

9/25/11

Josiah, Zealous For God
2Kings 22:1-20

It is 640 B.C. Josiah has come to the throne, there are only 34 years till the first siege of Jerusalem.

Hezekiah had the honor of being know like no other king who trusted the Lord as he did. But now comes Josiah of whom is said, “Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did *any* arise like him.” 2Kings 18:5, 23:25

Though God in His mercy allowed these two men to passionately attempt to turn the nation, the people were to far gone, so their revivals and reforms, though genuine, did not last beyond their lives, judgment was inevitable.

1. The first twelve chapters Jeremiah fall under Josiah’s reign and revival and reform of 621 B.C.
2. “The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, “Stand in the gate of the LORD’S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, all *you of* Judah who enter in at these gates to worship the LORD!’” Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “Amend your ways and your doings, and I will

cause you to dwell in this place. “Do not trust in these lying words, saying, ‘The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD *are* these.’” Jer. 7:1-4

The Godly reign of Josiah’s faithful obedience falls in to three movement: 2Kings 22:1-20

- I. The industrious work of Josiah. vs. 1-7
- II. The repentant heart of Josiah. vs. 8-14
- III. The prophetic word to Josiah. vs. 15-20

I. The industrious work of Josiah. vs. 1-7

- A. The particulars about the reign of Josiah. vs. 1-2
 1. Josiah was a mere eight years old when he came to be king of Judah. vs. 1a
 - a. He did not have the advantage of a godly home.
 - 1) Most say for his first eight years and I also have taught it, but as I was pondering the text, it struck me that from birth to six years of age, he lived under his Grandfather Manasseh, who repented.
 - 2) He was taken to Babylon by Assyria, believed in 650 B.C. by Ashurbanipal and repented and God allowed him returned to Jerusalem.

- 3) Manasseh reigned till 642 B.C., that means he had eight years left after his captivity, so if he spent two years in captivity, that means Josiah had the benefit of his first six year of his Grand-father's repentance and reform. 2Chron. 33:11-20
- 4) Then from six to eight, his father Amon reigned for two years and did evil before God, not humbling himself before God, as his father Manasseh and was assassinated after two years. 2Kings 21:19-23, 2Chron. 33:22-25
- b. He reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. vs. 1b
* 640-608 B.C
- c. His mother's name was Jediah. vs. 1c
 - 1) Jedidah "y@diydah", means beloved, feminine of Solomon.
 - 2) She was the daughter of Adiahah "Adayah", meaning "Yahweh has adorned Himself".
 - 3) She was from Bozkath, a city in the low lands of Judah, towards the Philistines, Ekron.
- 2. Josiah chose to walk with God, after his Grand-father Manasseh. vs. 2

- a. His commitment was to Yahweh, "And he did *what was* right in the sight of the LORD." vs. 2a
- b. His high commendation is recorded, "and walked in all the ways of his father David." vs. 2b
- c. His steadfastness is emphasized, "he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left." vs. 2c
 - 1) Think about how the book of Kings does not buy into the philosophy of dis-functionalism to excuse your sinful life-style to blame your home-life and others, you have a choice on how to live.
 - 2) Godly Hezekiah had an evil father, Ahaz, evil Manasseh had a godly father, Hezekiah, evil Amon had an evil father who repented, Manasseh, and Josiah had a godly repentant Grand-father Manasseh but an evil father Amon.
 - 3) Do not get tired of hearing this important principle, God has gone out of His way to record this over and over, so we do not miss it!
- B. The particular order in the reign of Josiah. vs. 3-7
 - 1. Josiah gave a command to be carried out in regards to the Temple. vs. 3a-b

