

2 Kings 22 Josiah Reigns in Judah

Jesus

- **Hezekiah:** Good most of life/pride/repentance
- **Manasseh:** Bad most of life/affliction/repentance
- **Amon:** Bad/Assassinated after two years

2 Kings 21:23 ...the servants of Amon conspired against him, and **killed the king** in his own house.**24b**... Then the people of the land made his **son Josiah king** in his place.

I. Book of the Law

1 Josiah was **eight years** old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was **Jedidah** the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath.

- **Josiah King at 8 years old**
- **Mother Jedidah:** Lit. Beloved

Proverbs 31:28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her: 29 "Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all." 30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But **a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.**

- Incredible Influence of a godly mother: Not you mom? This was Solomon speaking of his godly mother...**Bathsheba**

2 And [Josiah] did *what was* right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in **all the ways** of his father David

- **Josiah walked in all the ways of David:** A man after God's own heart. David...
 1. Soft before His God
 2. Trusted God
 3. Feared God
 4. Praised God
 5. Loved God
 6. Made God his strength/wisdom
 7. Had love for truth/Forsook all that was false...Josiah walked in ways of David
- Josiah did what was right in the sight of the Lord and...

2...he **did not turn** aside to the right hand or to the left.

- Not wishy washy/Double-minded
- Hated what God hates/Loved what God loves

Romans 12:9... **Abhor** what is evil. **Cling** to what is good.

Psalms 34:14 **Depart** from evil and do good; **Seek** peace and pursue it.

- Listened/obeyed instruction of Godly mother

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents **in the Lord**, for this is right.

Josiah's father Amon was evil. God calls men to be godly fathers

Ephesians 6:4 ... fathers, **do not provoke** your children to wrath, **but bring them up** in the training and admonition of the Lord.

- **Two ways of raising our kids:** Fleshly vs. Spiritual response to raising our children
 1. **Way of the flesh:** Way of least resistance and the way that comes natural to our residual sin nature. It is the way of yelling, mocking, joking, ignoring, competing. Manifested in being impatient, apathetic, controlling, indifferent, uninterested, partial, unkind, overbearing... Wanting to be done.
 2. **Way of the Spirit:** Hard way. Correct way. Way that leads to good fruit into adulthood. This is the hard way, the way God calls us to; i.e. deny self and submit to the Spirit, to sit down and teach, to be patient and explain the things of God, to be an example, to confess when we've blown it and to forgive when they do. Wanting their best and better than us...

Ephesians 6:4 ... fathers, do not **provoke** your children to wrath, but bring them up in the **training** and admonition of the Lord.

Do not Provoke: Def. To rouse to wrath, to exasperate, anger including passive aggression

- We don't realize how these things destroy our kids.

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, **lest they become discouraged.**

Bring them up: Def. To nourish up to maturity, to cherish and train

Training: Def. Also "to nurture" the whole training and education of children

Admonition: Def. Call attention to, rebuke/warning, give understanding to things of God

- Teach them right/wrong/good/evil and love for truth

Deuteronomy 17:20 [New king is not to turn] **to the right hand or to the left**, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.

Joshua 1:7 [God to Joshua taking Israel across Jordan] ...be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; **do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.**

Proverbs 4:27 Do not turn to the **right or the left**; Remove your foot from evil.

- Train them to listen to the Spirit of God not to turn from right hand or left...

Isaiah 30:21 [HS whisper to get back to center] Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "**This is the way, walk in it,**" Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.

To train our children to love what is good and true

Josiah knew the way of peace and joy: He liked it and did not turn from it

2 Chronicles 34:3 in the **eighth year of his reign**, while he was still young, **he began to seek the God of his father David**; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem

- **16 Years old** Josiah begins to seek the **God of David**
 1. Intrigued with creation
 2. Bursting with questions/Consulted priests
 3. Listened to his godly mother's wisdom while rejecting his evil father's council?
 4. NOTE: No Word of God except verbal; mother, priests, etc.

