



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

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L.I.F.E. Group Questions—1 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 about a time that you felt like running from God, or His will in your life. What provoked that?
2. Where do you go when you need to run "back to God" - what person or place comes to mind? What is helpful about that person or place?
3. Think about the meaning of repentance (to change your thinking about something). Is there a particular area in which your thinking needs to be turned around in your relationship with God?
4. Discuss why the process of confession is so important. What are some of the ways that God "calls us out" when we are hiding in our cave? How does show the importance of community?
5. Share with the group a failure you think you've had that tends to keep you from volunteering for another "tour of duty" with God. What is the real truth about it?
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

We're on the Web!

Www. Celebrationnet.com

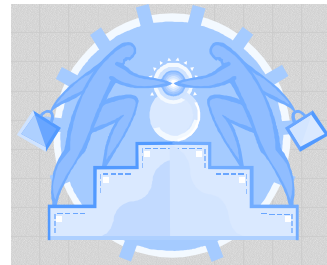
**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find
Yours Below and Join Us!**

Adult Bible Fellowships

Locations, Times, Descriptions

9:00

10:45



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

9:00	10:45
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

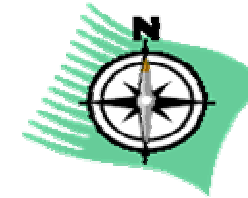
Aug 8, 2004

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

Celebration Fellowship

Hasta La Vista, Baby

A preview of II Kings 15-17



Volume 2, Issue 53
August 8, 2004

Inside this issue:

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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

In the movie, "Terminator 2: Judgment Day", John Connor taught the Terminator to say "hasta la vista, baby" to someone he wanted to give the "brush off" to. Similarly, Israel's relationship with God had finally come to the end of the line. Although He had done far more than could be expected to bring Israel back to Him, and had shown more patience than could be imagined, it was time for Him to say to Israel "hasta la vista, baby". The sad truth is that Israel had been saying this to God for a long time, showing that they

didn't want a relationship with God in many ways. In this final segment in the history of the northern kingdom of Israel, one king after another pursued evil, with the result that heinous acts of violence, such as assassinations and the slaughter of pregnant women, became common practices. This occurred because of Israel's refusal to have a relationship with God. The nation and their kings disobeyed Him, doubted Him and defied Him. In the end their refusal to cultivate a relationship with God led to their rejection by Him. Their attitude



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

even influenced the southern kingdom of Judah, who would soon be sent into captivity as well. If nothing else, this story teaches us that when a person or nation rejects a relationship with God, He, too, will finally have no alternative but to say, "hasta la vista baby".

It's Not "Rocket Science"

Sometimes we make things harder than they really are, as if figuring them out is as difficult as understanding rocket science. We often do that with our relationship with God, just as Israel and Judah did. It's really pretty simple: if we will just follow God's principles, life works; when we resist Him, it eventually falls apart. God's patience is amazing; He is always ready to restore us to His way of living. In 2 Kings 12-14 we see Joash, the king of Judah, seeking to follow God's plan, and ordering the priests to begin to gather money from the assessments of the Mosaic Law, and from voluntary offerings, so that the temple could be repaired. Unfortunately, the priests diverted the money for personal needs, and the temple was not repaired as Joash had desired. When he discovered this he confronted them, and told them to take no more money from the people. His willingness to confront, rather than ignore,

this problem gives us a good example to follow. Having confronted the problem, he told the chief priest, Jehoida, to place a chest with a hole in the top to the right of the temple entrance, so that everyone who came in could put their money in it. When the chest was full the money was then counted by the king's scribe and the high priest, and was delivered to the ones overseeing the work. This insured accountability from all angles—there were two who counted the money, and the work on the temple was in plain sight. In light of our natural tendency to selfishly take care of ourselves, this shows we must not allow ourselves to be in a position to act independently; rather we must keep ourselves accountable if we are maintain a solid path of growth in our lives. Later in his reign Joash faced another problem—the impending invasion of Hazael and the Aramean army. However, his solution to this was wrong; he took all the sacred things

(2 Kings 12-14)

and gold from the temple treasury, and bribed Hazael into departing from Jerusalem. This was the last of several bad choices by Joash after Jehoida's death, including having Zechariah, Jehoida's son, murdered. As a result God's blessing on Joash was withdrawn, weakening Judah against Aram, and leading eventually to Joash's death as a result of a conspiracy. Again, when we follow God, life works; but when we rebel, things "go south" in a hurry. In the northern kingdom (Israel), Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, became the king. He was evil, refusing to turn away from the calf worship that Jeroboam had begun. In anger God gave them repeatedly into the hand of Hazael; but, when the severity of Aram's oppression caused Jehoahaz to cry out to God, He responded compassionately. He sent them a deliverer (probably another nation who diverted Aram's attention from Israel) who allowed Israel to escape Aram's domination. This again shows the desire of God to bless and

(Continued on page 2)