- a. The phrase “Now it came to pass”, simply implies after some time. vs. 3a
- b. The time is, “the eighteenth year of King Josiah”. vs. 3b
 - 1) He began to reign at 8 years old, 640 B.C.
 - 2) He has reigned 18 years, so he is now 26 years old, 622 B.C.
 - 3) Eighteen year are passed up in silence in the book of Kings, but this was the result of seeking the Lord, in earlier years.
 - 4) Chronicles gives us clear order of event, telling us that in the 8th year of his reign, when he was 16 years old, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David, then in the 12th year of his reign, when he was 20 years old, he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem. 2Chron. 34:3
 - 5) So the event of our text is six years after the one recorded in Second Chronicles, he is now 26 years old.
- 2. Josiah sent one of his servants. vs. 3c-f
 - a. The king sent Shaphan the scribe. vs. 3c
* Shaphan “shaphan” means rock badge, coney or the hyrax.
 - b. The son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam. vs. 3d-e

- 1) His father’s name is Azaliah, “Atsalyahuw” meaning Yahweh has reserved or set apart.
- 2) His grandfather was Meshullam “M@shullam”, means “friend”.
- c. The destination, “to the house of the LORD.” vs. 3f
 - 1) The original temple Solomon built.
 - 2) The temple was desecrated by many, but the worst was by his Grandfather Manasseh.
- 3. Josiah gave specific instructions. vs. 4-7
 - a. He was to tell the High Priest to count the money dedicated for the temple, “Go up to Hilkiyah the high priest, that he may count the money which has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have gathered from the people.” vs. 4
 - b. The High Priest then was to deliver the money to those in charge of the temple repairs, “And let them deliver it into the hand of those doing the work, who are the overseers in the house of the LORD; let them give it to those who *are* in the house of the LORD doing the work, to repair the damages of the house.” vs. 5
 - c. He named the particular laborers to purchase the materials needed, “to carpenters and builders and masons--

and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house.” vs. 6

- d. Josiah emphasized the integrity of the men doing the work, “However there need be no accounting made with them of the money delivered into their hand, because they deal faithfully.” vs. 7

Illustration

A black church in Kansas City has as its slogan: “Wake up, sing up, preach up, pray up and pay up, but never give up or let up or back up or shut up until the cause of Christ in this church and in the world is built up.” #7674

Application

1. Oh how I remember how God saved so many of us, through the “Jesus Movement”, in the early 70’s and raised up a church.

- a. Some of us came out of good moral homes, others out of problem homes.
- b. Some of us came out of the sexual revolution and drug culture of the 60’s, while other were moral and ethical people.
- c. But the common denominator of all of us was that we were convicted by the Holy Spirit that we were sinners, when we heard the gospel, so we decided to follow Jesus.
* “And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful

are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Rom. 10:15-17

- 2. How I remember the passion God put in our hearts to be part of the work of God.
 - a. We had bible studies in our homes.
 - b. We started bible studies at the Kung-fu in Covina, after the classes.
 - c. Later we closed the Kung-Fu business and turned it into the church.
 - d. Then God opened the doors to buy a “Safe Way building” in West Covina and all the people were involved in the building.
- 3. How I remember when God began to move in the hearts of people to establish Calvary Chapel of Alhambra in 1980
 - a. The church started in the home of George and Rita Gutierrez, on Hidalgo St. in Alhambra, about march of 1980.
 - b. Then in June we started Sunday services at the YMCA on Main St, then we moved the Woman’s Club on 2nd St. and the Masonic lodge on 1st St.
 - c. Then we moved to the 7th Day Adventist Church on Chapel and finally to the theatre on Main and Atlantic.

- d. For six and a half year and every Thursday, Sunday morning and night, the people cleaned, set up chairs, table and transported all the equipment to the facilities, exited about what God was doing.
- e. And we have seen the same thing since we moved to Pasadena on Oct. 1, 1986.
 - * “So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.” Neh. 4:6

The industrious work of Josiah was in view of his decision to walk with God!

