

Defining Moments
Awakening a Reformation
2 Kings 22-23

Today we are continuing our series, “Defining Moments”

What are Defining Moments?

Defining Moments are those faith moments that create a spiritual momentum to unlock a supernatural movement of God

I’ve titled today’s message, “Awakening a Reformation!”

ONE THING

A reformation is the act of REMOVING defects, CORRECTING errors and FORSAKING evil ways to bring about MORAL, SOCIAL, and POLITICAL improvements.

Israel fell in 722 BC

Hezekiah became king of Judah and brought about a revival in Judah.

Manasseh was king of Judah 55 years

Amon was king for 2 years.
He was assassinated

Josiah became king when he was 8 years old.
He reigned for 31 years.

2 Kings 22:2 (ESV) — And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.

What was it that Josiah did to bring about a personal and national reformation in his lifetime?

1. RECOGNIZING what has been FORSAKEN

2 Kings 22:8 (ESV) — And Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, “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.

2 Kings 22:11 (ESV) — When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes.

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV) — For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Josiah calls the people back to the Lord!

2 Kings 23:1–3 (ESV) — Then the king sent, and all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem were gathered to him. And

the king went up to the house of the LORD, and with him all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the prophets, all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD. And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after 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. And all the people joined in the covenant.

We are living in defining days!

→ Pic 1 - Title



→ Pic 2 - Names



Look at these areas and you can see how the enemy has been slowly taking over one mountain after another...

Our government is on the brink of an unprecedented takeover by Socialism...

The only mountain left is Religion... What will we do?

→ Pic 3 - Truth



A reformation is the act of removing defects, correcting errors and giving up evil ways to bring about moral, social, and political improvements.

1. **RECOGNIZING** what has been **FORSAKEN**

2. **REPENTING** of what has been **FORBIDDEN**

Repenting means to ...

➤ **RECOGNIZE** our sins are against God

Remorse feels bad about what we've done...

Repentance recognizes that our sin is against God

Psalm 51:4 (ESV) — Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight ...

➤ **REMOVE** those things that caused those sins

Josiah cleanses the Place of Worship

Josiah removes the False teachers

Josiah removes the evil practices of the people

Josiah removes all false worship throughout the land

Josiah thoroughly cleanses the land of everything contrary to the Word of God!

➤ **RETURN** to the Lord with all our heart

Matthew 3:8 (ESV) — Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

→ You may be saying,

- “Yeah but I’m too messed up”...
- “My marriage is too far gone...”
- “My family is too broken...”

Or like many are saying...

- “Our nation is too far gone... what’s the use?”

When Josiah saw how far Judah had strayed from the Lord he tore his robe and sent to inquire from a prophet...

They found a prophetess, Huldah, and she sought a word from the Lord...

- The Lord said that the nation was too far gone and was going down...

But listen to what the Lord said concerning Josiah...

2 Kings 22:20 (ESV) — Therefore, behold, 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 disaster that I will bring upon this place.’ ” And they brought back word to the king.

Josiah could have sat back and taken it easy... just letting the people fall to destruction...

BUT HE DIDN'T!

Josiah awakened a Reformation during his lifetime!!!

FOR US...

It is true that our nation may be too far gone to experience a nation-wide awakening...

If may be true that we deserve judgment as a nation...

- ***Our Supreme Court supports and legislates actions contrary to God's Word***
- ***Our elected officials blatantly lie, cheat, and deceive without any remorse***
- ***Our media pumps out the grossest of content***
- ***Little boys and girls are sold as sex slaves...***

God is completely justified in destroying this nation...

BUT NOT ON MY WATCH!!!

Every generation of believers has a chance to...

- ***RECOGNIZE we have FORSAKEN God's Word***
- ***REPENT from what God has FORBIDDEN***

And MAYBE the Lord will say to our generation like what He said to Josiah...

2 Kings 22:18–20 (ESV) — "... Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the LORD, when you heard how I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the LORD. Therefore, behold, 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 disaster that I will bring upon this place.'

A reformation is the act of removing defects, correcting errors and giving up evil ways to bring about moral, social, and political improvements.

1. RECOGNIZING what has been FORSAKEN

2. REPENTING of what has been FORBIDDEN

3. RESTORING what has been FORGOTTEN

2 Kings 23:21–23 (ESV) — And the king commanded all the people, "Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant." For no such Passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel, or during all the days of the kings of Israel or of the kings of Judah. But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was kept to the LORD in Jerusalem.

We must return to the Biblical ways of God!

Jeremiah 6:16 (ESV) — Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

2 Kings 23:25 (ESV) — Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him.

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A reformation is the act of _____ defects, _____ errors and _____ evil ways to bring about _____, and _____ improvements.

1. _____ what has been _____

2. _____ of what has been _____

➤ _____ our sins are against God

➤ _____ those things that caused those sins

➤ _____ to the Lord with all our heart

3. _____ what has been _____