), and why (v17, 19)? Why did he get angry with Jehoash (v19), and what does this show about Jehoash?

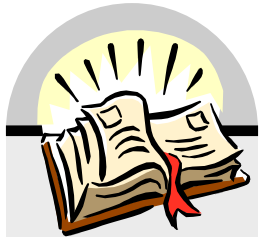
7. From 2 Kings 13:20-25 how was Elisha's ministry validated, even after death (v20-21, 24-25)? Why did God honor Elisha's prophecy (v22-23)?

8. Read 2 Kings 14:1-14. Who was Judah's next king (v1)? What did he do good (v3, 5-6) and bad (v4), and how did he act foolishly (v8-10)? Why did he act this way (v10), and what was the result (v11-14)?

9. In 2 Kings 14:15-22 who was Israel's next king (v16), and Judah's next king (v21)? How did Amaziah's life end (v19), and why (see 2 Chron 25:14-16)?

10. From 2 Kings 14:23-29 what was Jeroboam II's reign like (v24, 25)? Why did God allow him to have national accomplishments in spite of being unfaithful (v26-27)? What does this emphasize about God?

11. List and characterize the kings of Judah and Israel in 2 Kings 12-14 (12:2, 18; 14:1-6, 10; 13:1-2, 4; 10-11, 19; 14:23-24). How would you describe God in these chapters (12:20; 13:3, 4-5; 13:15-17, 19; 13:22-23; 14:19; 14:26-27)? What does this teach us?



## Memory Verse

**"Know then that there shall fall to the earth nothing of the word of the Lord."**  
2 Kings 10:10