II. The repentant heart of Josiah. vs. 8-14

- A. The High Priest informed Shaphan that he discovered a scroll. vs. 8-10
 - 1. The communication was first hand information, “Then Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe.” vs. 8a
 - a. Direct lines of communications are the most expedient and efficient.
 - b. Bureaucracy contaminates information and slows down efficiency.
 - 2. The scroll found was the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, “I have found the Book of the Law.” vs. 8b

- b. The book Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus Numbers and Deuteronomy, written by Moses.
 - 1) Whether it was the original one that was to be kept beside the Ark of the covenant or not we can not say. Deut. 31:26
 - * It could have been from the time of Moses!
 - 2) This copy was distinct from the king’s copy from it, to read continuously to rule in the fear of God. Deut. 17:18
 - * Alexander White comments that for all practical purposes, if it were not for Josiah we would not have the first five books and our bible would of begun with the book of Joshua!
- 3. The location was, “in the house of the LORD”, Yahweh, the covenant God. vs. 8b
 - a. As they were making preparations to make repairs.
 - b. Possibly the book of the Law was lost during Manasseh’s reign.
- 4. The delivery of the book was to Shaphan, “And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.” vs. 8c-d

- a. Shaphan was a scribe “caphar”, the one responsible for the records or chronicles of history or events.
 - b. They were also responsible for the preserving of the Scriptures. Making newer copies, the more valuable.
 - c. Shaphan the scribe read the book, understanding how greatly they had sinned against God.
5. The communication of Shaphan to Josiah. vs. 9
- a. First, to report he had carried out his command to repair the temple, “So Shaphan the scribe went to the king, bringing the king word, saying, “Your servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of those who do the work, who oversee the house of the LORD.” vs. 9
 - b. Second, to report the finding of the book of the Law. vs. 10
 - 1) He told Josiah that Hilkiyah had handed him a book, “Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, “Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book.” vs. 10a-c
 - 2) He read aloud to Josiah, “And Shaphan read it before the king.” vs. 10d

- B. The King Josiah was convicted by the reading of the scroll. vs. 11-14
- 1. The immediate outward response of Josiah was grief and anguish, “Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes.” vs. 11
 - a. The Book of the Law contained a portion of God’s cursings and blessing, key to the covenant.
 - 1) Josiah most likely read the section of cursings and blessings. Lev. 26, Deut. 27-28
 - 2) The Book of the Law contained the covenant the people had made with God. Deut. 29-30
 - b. The tearing of one’s clothes was an outward demonstration of the heart.
 - 1) What pained God, pained Josiah, demonstrating his brokenness.
 - 2) He was humbling himself before God, due to his contrition.
 - 2. The unhesitant inner response of Josiah was acknowledgment of their sin against God. vs. 12-13
 - a. Josiah ordered five men to go enquire from God. vs. 12
 - 1) Hilkiyah the priest, probably was the father of Jeremiah. vs. 12a
 - 2) Ahikam the son of Shaphan. vs. 12b

- 3) Achbor the son of Michaiah. vs. 12c
 - 4) Shaphan the scribe. vs. 12d
 - 5) Asaiah a servant of the king. vs. 12e
 - * Some of these men were friends of Jeremiah, who rescued him from the cistern.
- b. Josiah words were related to what he had read in the Book of the Law. vs. 13
- 1) He was reminded that they were the people of God, Yahweh, “Go, inquire of the LORD for me, for the people and for all Judah.” vs. 13a-c
 - 2) He was reminded that they were responsible and accountable to God for the words of the Book, “concerning the words of this book that has been found.” vs. 12d
 - 3) They were under God’s judgment, having disobeyed the words of the covenant ; “for great is the wrath of the LORD that is aroused against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.” vs. 12e-f
3. The uncompromising leading men sought the Lord. vs. 14

- a. A prophetess was sought out, “So Hilkiyah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess.” vs. 14a-d
 - * Why some of the other prophets living at the time were not sought is not stated, such as Zephaniah, Jeremiah or Habakkuk.
- b. The prophetess was the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe. vs. 14e-g
 - 1) Shallum could be the uncle of Jeremiah, “Behold, Hanamel the son of **Shallum** your uncle will come to you, saying, “Buy my field which *is* in Anathoth, for the right of redemption *is* yours to buy *it*.”” Jer. 32:7
 - 2) Shallum could also be the door keeper, “and I brought them into the house of the LORD, into the chamber of the sons of Hanan the son of Igdaliah, a man of God, which *was* by the chamber of the princes, above the chamber of Maaseiah the son of **Shallum**, the keeper of the door.” Jer. 35:4
- c. The prophetess lived in the city, “(She dwelt in Jerusalem in the Second

Quarter.) And they spoke with her.”
vs. 14h-i

- 1) Zepheniah mentions wailing coming from there. Zeph. 1:10
- 2) The lower city residential area to the west of the Temple in the depression which is the upper Tyropoeon Valley.