- **20 Years old** Josiah "**purges the land**" **Ch. 23**

3 Now it came to pass, in the **eighteenth year** of King Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the scribe, the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the house of the Lord, saying: 4 "**Go up to Hilkiah the high priest...**

- **26 years old:** Sends Scribe to **Hilkiah the high priest**
 1. Prophet Jeremiah's father [1:1-2]
 2. Jeremiah began ministry during Josiah's reign

4 Go up to Hilkiah 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. 5 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**

Big things are happening. Excitements in the air. God is working

- **Temple about to be restored**
 1. People bring offering
 2. Josiah has priest count the offering
 3. Commands offering given workers **repair what father Amon destroyed...**

— 6 to carpenters and builders and masons—and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house. 7 However there need be **no accounting made with them** of the money delivered into their hand, because they deal faithfully."

**No account was made of them...because the deal faithfully
Could be trusted without being watched. Accountable to God**

- **Accountability:** Biblical?
- **Porn addict?** Phone call every day? Seriously?

What about the fear of God?

- **Fear of God:** Aware of God omnipresence and loving Him enough to do right even when alone

Ephesians 6:5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with **fear and trembling**, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as **men-pleasers**, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, **as to the Lord**, and not to men...

Colossians 3:22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with **eyeservice, as men-pleasers**, but in sincerity of **heart, fearing God**. 23 And whatever you do, do it **heartily, as to the Lord** and not to men...

Ephesians 4:14 [Be equipped to become complete] that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may **grow up** in all things into Him who is the head—Christ

- Accountability partner or baby-sitter? Time to move on

Faithful workers entrusted to delegate responsibility to faithful...

2 Chronicles 34:10 [Put the money into] the **hand of the foremen** who had the oversight of the house of the Lord; and **they gave it to the workmen** who worked in the house of the Lord, to repair and restore the house. 11 **They gave it to the craftsmen** and builders to buy hewn stone and timber for beams, and to floor the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed. 12 **And the men did the work faithfully.**

Scribe to Priest to foremen to the craftsman and the men did the work faithfully

- **Leaders are to delegate to the faithful...**

Exodus 18:21 [Advice to worn out Moses from father-in-law Jethro] ...you shall **select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness;** and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens ...**23 ... then you will be able to endure...**

- **Delegate responsibility** to faithful people whose **accountability is to God**
- Sharing the load and sharing the reward

We are to trust people until we can't: Love believes all things [but loves not stupid]

House of the Lord: Excitement in the air about to intensify!

8 Then Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, **"I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord."** And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, **and he read it.**

- Bible found during renovation of Temple

Amos 8:11 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, **But of hearing the words of the Lord.** 12 They shall wander from sea to sea, And from north to east; They shall run to and

fro, seeking the word of the Lord, But shall not find it.

Unthinkable to not have instructions to live on this earth!

9 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." 10 Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest has **given me a book.**" And Shaphan **read it before the king.** 11 Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he **tore his clothes.**

- **Response to God's Word:** Tore his clothes

Matthew 13:20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately **receives it with joy**; 21 yet he has **no root** in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately **he stumbles.** [Because no remorse/repentance for sin]

- Correct response to first hearing Word of God? Not joy but **sorrow**
- **Bad news before good news**...unable keep God's law. Law cannot save.

But God!

Romans 8:3 ...what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, **God did by sending His own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:3 [We] also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 **But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Romans 2:4b... the goodness [grace] of God leads you to repentance?

Law must precede grace as Moses preceded Joshua

- **8** becomes King of Judah
- **16** Began seeking God of father David
- **20** Purges the land
- **26** Finds/Reads the Book of the Law...

**Josiah became severely distressed after hearing Word of the Lord
And God's expectations of His people**

John 16:8 [Holy Spirit] **will convict the world of sin**

- **Conviction** Bring to light sin in our lives
- **Purpose** Move us back to center

My sheep hear my voice!

Isaiah 31:21 [Holy Spirit] **"This is the way, walk in it,"** Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.

