



# Thru the Bible in 2012

*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever. Isaiah 40:8*

## Ladies for Jesus Thursday Bible Study Lesson

Readings for August 17, 2012 – August 23, 2012

In lieu of Class Discussion: Thursday, August 23, 2012

### Warnings of the Kings

#### **Influence Makes all the Difference**

Throughout our readings of 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles it is worth noting the people in the particular kings lives were very influential. We see many times were the Scriptures list that a king pleased or displeased the Lord as “their father” did. There are also cases were the mother or priest that was involved at the time made a big impact in changing the swing of pleasing or displeasing God. For example, 2 King 11:17-21. Here we see the priest Jehoiada leads the religious reform and helps lift Joash into reign at the age of seven. It tells us in 1 Kings 12:2 that King Joash did what was pleasing in the Lord’s sight because Jehoiada the priest instructed him. I feel that Jehoiada’s influence on King Joash’s life was instrumental in his desire to please the Lord. This resulted in the temple being repaired and in King Joash being insistent at follow through when the Levites did not do as they were told. (Review 2 Kings 12). However, even King Joash had his fall in the end, but note how this fall is after the influence in his life (Jehoiada) passes away.

In what ways are you influencing others in your life?  
Do you influence them to do what is pleasing in the eyes of the Lord?

#### **Complacency, Idolatry, and Oppression on the Poor (The Book of Amos)**

I can’t help but think of our current day as I read the prophets like Amos who pronounced God’s judgment upon Israel, the northern kingdom, for its complacency, idolatry, and oppression of the poor. It seems like God could be talking directly to our people today – especially in the United States. I feel that we have become very complacent. We are extremely pleased with ourselves and our own merits, advantages, and situation in America. So much so that we are unaware how we are playing into the hands of our enemy in the spiritual warfare he has against Christ. We are very consumed with *the way* we do our religious services instead of presenting ourselves to the Lord and finding out what pleases Him when it comes to our worship and service to Him. In doing so, we have set ourselves to be worshiped and the pleasing of our own desires has become our idol. All along the oppressed and poor around us are suffering because we are so focused on ourselves that we do not see the need of others – the need that Christ sees.

When we look at Amos we should realize that this book was a warning to Israel for the judgment the Lord had planned for them. However, being that it is in Scripture we should heed the Word unto ourselves. Not for the particular judgment necessarily but for the pronouncements of who God is and how we should respond to Him. For example, in remembering who God is . . .

*He who forms the mountains, who creates the wind, and who reveals His thoughts to mankind, who turns dawn to darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth – the Lord God Almighty is His Name.*

Amos 4:13

And in regards to how we should respond . . .

*Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say  
He is. Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the Lord God Almighty  
will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.*

Amos 5:14-15

In what ways have you become complacent in your spiritual walk? Let's not just go around saying that the Lord our God is with us and then continue to go about pleasing ourselves. Instead, let's seek Him and find out what pleases Him. *For then* He will be with us and have mercy on us

### **Seeing the Thread of Christ (Isaiah 7-9)**

The book of Isaiah is one of my favorite books of prophecy in the Bible. The Lord used Isaiah to proclaim so many things including the coming of the Messiah. In our readings this week (especially Isaiah 7-9) we begin to see the thread of Christ more clearly. In our past readings of David's Psalms we could see glimpses of Christ, but now we see proclamations that were used in the actual events when Christ came to earth. How exciting that we are at this point in Scripture!! I hope this sparks some refreshing interest in your readings!!

There is one thing that I see as interesting. In Isaiah 7:10-12, the Lord sent a message to King Ahaz asking him to ask for a sign of confirmation. This king that was so horrific and displeasing to God that he sacrificed his own son to Baal!! Why would God use him as a lead in to proclaim the way the Messiah would come to earth? Seems quite odd, but let's point this out – could it be to show us how our own mindset can deter us from the truth God has for us and the world? King Ahaz's response was one of arrogance, but *he thought* it was one of humility. His words seemed right, but King Ahaz's actions revealed his true heart. It wasn't that King Ahaz didn't want to test the Lord – he had proven in the past that he didn't mind doing that – it was more that King Ahaz was so distant from the Lord that he had no clue what sign to ask for the Lord to give him. The Lord knew this and was able to use it as a lead into Isaiah proclaiming the way the Messiah would be born. The Messiah would come to demolish all the sins of the world. The sins that had come into the world by pride – pride of Satan and pride of man.

How close are you to the Lord? Can you see the thread of Christ in your life and all around you?  
Are you seeking to draw closer and closer to God so that when  
you approach His throne you know what to ask that will be pleasing to Him?