Illustration

“You can not repent too soon, because you know not how soon it may be too late.” Fuller #4988

Application

1. How sad it is when the Book of God’s word, the Bible is present, but not taught from the pulpit.

- a. The Bible is taught to be the key to being healthy and wealthy, if you have enough faith and every passage is centered on “faith”, often completely out of context.
- b. The Bible is taught flippantly, simply reading a verse, not interpreting the text and giving a subjective application, that has no relevance to the text.
- c. The Bible is taught allegorically, figurative or in typologies that are not present, destroying the true meaning and ending up with the a subjective interpretation, in order to say what you want to say.

* It is very obvious when the Scriptures are literal or figurative language!

- d. The Bible is being rejected by people in the church when it is proclaimed, interpreted and applied for literal obedience, due to our indoctrination of relativism, denying objective truth when it comes to morals and ethics, but very conveniently not applying it to anything else.
 - e. The Bible is being attacked as not being the Word of God, that there are errors, inconsistencies, therefore untrustworthy and not objective truth can be learned from it.
 - * All of this is going on in the church!
 - 1) “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2Tim. 3:16-17
 - 2) “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.” 2Pet. 1:19-21
2. The only hope for any person is that when they hear the word of God preached and expounded that they agree and align themselves with God’s word.

- a. The conviction about you being a sinner in need of salvation through the forgiveness of your sins by Jesus Christ, is the work of the Holy Spirit, not the Pastor.
- b. If you are a believer that is living in sin or backslidden living in a sinful life-style that is clearly contrary to the Bible, you need to repent and get right with God.
- c. The Scriptures are my map, compass and mirror to get to heaven.
 - 1) The map tells me Jesus is the only way, the truth and the life. Jn. 14:6
 - 2) The compass keeps me lined up with the narrow gate and difficult way that leads to life and are few that find it, so that I not deviate to the wide gate and broad way that leads to destruction. Matt. 7:13-14
 - 3) The mirror is to not deceive myself, to never forget I am a sinner and to fix what is wrong, when the word of God show me and not ignore it. Ja. 1:22-24
- 3. The history of the people of God is their turning away from the word of God.
 - a. The children of Israel in the wilderness.
 - b. The people in the time of the judges.
 - c. The time of the kings, from Solomon to Zedekiah.
 - d. The Jews in the days of Jesus.

- e. Do we think you are any different or that God won't judge us, if we walk contrary to the word or turn away from God?
 - 1) "But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2Tim. 3:13-15
 - 2) "I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." 2Tim. 4:1-5
 - 3) So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the **sense**,

and helped *them* to understand the reading.” Neh. 8:8

The repentant heart of Josiah was in view of the word of God!

III. The prophetic word to Josiah. vs. 15-20

- A. The prophetess Huldah revealed the judgment to come to Judah. vs. 15-17
 - 1. The words were spoken to the men, but directed to Josiah. vs. 15
 - a. The authority was directly from heaven, “Then she said to them, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel.” vs. 15a-b
 - b. God was speaking directly to Josiah, “Tell the man who sent you to Me.” vs. 15c
 - 2. The words of God affirm the coming judgment. vs. 16
 - a. God Himself would judge Jerusalem, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants.’” vs. 16a-b
 - b. God related His judgment to the words Josiah had read, “all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read.” vs. 16c
 - 3. The words of God explained the reason for His judgment. vs. 17

