

2 Kings 23 Josiah

Jesus

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

Josiah: Walked in ways of David...Not turning right/left

- **Our Walk:** Daily life practice

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with [God], and **walk in darkness**, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7** But if we **walk in the light** as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 2:6 He who says he abides in [Jesus] ought himself also to **walk just as He walked**.

1 John 2:11 ...he who hates his brother is in darkness and **walks in darkness**, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

2 John 1:4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children **walking in truth**...

2 John 1:6 This is love, that we **walk according** to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should **walk in it**.

3 John 1:3 [I heard that...] you **walk in the truth**. **4** I have no greater joy than to hear that my **children walk in truth**.

Josiah: Walked in ways of David: Not turning right/left

I. Josiah Restores True Worship in Judah

Jesus

2 Kings 22:20 "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.

- Told nothing you can do to stop coming judgment
 1. Does he get discouraged?
 2. Consumed by self-pity?
 3. Paralyzed by fear? **Not Josiah!**

1 Now the king sent them to gather all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem to him. **2** The king went up to the house of the Lord with all the men of Judah, and with him all the inhabitants of Jerusalem—the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great. **And he read in their hearing** all the words of the Book of the Covenant which had been found in the house of

the Lord.

- Gathered the Leaders, the people, the priests and prophets

**All Judah to hear the public reading of God's Word
Read by King Josiah himself**

- **Airport in North Carolina:** Public reading of God's Word

3 Then the king **stood by a pillar** and made a covenant before the Lord, to follow the Lord and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book.

- **Josiah makes covenant with the Lord: To cut**

1. Animals cut down middle
2. Each half laid on either side of a pathway
3. Two parties walk between holding hands [Gen 15:17; Jer. 34:18]

"If either of us breaks this covenant may we end up like one of these"

- Big deal witnessed by all...

3b... And all the people took a stand for the covenant.

- **The people agreed to follow the King:** Influence of both King and HS

4 And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, the priests of the second order, and the doorkeepers, to **bring out of the temple of the Lord** all the articles that were made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven; and he burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried their ashes to **Bethel.**

- Take the junk out of the Temple
- **Believers physical body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit:** Remove the junk...

1 Corinthians 3:16 [Read] Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

- Body is Temple of God made to glorify Him. Keep the junk out. e.g. Sexual sin

1 Corinthians 6:18 [Read] Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your **body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- Temple is God's not our own. Decorated with the things of God

2 Corinthians 6:14 [Read] Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what

fellowship has **righteousness with lawlessness**? And what communion has **light with darkness**? 15 And what accord has **Christ with Belial**? Or what part has a **believer with an unbeliever**? 16 And what agreement has the **temple of God with idols**? For you are the **temple of the living God...**

- **Don't mix holy with unholy:**

Take the junk out of the temple!

- Takes out stuff of Baal/Asherah/Host of Heaven
- Burns it in Kidron Valley [dump for idols] Brings ashes to **Bethel**
 1. House of God defiled by Jeroboam
 2. Where Idolatry began in NORTHERN Kingdom

Josiah's reform has no boundaries Our repentance should have no provisions

2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, **not to be regretted**; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

5 Then [Josiah] removed the **idolatrous priests** whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Judah and in the places all around Jerusalem, and those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, to the moon, to the constellations, and to all the host of heaven. 6 And he brought out the wooden image from the house of the Lord, to the Brook Kidron outside Jerusalem, burned it at the Brook Kidron and ground it to ashes, and threw its ashes on the graves of the common people. 7 Then he tore down the **ritual booths of the perverted persons** that were in the house of the Lord, where the women wove hangings for the wooden image.

- **Josiah's Reform Continues**

1. Removes false idolatrous priests
2. Pulls-out /Extracts wooden image from Temple
 - Burned it/Ground it to ashes threw them on common people
 - Not to defile common people...but to **defile the idol**

Tore down religious homosexual [perverted persons] prostitution booths ...That were in the House of the Lord?

- Temple had become a **brothel**
- Women weaved hangings for the wooden image in the Temple?

"The word translated 'hangings' likely refers to a fabric woven by idol worshippers for curtains behind which the ritual obscenities were practiced." [Dilday]

- Always those girls condoning: **"You go girl"?**

8 And he brought all the priests from the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba; also he broke down the high places at the gates which were at the entrance of the Gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were to the left of the city gate. 9 Nevertheless the priests of the high places did not come up to the altar of the Lord in Jerusalem, but they ate unleavened bread among their brethren. 10 And he defiled **Topheth**, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech.

