

BIBLE READING LIST FOR JULY 3-9

<u>July 3</u> Joel 1-3	We see from this week's reading that Joel wrote his prophecy during the time that Elisha was still a prophet in Israel. We know of nothing that Elisha wrote, nor of anything Joel preached. God had specific tasks for each of His prophets. Each did his part, and the whole work got done—a good example for us.
<u>July 4</u> II Kings 13-14 II Chronicles 24	Like last week when we found kings from the Northern and Southern kingdoms with the same names, so this week we see a Joash in each kingdom. Each has a story that instructs us. The Joash from the north came to see Elijah on his death bed (II Kings 13:14). Elisha told him he would be delivered from the Syrians and then told him to strike the ground with his arrows. He struck it three times, and Elisha was angry that he didn't strike it five or six times. This showed a lack of excitement over the news of coming victory and indicated incomplete faith in the prophecy. For Joash, three strikes meant he was out!
<u>July 5</u> II Chronicles 25 Jonah 1-4	The Joash from the south was preserved from Athaliah as a baby by the priest Jehoiada. He became a good king who had the Temple repaired (II Chronicles 24:4-7). We see from verses 8-14 that it took money then to maintain God's physical assets just as it does today. And the king (government) wasn't required to bear the expense on his own. God called on His people for offerings.
<u>July 6</u> II Kings 15 II Chronicles 26	Joash also warns us about becoming complacent in our faith after a good work. He let leaders influence him to forsake serving God (verses 17-19). Then when he was rebuked by the son of the man who had saved his life as a baby, he had him executed for preaching against sin (verses 20-22).
<u>July 7</u> Amos 1-5	Amaziah hired soldiers from the north to help in his campaign against Edom instead of trusting God (II Chronicles 25:6). God wanted separation from the worldly north and Amaziah was worried about what he had paid them (verse 9). Better to cut our losses than continue to lean on the world. When he sent them back, they damaged some cities as they left (verses 10, 13). When we get entangled with the world, even if we separate later, there can be a price to pay.
<u>July 8</u> Amos 6-9	
<u>July 9</u> Hosea 1-6	