

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

II Kings 1

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In yesterday's 365 Bible Reading Plan passage, we saw the great prophet of Elijah cowering before a wicked queen and running for his life to a desert place. He reached the wilderness and began to ask God to take his life because he had failed and was all alone. In the tenderness and compassion of a loving father, the gracious God of Israel sent a message to rest, eat, and rest some more until his strength was restored and he was ready for the next assignment. Thank God that Elijah did not have his prayer answered for God to kill him in the desert! God is so merciful to not give us what we often ask Him for in our weakness. God knows best. God is always merciful and gracious to us; yes, in our greatest times of weakness.

It is important to link I Kings 19 with this passage and others. Why? Because it is important to see that our loving Father in heaven can restore us, revive us, forgive us, and continues to use broken people for His greatest assignments. Elijah had two things greatly wrong because his life had gotten out of balance, and he had gotten his eyes off God and onto his miserable self. What were the two things that were terribly

wrong with Elijah? First, Elijah claimed he was the only one really serving God. Sometimes a person who is doing a lot of things in God's service, and especially doing it with excellence, begins to think they are the only one who cares or the only one who is really serving and getting things done. Not so, never so. Even in some of the darkest days of Israel, God had seven thousand who had not bowed their knees to Baal! **"Nevertheless, I have reserved seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."** (I Kings 19:18)

Secondly, Elijah told God *"He was no better than his fathers."* That was his way of telling God that he had failed and wasn't worthy to be used by God any longer. If Elijah thought that, you are susceptible to that same attitude as well as Elijah. God uses broken, unworthy vessels. After all, that is all He has to use!

Prayer and Action Steps

Father in heaven, thank you that you use broken people to do your greatest work. Please help me to keep my eyes on you and not live in a pity pit of "woe is me!" Amen

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
