

II Kings 22-23 – 1 December 2022

“Josiah: One Man’s Restoration”

Introduction

- *Only Judah remain w/ its capital Jerusalem
- *Assyria had been bossing the world for past 150 yrs
- *Babylon w/ East have finally risen against Assyria
- *Egypt is aligned w/ the remains of Assyria to aid
- *Young Josiah now takes the throne at 8 years old
- *Although Josiah has an ungodly father Amon, from 0-6 Josiah also lived w/ his godly g-dad Manasseh
- *Now Manasseh came to faith late in a long reign so the nation was very much used to idolatry and sin
- *The Lord God was NOT very well known
- *This is the story of one man’s journey to restore the truth in his own heart and hopefully to a nation
- *So, let’s look at 4 steps to spiritual restoration**

1st step: Follow what little we do know (Chap 22:1-7)

Read Vs 1-2

1. II Chr 34:3 says when he turned 16 he began to seek the Lord
 - a. Word of God is lost at this time, he's just following oral traditions the best he can
2. From this time till the Babylonian Captivity, Jeremiah is ministering to the people

Read Vs 3-7

1. He's been purging the land of idols & now he's cleaning up the temple
 - a. Same for us; does no good to worship God till idols are gone
 - b. In communion, I Cor 11 it says, 'let a person examine themselves, then eat'
2. You don't have to know much about true worship to know NOT to serve other gods

2nd step: Embrace & spread God's true revelation (Chap 22:8-23:3)

Read Vs 8-11

1. We have the sharing & spreading of the Word
2. As they read their excitement turned to sobriety
 - a. Rom 7:7 – Open curtains & show the dust

Read Vs 12-14

1. Once the Word is out, next thing to do is to ask the Lord & His servants how we should live

Read Vs 15-20

1. Judgement and justice is due...it's coming, but the righteous WILL escape
 - a. B. Clinton famously asked, "How long can a person wait to repent?" Till the day you die
 - b. Picture of us, we'll escape God's wrath being poured on earth either by death or by rapture

Read Vs 1-3

1. Giving ALL the people the Word of God
2. Commit thy way to God & He'll take care of you

3rd step: Call for inward change by making outward change (Chap 23:4-20)

Read Vs 4

1. II Chr 34 tells us these reforms all happened when Josiah was 16 yrs old; 10 years before they found the Law and renewed their covenant

Read Vs 5-9

1. Jeremiah cries against the people b/c reforms were outward but weren't penetrating their hearts
 - a. "Don't say temple of the Lord will save you"

Read Vs 10-14

1. Sometimes sweeping change has to happen
 - a. When it seems right
 - i. Not many would be upset that he's removing evil king Ahas's idolatry
 - b. When it seems wrong
 - i. But he's also removing idols the great Solomon had set up!
 - ii. These would seem normal & acceptable

Read Vs 15-18

1. He's digging deep to root out the deeply ingrained idolatry that been there since the split at the time of Jeroboam & Rehoboam
2. When Jeroboam first made this altar in I Kings 13 at Bethel a "man of God" prophesied that Josiah BY NAME would come & do this
 - a. That was 300 yrs ago!

Read Vs 19-20

1. Interesting, Josiah understood that he has the right to be lord over the cities of Samaria in the N
 - a. Take ownership over all that God has given to us, even if we haven't possessed it for a long time
2. There's no ambiguity as to what direction he's leading the people
 - a. He's setting the tone, but they each need to choose to follow and serve God themselves

4th step: Live in victory (Chap 23:21-37)

Read Vs 21-23

1. This is really the culmination of following the little knowledge, spreading further true revelation, & actions that are seeking inward change

Read Vs 24-25

1. Even after this great Passover he didn't cease from ridding the land of further spiritual issues

Read Vs 26-28

1. Josiah is great example of individual salvation while judgement is about to fall all around

Read Vs 29-30

1. Great godly man, but he made this great military miscalculation and paid with his life
2. Even while living in spiritual victory, the Lord can call us home at any moment
3. Forces of Babylon w/ Medes & Persians have finally risen above Assyrians who had Egypt's help

- a. Pharaoh Necho was marching to the great Battle of Carchemish w/ Babylon led by General Nebuchadnezzar
4. I believe God took him to spare him from seeing the devastation of the Babylonian Captivity soon
 - a. Just as He took Methusaleh, yr of the flood

Read Vs 31-34

1. 3 months after killing Josiah in Megiddo, Egypt marches to Jerusalem & imprisons Jehoahaz
2. Then they put his brother Jehoiakim on the throne of Judah to pay tribute

Read Vs 35-37

1. Jeremiah's been telling them to bow to the punishment from Babylon & don't flee to Egypt
 - a. Read Jer 46:1-2 – it's really whole chapter – describes Egypt's defeat at Carchemish
2. So Jehoiakim tried to live subservient to Egypt, but we'll see this is a great mistake
 - a. Should live subservient to Jesus as Josiah did
 - b. He'll find Babylon marching against him

Conclusion

You're not responsible to convert a nation or even your whole family.

You're responsible to use the authority & knowledge God has given you and grow in it

Josiah proves that ONE PERSON can live victoriously in the midst of a perverse culture

1. Follow what little we do know of God

- a. None of us have it all figured out
- b. Don't hold back b/c you're not amazing

2. Embrace & spread God's true revelation

- a. As God gives more light, act on it!

3. Call for inward change by making outward changes

- a. We can't convert others, but can show them the good and right path

4. Live in victory

- a. Doesn't mean every earthy thing will always go right, but that all spiritual things are secure