

King Josiah

- I. Josiah was the last good king of Judah prior to the Babylonian captivity.
 - A. The account of his life and his good reign of 31 years are recorded in **2KI 22:1 - 23:30; 2CH 34:1 - 35:27.**
 - B. His father (Amon) and grandfather (Mannasseh) had been wretched kings who had led Judah into great corruption of morals and religion.
 - 1. His father, Amon, was murdered by conspirators who themselves were slain by the people who then installed young Josiah as king, fulfilling an ancient prophecy. **2KI 21:23-24 c/w 1KI 13:2.**
 - 2. In spite of his heritage, Josiah went the opposite way of his fathers.
 - 3. That he so swam against the stream of family corruption is especially significant in view of the fact that he was (at the start) without the holy Scripture.
 - 4. Bless God that His divine grace can interrupt sin's course and make chosen vessels spring from a corrupt history. c/w **JOS 24:2-3.**
 - C. His reign started at the tender age of eight years. **2KI 22:1; ECC 10:16 c/w ECC 4:13.**
 - 1. He sought the Lord early (**2CH 34:3**) and he may well have been on the prophet Jeremiah's mind when he penned **LAM 3:25-27.**
 - 2. At 16 years of age he started to seek God and at 20 he began a great purge of the idolatry and immorality of Judah and Israel. **2CH 34:3-7.**
 - 3. That he was a young leader was not necessarily a mark against him. **1TI 4:12.**
 - D. His name means, "founded of Jah."
 - 1. Though thrust into the midst of popular corruption, he "turned not aside to the right hand or to the left" (**2KI 22:2**). By such means, God pans His gold. **1CO 11:19.**
 - 2. Those with the right foundation will not be blown aside by the storms of life's oppositions. **MAT 7:24-25; 1PE 2:6.**
 - E. He had a zeal for God, His house, His religion. c/w **JOH 2:17; NUM 25:13.**
- II. The record here shows that the book of the Law had been long hidden and that religion and morals had long been corrupt.
 - A. God judges rebel hearts by removing or hiding His word from them. **ISA 30:8-11; 29:9-14; ACT 13:46.**
 - B. When revealed knowledge of God is rejected, God is wont to take away understanding also. **ROM 1:21, 28, 31; 2TH 2:10-12.**
 - C. In the vacuum left by the absence of God's word, a false word may be sent as a judgment. **EZE 14:1-9.**
- III. With Josiah's purges underway, God re-introduced His word by a zealous prophet. **JER 20:9.**
 - A. Jeremiah started his prophecy. **2CH 34:3 c/w JER 1:2.**
 - B. God promises to reveal Himself to those whose hearts strive to find Him. **JOH 7:17; 14:21; JER 29:13.**
 - 1. Consider Daniel (**DAN 10:12**), the Ethiopian eunuch (**ACT 8:26-29**) and Cornelius. **ACT 10:1-6.**
 - 2. God is both a discerner and rewarder of the heart. **HEB 4:12; 11:6.**
 - C. At age 26, Josiah began to repair the temple and the book of the law was found. **2KI 22:3, 8.**
 - 1. Obviously, God's order for the maintenance of the written law had been abandoned for some time. **DEU 17:18-20; 31:10-11.**
 - 2. God's holy word was right under their noses all along, but they couldn't find it.

4. NOTE: It is not for the lack of preservation that the word of God is not found by His people, but rather for the lack of desire.

- IV. Having heard the words of the book of the law, Josiah knew doom was approaching swiftly. **2KI 22:11-13.**
- A. He sought counsel from a prophetess. **2KI 22:14.**
 - B. Huldah the prophetess confirmed the coming judgment (**2KI 22:15-17**) for a true prophet will not prophesy contrary to previous revelation. **DEU 13:1-3 c/w 2TI 2:2.**
 - C. She also added that Josiah would be spared from witnessing the judgment by dying young. **2KI 22:19-20.**
 - 1. There are things to face in this life worse than death.
 - 2. Death is sometimes a mercy from God. **ISA 57:1.**
 - D. With knowledge-reinforced zeal, Josiah then completed his purge of the land in accord with that old prophecy. **1KI 13:2 c/w 2KI 23:16-20.**
 - E. He then revived the Passover the same year in a most glorious manner. **2CH 35:18-19.**
 - 1. It was not tradition or “methinks” that made the Passover feast proper. It was the word of God.
 - 2. Let us ever “...keep the ordinances...as delivered” (**1CO 11:1-2**) with heartfelt desire and gladness. **LUK 22:15; ROM 6:17; 2CO 9:7; PSA 122:1.**
- V. Josiah’s love and zeal of God delayed the wrath of God but did not undo it. **2KI 23:24-26.**
- A. Delayed wrath is certainly better than immediate wrath! **2KI 20:19; DAN 4:27.**
 - B. Let us pray for godly leaders. **1TI 2:1-2; PRO 29:2.**
- VI. Thirteen years later, Josiah meddled with Pharaoh-necho of Egypt, which action God used to cut short his days. **2CH 35:20-24 c/w PRO 26:17.**
- A. Jeremiah lamented for Josiah. **2CH 35:25 c/w LAM 4:20.**
 - B. Judah wasted no time falling back into apostasy and forward to judgment. All that Josiah had accomplished was abandoned.
 - C. No leader can carry a people who will not carry themselves in his absence. **EXO 32:1; GAL 4:18.**
 - D. The Philippian saints showed the right way. **PHIL 2:12.**
 - E. The absence of our Lord is a test of our faith and patience. **LUK 18:8 c/w MAT 24:45-46.**