

**Week 27**  
**July 2-7**

You are now halfway through the year and have read half of the Bible. Take a week to reflect on what you have read. You can write some responses on this page to help you think about what God has taught you through His Word.

**3 Lessons I have Learned from My Reading**

**3 Things I Have Changed in My Life Because of My Reading**

**3 Questions I Have About My Reading**





<p><b>July 12</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 12</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 13</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 14</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 12</p>	<p>* In 1 Kings 11:11-13, God told Solomon that he would divide the kingdom because of Solomon’s apostasy. This judgment was fulfilled after the death of Solomon. The Northern Kingdom followed Jeroboam and immediately fell into idolatry. Judah followed Rehoboam and remained faithful for a while. The rest of 1 and 2 Kings tells the story of Israel’s decline.</p> <p>? Proverbs 15:22 shows the importance of listening to wise counselors. When you face a major decision, do you surround yourselves with wise counselors – or do you look for people who will reinforce your own opinions?</p> <p>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 12.</p>
<p><b>July 13</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 16</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 17</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 13</p>	<p>? Ancient Near East records show that Omri (1 Kings 16:21-28) was the best known of Israel’s kings. One hundred years after Omri’s death, Assyrian records still called Israel “the Land of Omri.” By human standards, Omri was a great success. By God’s standards, Omri was a failure; he “made Israel to sin, proving the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger.” Do you judge by man’s standards or by God’s standards? Will your life meet God’s approval?</p> <p>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 13.</p>
<p><b>July 14</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 18</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 19</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 14</p>	<p>* Ahab was one of Israel’s most wicked kings; Elijah was one of Israel’s greatest prophets. These chapters tell the story of the confrontation between these two men. They are some of the most exciting chapters in Israel’s history.</p> <p>? Elijah accused the people of Israel of “limping between two opinions” (1 Kings 18:21). Israel wanted to serve both Jehovah and Baal. But God never accepts half-hearted service. He requires full obedience. Are you trying to serve God while also serving other “gods?” Your other “god” may not be an idol. It could be money, success, work, pleasure, etc. Are you limping between two opinions?</p> <p>? Immediately after Elijah’s great victory at Mount Carmel, he suffered a time of depression. Many Christians have experienced this pattern; victory followed by struggle. Have you experienced this pattern? Have you learned to trust God in dark times as well as in times of victory?</p> <p>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 14.</p>
<p><b>Weekly Summary</b></p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

**Week 29**

<p><b>July 16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 20</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 21</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 22</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* These chapters tell the end of Ahab’s story.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 Kings 20. In wars with Syria, God gives Ahab victory over Ben-Hadad. Notice 20:13-14. God gives victory not through strong military leaders but through the “servants of the governors of the districts.” God ensures that He, not Ahab’s generals, will receive glory.</li> <li>- 1 Kings 21. Jezebel was the daughter of the king of Sidon. Sidon’s kings were absolute rulers with no respect for God’s law or the property rights of individuals. Jezebel convinced Ahab to ignore the Mosaic laws about property and to kill Naboth in order to take his vineyard.</li> <li>- 1 Kings 22. Even in the Northern Kingdom, God was in control. God judged Ahab for his apostasy and Ahab died in battle.</li> </ul> </li> <li>? When you read 1 Kings, do you see God’s hand in control of human history? Do you believe that God is in control of history today? Does this give you peace when you see what is happening in our world?</li> </ul>
<p><b>July 17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chronicles 10</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 13</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 15</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Chronicles gives little attention to the Northern Kingdom. Instead, it focuses on David and his successors who rule over Judah. This is the line of the Messiah and the concern of the Chronicler.</li> <li>* Read 2 Chronicles 12:12 and then review 2 Chronicles 7:13-14. Notice the blessings of repentance.</li> <li>? Notice God’s measurement of good and evil. Although Rehoboam was a strong king, he was evil because “he did not set his heart to seek the Lord?” (12:14) How does God measure your heart?</li> <li>? Even under Abijah, a king who “was not wholly true to the Lord,” Judah won a battle because the people “relied on the Lord, the God of their fathers” (13:18). Think of a time when you have relied completely on God and His power. What was the result of your faith?</li> <li>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 15.</li> </ul>
<p><b>July 18</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 14</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 15</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 16</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 17</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 16</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* In 2 Chronicles 14:11-12, Judah faced a great army. Asa “cried to the Lord his God” for help and God gave victory. Years later, Judah again faced an enemy army (16:7-9). This time, Asa relied on the king of Syria (a nation that did not follow Jehovah) for help. God condemned Asa for his lack of faith in God.</li> <li>? The prophet told Asa that God is looking for those “whose heart is blameless toward him” (16:9). The word “blameless” is also translated “undivided.” Do you seek God with an undivided heart? Is your heart blameless toward God?</li> <li>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 16.</li> </ul>
<p><b>July 19</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 18</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 19</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 20</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 17</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Jehoshaphat was a good king who followed God. However, he married the daughter of Ahab (a wicked king) and made a political alliance. Even though Jehoshaphat was a good king, this sinful alliance brought trouble to the kingdom.</li> <li>? Read Jehoshaphat’s prayer in 2 Chronicles 20:6-12. Do you see his great faith in God? Do you have this kind of faith in your loving Father?</li> <li>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 17.</li> </ul>