Josiah's Grandfather Manasseh murdered his own children; i.e. Josiah's infant aunts/uncles
Josiah's father Hezekiah was spared

- **Defiled Topheth:** From rt. *Toph*; i.e. drum. Drown children's cries sacrificed Molech

Josiah says "no more!"
Sometimes we have to say "no more" to our family's sick traditions

11 Then [Josiah] removed the horses that the kings of Judah had **dedicated to the sun**, at the entrance to the house of the Lord, by the chamber of Nathan-Melech, the officer who was in the court; and he burned the chariots **of the sun with fire**. 12 The altars that were on the roof, the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the Lord, the king broke down and pulverized there, and threw their dust into the Brook Kidron.

- **Burned:** Horses and Chariots dedicated to the sun by past Kings of Judah

13 Then the king defiled the high places that were east of Jerusalem, which were on the south of the **Mount of Corruption, which Solomon king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians**, for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the people of Ammon. 14 And he broke in pieces the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images, and filled their places with the bones of men.

- **Solomon's disobedience:** Do not marry foreign wives
 1. **Ashtoreth** the abomination of the Sidonians
 2. **Chemosh** the abomination of the Moabites
 3. **Milcom** the abomination of the people of Ammon

By this Scripture [v13] we can be all but positive Solomon burned his sons in fire
God gives us commands not suggestions

- **Josiah moves north to take care of business**

15 Moreover the **altar that was at Bethel**, and the high place which

Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he broke down; and he burned the high place and crushed it to powder, and burned the wooden image.

- **Jeroboam:** First King of Northern Kingdom; Idolater

16 As Josiah turned, he saw the tombs that were there on the mountain. And he sent and **took the bones** out of the tombs and **burned them on the altar**, and **defiled it according to the word of the Lord** which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words. 17 Then he said, "What gravestone is this that I see?" So the men of the city told him, "It is the **tomb of the man of God** who came from Judah and proclaimed these things **which you have done** against the altar of Bethel." 18 And he said, "Let him alone; **let no one move his bones.**" So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet who came from Samaria.

Fulfilling the Word of God after 300 years...**Calls Josiah by name!**

1 Kings 13:1 [Read] [Kingdom split Jeroboam begins idolatry in Northern Kingdom] And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. 2 Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the Lord, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, **a child, Josiah by name**, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.'

- **Only God knows the future...**

Isaiah 41:21 [Read] [Calling Cyrus by name 100 years before born/mocks false gods] "Present your case," says the Lord. "Bring forth your strong reasons," says the King of Jacob. 22 "Let them bring forth and **show us what will happen**; Let them show the former things, what they were, That we may consider them, And know **the latter end of them**; Or **declare to us things to come**. 23 Show the things that are to **come hereafter**, That we may know that you are gods; Yes, do good or do evil, That we may be dismayed and see it together. 24 Indeed you are nothing, And your work is nothing; He who chooses you is an abomination.

I may not know what the future holds but I know Who holds the future

- **Josiah in midst of fulfilling prophecy**...destroying the roots of idolatry

19 Now Josiah also took away all the shrines of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to **provoke the Lord to anger**; and he did to them according to all the deeds he had done in Bethel. 20 He **executed all the priests** of the high places who were there, on the altars, and **burned men's bones** on them; and he returned to Jerusalem.

- Josiah takes out the bad and brings in the good...

21 Then the king commanded all the people, saying, “**Keep the Passover to the Lord your God**, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant.” 22 Such a Passover surely had never been held since the days of the judges who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah. 23 But in the **eighteenth** year of King Josiah this Passover was held before the Lord in Jerusalem.

- Reinstates Passover after many years
- Like us today disregarding Communion

After Cleaning up Josiah re-institutes Passover Remembering God setting his people free from bondage in Egypt

- **26 Years old** and not finished yet... little mess to clean up

24 Moreover Josiah put away those who consulted **mediums and spiritists**, the **household gods and idols**, all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the Lord.