II Kings 12-14 (continued from pg 1)

comfort His people, in spite of the way we continually treat Him. After Jehoahaz, his son, Jehoash (of Israel), became king. He, too, was evil, walking in the ways of Jeroboam. As his mourning at Elisha's deathbed shows, he at least respectfully considered God, but was unwilling to faithfully follow Him. The result of his unfaithfulness was the weakening of the Israelite army during the days of Jehoahaz and Jehoash, showing that when we don't follow God, our quality of life declines and our security is diminished. We simply aren't strong enough on our own to stand against Satan and his weapons. When Jehoash went to see Elisha, he was commanded to shoot an arrow out the window. Elisha told him this was the arrow of the Lord's victory through Israel over Aram. He then told him to take the arrows and strike the ground. Jehoash only struck the ground three times, exhibiting a lack of faith that angered Elisha. Because of the interpretation of the first arrow he should have known that his actions were symbolic of victory. Since he only struck the ground three times, there would only be three victories, rather than complete victory. Elisha's prophetic ministry was then validated after he died. First, when a dead body was thrown in his

grave, it came back to life, showing that God was with him. Then, in the battles against Aram, they won three times, and that was it, fulfilling God's promise for only partial victory due to Jehoash's weak faith. Over in Judah Amaziah was the next king, and he did right in the sight of the Lord—although he didn't remove the high places where the people sacrificed on their own. He also justly had his father's murderers executed, but refused to kill their sons, in keeping with the Mosaic Law. Later, after a victory against Edom, he foolishly engaged Israel in battle out of pride. The result was a resounding defeat, showing again that pride goes before a fall. Also, he turned to the idols of Edom, resulting in death at the hands of con-



"The result was a resounding defeat, showing again that pride goes before a fall."

spirators. He was succeeded by Azariah (Uzziah). Back in Israel Jeroboam II, son of Jehoash, became king, and was very successful by secular standards. He greatly enlarged Israel's borders and reigned 41 years. Even though, he, too, walked in Jeroboam's idolatry, God, in response to Israel's bitter affliction, blessed them with this expansion. In summary, the kings of Judah were good kings, and were blessed by God because of it; but each of them made some bad choices at the end of their lives. These resulted in defeats at the hands of their enemies, or in death at the hand of their conspirators. All of Israel's kings were bad, choosing to walk in the ways of Jeroboam. In spite of that God continued to deliver them from oppression because of His compassionate nature. The real story in this section is how God, in spite of the unfaithfulness of His people, never changed. He patiently tried to draw His people back into relationship with Him, blessing them when He could, and disciplining them when there was no other alternative. This shows again that when we do things God's way, life works successfully, but when we rebel, it fails miserably. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that out.

Study Questions for 2 Kings 15-17

Israel, continuing in its rebellion against God, finally falls to Assyria, and Judah will not be far behind.

1. Read 2 Kings 15:1-7. Who was Judah's next king (v1), how long did he reign (v2), and how was he like Amaziah (v3-4)? What happened to him (v5), and why (see 2 Chron26:16-21), and how can we apply this?
2. In 2 Kings 15:8-22 who were the next 3 kings of Israel and how long did they reign (v8, 13, 17)? How did they come to power (v8, 10, 14) and what were they like (v9, 10, 14-20)?
3. From 2 Kings 15:23-31 who were Israel's next 2 kings, how long did they reign (v23, 27), and what were they like (v24, 25, 28)? What happened during Pekah's reign (v29, 30)?



"When we don't follow God, our quality of life declines."

4. In 2 Kings 15:32-38 who followed Uzziah as king in Judah (v32)? What did he do good (v34, 35b, see 2 Chron 27:3-6) and bad (v35a)? What the outcome of his life and why (2 Chron 27:6)?

5. Looking at 2 Kings 16:1-9 who was Judah's next king (v1) and how did he act (v2-4), especially compared to his father, Jotham? What does this show? Who came against him (v7), and how did he react (v7-9)?

6. Using 2 Kings 16:10-20 what things did Ahaz do wrong (v10-16), and what did he do to the temple (v17-18)? What does this show about his regard for God's holiness? How can we apply this today?

7. From 2 Kings 17:1-6 who was Israel's last king (v1) and what was he like (v2)? What foolish thing did he do (v4), and what was the result (v5-6)? Looking at Deuteronomy 28:62-64 why did this really happen?

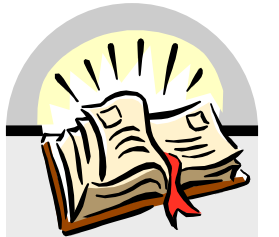
8. Read 2 Kings 17:7-18. List the wrong things that Israel did that led to their fall (v7, 8, 9, 10-11, 12, 13-14, 15-17). What was the result (v17-18—this took from 931BC-722BC)?

9. In 2 Kings 17:19-23 how did Israel affect Judah (v19), and how had all this come to pass (v20-23)? Why should they have known better (v23)?

10. From 2 Kings 17:24-33 what did the Assyrian king do to the land of Israel (v24), what problem did they encounter (v25-26), and what did they do about it (v27-28)? What did they do wrong (v29-33)?

11. Using 2 Kings 17:34-41 what had God told them to do (v35-39), but what did they do instead (v34, 40-41)? What was the root cause of their defection (v37-38) and how should they have responded (v39)?

12. Summarize what happened when Israel forgot the Lord. How can we apply that to our lives?



Memory Verse

"But the Lord your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies."

2 Kings 17:39