

**Reading the Bible for Deep Delight**  
**First Methodist Church of Tulsa**  
**Spring 2024**

**Laying the Foundation – Applying the Bible**

**2 Chronicles 34:1-7** (ESV) Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father; and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. <sup>3</sup> For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father, and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, and the carved and the metal images. <sup>4</sup> And they chopped down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and he cut down the incense altars that stood above them. And he broke in pieces the Asherim and the carved and the metal images, and he made dust of them and scattered it over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. <sup>5</sup> He also burned the bones of the priests on their altars and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, and as far as Naphtali, in their ruins all around, <sup>7</sup> he broke down the altars and beat the Asherim and the images into powder and cut down all the incense altars throughout all the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

**OBSERVATION: Asking the question, “what does it say?”**

1. Are there any details, terms, or expressions that surprise you or jump out at you?
2. Are there any aspects of the passage that remind you of another passage or passages? Where have you read various details before?
3. Are there discernible literary structures?
4. If you didn't know what happened next, what would you expect? Why?
5. Choose three characters in the narrative: how do you think they are perceiving events?
6. By what means does the text characterize key figures within its narrative?
7. If you were telling this story yourself, how might it differ from the biblical account?
8. Are there any surprising omissions or absences in the story?
9. How does this narrative provide background for, anticipate, or even foreshadow later narratives?
10. To what larger narrative movements does this narrative belong? How does it serve their ends?
11. Are there other biblical narratives or texts that cite or allude to it?
12. If this narrative were removed, what would be lost to the book it is in and to the biblical narrative?

**INTERPRETATION: Asking the question, “what does it mean?”**

1. Are there any words or concepts that require a deeper dive into meaning?
2. What is the plain meaning of this passage?

**EVALUATION: Asking the question, “Is God saying something about my heart and the way I live?”**

**APPLICATION: Asking the question, “how should I respond?”**