



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 27, Day 1 --- 2 Kings 1-4

Week 27, Day 2 --- 2 Kings 5-8

Week 27, Day 3 --- 2 Kings 9-11

Week 27, Day 4 --- 2 Kings 12-13 - 2 Chronicles 24

Week 27, Day 5 --- 2 Kings 14 - 2 Chronicles 25

Week 27, Day 6 --- Jonah 1-4

Week 27, Day 7 --- 2 Kings 15 - 2 Chronicles 26

Week 27, Day 1 --- 2 Kings 1-4

Elijah and Elisha were great prophets. They lived apart from the people and their primary responsibility was to communicate messages from God to the people. They lived at a time when the kings were evil and were leading the people away from God. God had many different ways for prophets to show the people that what they said was from God. In the case of Elijah and Elisha they have great power to do miracles. Some of the miracles are really positive, like providing oil for a widow or providing a son. Some of the miracles seem really negative, like calling down fire on the soldiers or the bears on the youths. The important thing to remember through all these stories is that God is trying to win His people back. The nation of Israel is being led by its king to worship other gods. Worship of these gods or idols is so evil that a king will kill his own son in an attempt to win the god's favor. I'm very glad that our God was willing to give His son for us rather than asking me to give my son to Him.

Week 27, Day 2 --- 2 Kings 5-8

Elisha was a powerful man. He spoke for God and he saw what God was doing in ways that no one else could. I love the story of Naaman. It is a wonderful story that shows us how grace works. Naaman came to Elisha as a mighty man who was being defeated by a skin disease. I'm sure he expected that Elisha would tell him to do something really hard so that he could earn his healing. Instead, Elisha tells him to do something really simple. Naaman is fortunate to have wise servants. He decides to trust God, does what he has been told, and is healed.

This is a bad time for Israel. God is trying to communicate in all kinds of ways in an attempt to turn Israel toward Him. Israel refuses and its destruction as a nation will come.

Week 27, Day 3 --- 2 Kings 9-11

There is a huge difference between the two kingdoms. The northern kingdom, Israel, is full of violence and idolatry. The southern kingdom, Judah, does have some people who want to obey God. Jehu carries out God's judgment on Israel, but never really submits to God himself. Jehoida, the priest, puts service to God before his own position and brings a king to the throne who will worship God. Jehoida is one of the few positive spiritual leaders during the entire history of the kings. I'm always amazed that God shows us both stories. Jehu was a very violent man. He did what God asked him to, but the violence did not purify his own heart or the heart of Israel. They continued to worship Baal. In Judah, Athaliah the queen mother was killed, but the anger of the people was turned toward Baal. As we'll see in the next several chapters the result was very different.

#### Week 27, Day 4 --- 2 Kings 12-13 - 2 Chronicles 24

The story of Joash is a very sad story. His reign begins well, but he is only a little boy. It takes him almost half his reign to figure out that the people aren't doing what he asked them to do, donate for rebuilding the temple. He does finally address this and the temple is rebuilt. Jehoida's impact on the country is huge. He gets them to worship God even if he is not able to get them to stop worshipping idols, especially outside Jerusalem. His impact is made really clear when he dies. Almost as soon as he dies, both Joash and the people turn to evil. Things get so bad that God sends a prophet who is murdered by the people who then murder Joash. When the people obey God He blesses them and they prosper. When they disobey He sends prophets to warn and then oppressors to conquer. How do you think God feels about a people who constantly rebel against Him in spite of His faithfulness and generosity?

#### Week 27, Day 5 --- 2 Kings 14 - 2 Chronicles 25

This was a difficult time for Judah and Israel. It seems that no one except the prophets followed God with their whole heart. Amaziah is a typical example. He gathers the army of Judah and goes to war against Edom. God tells him that He will give the victory and Judah is victorious. However, instead of giving glory to God, Amaziah brings home the idols of Edom and sets them up and worships them. Why would anyone want to worship the gods of a people they have just defeated?

#### Week 27, Day 6 --- Jonah 1-4

I would suggest that you read the story first before you read my comments. What did you think of this story? Why does God choose Jonah as a prophet? It seems clear to me that Jonah does not want what God wants. The Assyrians were known for their extreme violence. Take the most extreme that Hollywood has to offer and go beyond that and you'll find the Assyrians. Their violence had been directed at Israel, where Jonah was from. I understand Jonah's reluctance to go and preach to these people. God knows something that Jonah doesn't. He knows the Assyrians will repent. God feels something that Jonah doesn't feel. He has affection for all His people, including the Assyrians, and wants to see them repent.

#### Week 27, Day 7 --- 2 Kings 15 - 2 Chronicles 26

We are reaching the end of the kingdom of Israel. The kings are serving for very short periods of time and the land is steadily being taken into captivity by the Assyrians. In these times when a country was conquered they would take all the strong and well educated people and make them slaves in the conquering country. They would leave the weak to care for the land and pay huge taxes. In Judah there will be a series of kings with very long reigns. Judah is also moving toward captivity, but the process will take longer and there will be some good kings along the way.