- Removes the evil that he might be free to serve the Lord

25 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.**

None the less... Josiah continues to walk with Lord

SUMMARY: Josiah Restores True Worship in Judah

II. Imminent Judgment on Judah

26 Nevertheless the Lord did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath, with which His anger was aroused against Judah, because of all the **provocations with which Manasseh** had provoked Him. 27 And the Lord said, “I will also remove Judah from My sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, **‘My name shall be there.’”**

- **Manasseh’ Provocations:** Josiah’s grandfather [though repented] tipped the scales

Josiah walked with the Lord...Nevertheless God did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath

- **Jeremiah begins his ministry...**

Jeremiah 1:2 [Jeremiah] to whom the word of the Lord came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the **thirteenth year of his reign.**

- **Josiah:** 21 years old when Jeremiah comes on scene
- **Jeremiah:** Also, about 21 years old when called

Jeremiah 1:4 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." 6 Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, **I cannot speak, for I am a youth.**" 7 But the Lord said to me: "**Do not say, 'I am a youth,'** For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. 8 Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord.

- **21 years old:** Jeremiah called to pronounce judgment on Judah

Jeremiah 3:6 The Lord said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: "Have you seen what backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot.

- **Tell the people...**
 1. Judgement is coming
 2. Nothing you can do about it
 3. When Babylon attacks... Surrender/Wave White Flag/ Go to Babylon
- Proclaimed Judgment/Judah's best plan: "No takers"

Jeremiah 25:3 "From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, even to this day, this is the twenty-third year in which the word of the Lord has come to me; and I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, **but you have not listened.**"

- **False-prophets proclaimed peace to Judah**

Jeremiah 23:17 [False-prophets message] "The Lord has said, "**You shall have peace**" "; And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, '**No evil shall come upon you.**' " ... **32** Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," says the Lord, "... and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all," says the Lord...**39** therefore behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you and forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, and will cast you out of My presence. 40 And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.' "

- **Dangerous Words:** Thus, says the Lord
- Prophesied peace...

Then it came...Babylon invades/destroys/overcomes. Nothing left

Lamentations 1:1 How lonely sits the city That was full of people! How like a widow is she, Who was great among the nations! The princess among the provinces Has become a slave!

- **Broke God's heart: I set my Name in Jerusalem and in My Temple**
 1. My Real Estate
 2. Center of His creation?

I will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen

The house of which I said, 'My name shall be there'

- **Made up His mind to "Cast His people off" but not forever:**
 1. Jews are/will be gathered from around world to Israel
 2. **Once cast off:** Will be where Jesus rules/reigns for 1000 Years
- **For now:** I will cast off Judah/Israel for at least 2500 years

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

SUMMARY: Impending Judgment on Judah

III. Josiah Dies in Battle

28 Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 29 In his days Pharaoh Necho king of **Egypt went to the aid of the king of Assyria**, to the River Euphrates; and King Josiah **went against him**. And Pharaoh Necho **killed him** at Megiddo when he confronted him. 30 Then his servants moved his body in a chariot from Megiddo, brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own tomb.

- Assyria Declining/Babylon rising as world power [approx. 700BC]
- Assyria/Egypt ally to fight against emerging Babylon

Josiah goes out to fight Egypt/Assyria...in turn helping Babylon
Josiah dies in Battle. Should have stayed home

Proverbs 26:17 He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own Is like one who takes a dog by the ears.

- **Details in 2 Chronicles:**

2 Chronicles 35:20 [Read] After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by the Euphrates; and Josiah went out against him. **21** But [Pharaoh] sent messengers to [Josiah], saying, "What have I to do with you, king of Judah? **I have not come against you** this day, but against the house with which I have war [Babylon]; for God commanded me to make haste. Refrain from **meddling with God**, who is with me, **lest He destroy you.**" **22** Nevertheless Josiah **would not turn his face from [Pharaoh]**, but disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho **from the mouth of God**. So he came to fight in the Valley of Megiddo.

- Word of God from mouth of pagan?

"How Josiah was supposed to recognize God's guidance is not specified, though sanctified common sense would have been a perfectly adequate response." [Selman]

...cont. 23 And the archers shot King Josiah; and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded." **24** His servants therefore took him out of that

chariot and put him in the second chariot that he had, and they brought him to Jerusalem. So he died, and was buried in one of the tombs of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

The ultimate irony is that despite Josiah's previous record, he died in the same way as someone who was known to 'hate the LORD' [Ahab in 2 Chronicles 19:2]." [Selman]

- Still good man but...

Died because of one stupid decision to meddle in what was none of his business

Proverbs 20:3 It is honorable for a man to stop striving [lit. causing strife] , Since any fool can start a quarrel. [i.e. Meddle, lit. to be obstinate, start a fight]

2 Thessalonians 3:11 ...we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are **busybodies**. 12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

1 Timothy 5:13 [Paul advises young widows to re-marry because they are they are learning...] to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.