- a. The people had been unfaithful to Yahweh, “because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods.” vs. 17a
 - b. The people had offended and infuriated Yahweh, “that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands.” vs. 17b
 - c. The people would sow the consequences of their treachery, “Therefore My wrath shall be aroused against this place and shall not be quenched.” vs. 17c
- B. The prophetess Huldah revealed the blessing of God to Josiah. vs. 18-20
 - 1. The words again were spoken to the men, but directed to Josiah. vs. 18
 - a. The words to Josiah stand in contrast to those of the nation, “But as for the king of Judah.” vs. 18a
 - b. The words are in answer to his inquiry, “who sent you to inquire of the LORD.” vs. 18b
 - c. The words are directly from heaven, “in this manner you shall speak to him, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel.’” vs. 18c-d
 - d. The word was a clarification in view of the coming judgment “*Concerning*

- the words which you have heard.” vs. 18e
2. The words acknowledged Josiah’s repentance before God. vs. 19
 - a. God saw his brokenness, “because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the LORD.” vs. 19a
 - b. God saw his contrite heart, “when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse.” vs. 19a-b
 - c. God saw the outward expression, as an inward reality, “and you tore your clothes and wept before Me.” vs. 19c
 - d. God saw fit to except his petition, “I also have heard *you*,” says the LORD.” vs. 19d-e
 3. The words to Josiah were a promised blessing. vs. 20
 - a. He would certainly die, but in peace with the honors of burial, “Surely, therefore, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace.” vs. 20a-d
 - b. He would not see the judgment of captivity, “and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place.” vs. 20e

- c. He heard these words from the men he sent, “So they brought back word to the king.” vs. 20f
 - 1) He has already reigned 18 years, he had 13 more years to live, a total of 31 years for his reign.
 - 2) He was 26 years old at this time, 622 B.C. , he would die at 39 years of age, in 608 B.C
 - 3) He renewed the covenant, brought forth a great reform and Passover. 2Kings 23:1-24, 2Chron. 34:29-35:19
 - 4) He brought about his own death by the hand of Pharaoh-Neco, at the battle of Charchesh by not heeding to not come out against him, for the King of Egypt had come to assist the king of Assyria. 2Kings 23:28-30, 2Chron. 35:20-25

Illustration

L D. Moody said, “God never made a promise too good to be true.” (Quotes & Quotatins Corey:311)

Application

1. Sometimes believers sow to their flesh though compromise and disobedience and they are shocked when the consequences come home.
 - a. A young woman brakes trust with herself and gets pregnant, yes God will forgive her,

if she repents, but the child, the difficulties and complications to her life will not go away, nor her bad witness!

- b. A young man thinks have the best of two worlds, the church and the world and one night he is at the wrong place, at the wrong time and it costs him years in jail or his life.
- c. A husband or wife, who thinks that they can commit adultery and at times leave their mate for another person, deceiving themselves that all will be well with their children and others, ignoring God.
- d. Sometimes Pastors, be it because they are very popular or have big churches or that they are so unknown that they can get away with sin, only to loose everything.

* “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” Gal. 6:7-8

2. When a person or nation repeatedly are living for themselves and openly unashamed in sin, God removes His hand of blessing, as with Israel.

- a. What is happening to the work place and value of the dollar, the retirements in the stock Market?

* Listen to Haggai, “Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: “Consider your ways! You have sown much, and bring in

little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages *to put* into a bag with holes. Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Consider your ways!” Hag. 1:5-7

- b. What is happening to our farm lands that use to produce abundance and now they are being destroyed, like the San Joaquin Valley, which is one of the most fertile valley, because of a foolish little mino fish.

* “They sow the wind, And reap the **whirlwind**. The stalk has no bud; It shall never produce meal. If it should produce, Aliens would swallow it up.” Hos. 8:7

3. The solution is to turn to God, just as Josiah.

- a. This does not mean that all will be resolved, for judgment is coming.
- b. This does mean that God can and will work in my life and give me wisdom, as I walk with Him, daily.
- c. The word of God being my bread and water for life, I will depend on Jesus from day to day.

* “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Eph. 3:20

The prophetic word to Josiah was in view of his brokenness before God!

Conclusion

The Godly reign of Josiah through faithful obedience unfolded for us by three movement:

- I.** The industrious work of Josiah was in view of his decision to walk with God!
- II.** The repentant heart of Josiah was in view of the word of God!
- III.** The prophetic word to Josiah was in view of his brokenness before God!