V 2 [Josiah] he did not turn aside to the **right hand or to the left.**

12 Then the [King Josiah] commanded **Hilkiah the priest**, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Michaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying, 13 **"Go, inquire of the Lord for me,** for the people and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; 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."

- **God wrote a Book**

1. **66 Books:** Historical Books, Wisdom Books, Poetry Books
2. 40 authors/3 Continents
3. Thousands of years...a Book given as gift to us from our Creator

2 Peter 1:3... [God has]... given to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness...**

- **God wrote a book with everything we need:**

1. Instruction for Life
2. Understanding in how to live Godly
3. Distinguish between what pleases/displeases God
4. Reveal the way of peace vs way of destruction

Everything for Life/Godliness: Instructions/commandments...not suggestions...

Josiah read the Word/Holy Spirit illuminated the Word bringing conviction

We have disobeyed. Q. What now?

- **Josiah** humbles himself/Seeks Gods will
- Young guy: Not callous/hardened to conviction of HS but appreciative

Proverbs 19:20 Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.

Proverbs 1:5 A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel...

Proverbs 9:8 Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. 9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

14 So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to **Huldah the prophetess**, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe. (She dwelt in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter.) And they spoke with her. 15 Then she said to them, "Thus says

the Lord God of Israel, 'Tell the man who sent you to Me, 16 "Thus says the Lord: '**Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants**—all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read— 17 **because they have forsaken Me** and burned incense to other gods, that they might **provoke Me** to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore **My wrath shall be aroused** against this place and **shall not be quenched.**' " "

- **Huldah was available!**

1. **God used Huldah** the prophetess **instead** of Prophet Jeremiah
2. **God used Huldah** the prophetess **instead** of Prophet Zephaniah

Message: There is nothing you can do to stop My judgment on Judah
They have forsaken Me/burned incense to other gods/provoked Me

- From Solomon marrying the Egyptian to Split Kingdom to Idolatry to Provocation of God for over 300 years. Mercy after mercy but now...**Its over**

My wrath is aroused and shall not be quenched

No hope. No prayer. God's Longsuffering is over. This will happen.

II. Reward for a Contrite Heart God Himself

Genesis 18:22 [2 Angels on way to Sodom] but Abraham still stood before the Lord. 23 And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also **destroy the righteous with the wicked?** 24 Suppose there were **fifty righteous** within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare *it* for the fifty righteous that were in it? 25 Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! **Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" ...32** [Negotiates from 50 down to 10] Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, "I will **not destroy it for the sake of ten.**" [there were not 10]

- **What about Josiah?** Would you slay the righteous with the wicked?
- Prophetess continues...

18 But as for the **king of Judah**, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, in this manner you shall speak to him, 'Thus says the Lord God of Israel: "Concerning the words which you have heard— 19 **because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the Lord** when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you **tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you,**" says the Lord.

Genesis 6:8 But Noah **found grace** in the eyes of the Lord.

- God's individual care for those who love Him/ humble themselves before Him... like Josiah/David

Psalms 56:8 You number my wanderings; Put my **tears into Your bottle;** Are they not in Your book?

Psalm 34:18 The Lord is near to those who have a **broken heart**, And saves such as have a **contrite spirit**.

Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a **broken spirit**, A **broken** and a **contrite heart**— These, O God, You will not despise.

Isaiah 57:15 ...thus says the High and Lofty One Who **inhabits eternity**, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him **who has a contrite and humble spirit**, To **revive the spirit of the humble**, And to **revive the heart of the contrite ones**."

- **God draws near to the Humble:** Waits till Josiah dies to bring judgment...

20 "Surely, therefore, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your **grave in peace**; and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place." ' " So they brought back word to the king.

- **Word to the King who...**

1. Did not turn to right/left
2. Had a tender heart toward God/Instruction
3. Humbled himself before the Lord
4. Wept before the Lord

**You loved the way of truth/peace. You will die in peace.
Then Judgement will fall**