- **Busybodies:** gr. pe-rē-er-gä'-zo-mī] To bustle about uselessly, to busy one's self about trifling, needless, useless matters. Overbearingly inquisitive about other's affairs
- **From rt.** To work or labor at [causing strife by meddling]

Josiah should have minded his own business

He would have been safe minding his own business...now he's dead

...2 Chron. 35 cont. v 25 Jeremiah also lamented for Josiah. And to this day all the singing men and the singing women speak of Josiah in their lamentations. They made it a custom in Israel; and indeed they are written in the Laments..

- **People mourn for Josiah**

Jeremiah 22:10 [Don't weep for Josiah weep for his sons] Weep not for the dead [Josiah], nor bemoan him; Weep bitterly for him who goes away [captive], For he shall return no more, **Nor see his native country.**

"... Josiah's passing removed the last obstacle to the coming catastrophe." [Selman]

Josiah dies in Battle. What about the promise of dying in peace?

2 Kings 22:20 [Because you humbled yourself before me...] "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."

- Josiah *had peace* from the calamity God would bring. He just brought his own

30b... And the people of the land took **Jehoahaz** the son of Josiah, anointed him, and made him king in his father's place.

SUMMARY: Josiah dies in battle

- **Jehoahaz:** Josiah's son becomes King of Judah

IV. Reign/Captivity of Jehoahaz

31 **Jehoahaz** was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned **three months** in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. 32 And **he did evil in the sight** of the Lord, according to all that his fathers had done.

- **Jehoahaz:**
 1. Lit. "The Lord has seized"
 2. Reigns 3 Months
 3. **Did evil in the sight of the Lord**

33 Now **Pharaoh Necho put him in prison** at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he **might not reign in Jerusalem**; and he imposed on the land a tribute of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold. 34 Then Pharaoh Necho made **Eliakim** the son of Josiah king in place of his father Josiah, and changed his name to **Jehoiakim**. And Pharaoh took Jehoahaz and went to Egypt, and **he died there**.

- **Pharaoh Necho:**
 1. Puts Josiah's son King Jehoahaz in prison where he dies
 2. Makes his brother king in his place.
 3. Changes his name from Eliakim to Jehoiakim

**Pharaoh removes and replaces the king of Judah?
God is pulling the strings of puppets of the world**

John 19:10 [Pilate to Jesus] "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" 11 Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me **unless it had been given you from above**."

- Josiah's son Jehoahaz in jail where he dies
- Josiah's other son Jehoiakim installed as King of Judah by Pharaoh

God is allowing the breach...He is removing His protection due to unrepentance

Jeremiah 11:13 [Read] For according to the number of your cities were your gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem you have set up altars to that shameful thing, altars to burn incense to Baal. 14 "**So do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them**; for **I will not hear them** in the time that they cry out to Me because of their trouble. 15 "What has **My beloved** to do in My house, Having done lewd deeds with many?"

- **I have to deal with "My beloved":** After captivity no more idolatry

Psalms 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.

SUMMARY Reign/Captivity of Jehoahaz

V. Jehoiakim Reigns in Judah

35 So Jehoiakim **gave the silver and gold to Pharaoh**; but he **taxed the land** to give money according to the command of Pharaoh; he exacted the silver and gold **from the people of the land**, from every one according to his assessment, to **give it to Pharaoh Necho**.

- As Herod 600 yrs. later to Rome; Jehoiakim now serves Pharaoh with tribute/taxes.
- Religious Jews of Jesus time: "We've never been in bondage"?
 1. Jehoiakim taxes the people of Judah to pay Pharaoh
 2. Meanwhile he's building his own luxurious palace? [Jer. 22:13-19]

You got to serve somebody [Bob Dylan]

- People warned by Samuel 300 years earlier not to ask for earthly king...

1 Samuel 8:19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, **"No, but we will have a king over us, 20 that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."**

When we say no to God we say yes to pain [NJC]

36 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zebudah the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah. 37 And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his fathers had done.

- **Evil in the sight of the Lord...**

Jeremiah 36:29 [Ungodliness of Jehoiakim; i.e. burning God's Word] 'Thus says the Lord: "You have burned this scroll, saying, 'Why have you written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and cause man and beast to cease from here?' " 30 Therefore thus says the Lord concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: "He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night."

- Jehoiakim also murdered true prophet Urijah [Jer. 26:10-23]

SUMMARY Jehoiakim Reigns in Judah