<p><b>July 20</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 18</p>	<p>* In these chapters, attention moves from Elijah to his successor, Elisha. The term “double portion” (2 Kings 2:9) comes from Jewish inheritance law. Elisha is asking to receive the inheritance that the eldest son would receive.</p> <p>* The “small boys” in 2 Kings 2:23 are probably teenagers (the word can be translated either way). Bethel is the center of the Northern Kingdom’s idol worship. “Baldhead” was a term of disrespect – even cursing. The author of 2 Kings shows God’s judgment on those who rejected His prophet because of their worship of idols.</p> <p>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 18.</p>
<p><b>July 21</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 19</p>	<p>* Naaman is a commander in the Syrian army. Syria is the enemy of God’s people. But God shows mercy to <i>anyone</i> who comes to Him in faith.</p> <p>? Elisha refuses a gift from Naaman because to accept the gift might imply that Elisha is the one responsible for healing Naaman. Elisha wants to show that only God receives glory for this miracle. Are you careful to give God glory for the good that He does through you to help others?</p> <p>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 19.</p>
<p><b>Weekly Summary</b></p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

**Week 30**

<p><b>July 23</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 6</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 7</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 8</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 20</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* These chapters continue with stories that show God’s power working through His prophet Elisha. Even in a time of apostasy in Israel, God honored a faithful prophet.</li> <li>? Notice in 2 Kings 6:17 that the horses and chariots were there, but Elisha’s servant could not see them. Is it possible that God is protecting you even when you do not see His protection?</li> <li>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 20.</li> </ul>
<p><b>July 24</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 9</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 10</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 21</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 2 Kings 9-10 shows God’s judgment on the house of Ahab. God is a holy God who cannot allow sin to be unpunished. We must always respect His justice and holiness.</li> <li>? King Jehu shows the danger of partial obedience (2 Kings 10:31). He followed God in many things, but did not walk with God “with all his heart.” Are there areas of partial obedience in your life? Will you follow God with all your heart?</li> <li>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 21.</li> </ul>
<p><b>July 25</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 13</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 21</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 22</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Throughout Kings, Syria is one of the leading enemies of Israel and Judah. These chapters show the weakness of Israel and Judah. They are forced to pay tribute to Hazael, the king of Syria, because they are not strong enough to defeat Syria’s armies.</li> <li>? Why was Hazael stronger than Israel? (The answer is found in 2 Kings 13:3).</li> <li>? What does 2 Chronicles 21:7 teach about God’s faithfulness to His promises?</li> <li>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 22.</li> </ul>
<p><b>July 26</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 22</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 23</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 24</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Obadiah</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 23</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Chronicles covers the same material as Kings. But the Chronicler focused on Judah’s religious observance, especially the Temple. Joash was faithful to God as long as he was influenced by Jehoiada, the faithful High Priest (2 Chron 24:1-16). After Jehoiada died, Joash abandoned God and served idols (2 Chron 24:17-27).</li> <li>? Read 2 Chronicles 24:19. Do you see God’s faithfulness to warn His people of coming judgment?</li> <li>? The message of Obadiah is God’s judgment on sinners (1:15) and His mercy on those who obey (1:17). When people wrong you, will you leave justice to God’s hands?</li> <li>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 23.</li> </ul>
<p><b>July 27</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 14</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 25</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jonah 1</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jonah 2</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jonah 3</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jonah 4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Jonah ministered during the reign of Jeroboam II. This was a time of prosperity in Israel. Assyria (Nineveh) was the primary threat to Israel. This is one reason that Jonah did not want to preach to Nineveh; he wanted God to destroy the enemy of Israel.</li> <li>? Amaziah obeyed God, but “not with a whole heart” (2 Chron 25:2). The result was apostasy (25:14) and military defeat. Do you serve God with a whole heart?</li> <li>? Jonah saw the people of Nineveh as enemies; God saw the people of Nineveh as souls to save. When you look at people with a different language, skin color, or religious background as “enemies” or “people who are loved by God”?</li> </ul>

<p><b>July 28</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Amos 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Amos 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Amos 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Amos 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Amos 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 24</p>	<p>* Amos was written in a time of prosperity in Israel. The long reigns of Uzziah in Judah and Jeroboam II in Israel show the political stability of this time. Economically, Israel was stronger than at any time since the reign of Solomon. However, it was a time of spiritual apostasy in Israel. Although the people of Israel thought they were in a “golden age” of prosperity, Amos warned that God would soon bring judgment. This judgment came through the armies of Assyria.</p> <p>? As you read Amos, highlight the phrase “Thus says the Lord.” What does this say about the sure fulfillment of each warning?</p> <p>? As you read the list of sins for which God condemned Israel, which sins are common in our society today?</p> <p>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 24.</p>
<p><b>Weekly Summary</b></p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>