**The Reign of King Josiah**

*2 Chronicles 34-35*

**Introduction**

1. After Solomon’s death, Israel and Judah were divided into separate kingdoms.
   1. Both had periods of corruption and unfaithfulness to the Lord, but Israel more so than Judah (continuously characterized by idolatry and ungodliness).
   2. Israel was the first to fall into captivity because of rebellion to God. (Assyrian captivity)
2. During Israel’s destruction, **Hezekiah reigned in Judah (29-year reign).**
   1. He was a good king, faithful to God.
   2. ***“He did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done” (2 Chronicles 29:2)***.
3. After Hezekiah’s death, **his son Manasseh took his place as king (55-year reign).**
   1. He was an evil king, unfaithful to God.
   2. ***“But he did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel” (2 Chronicles 33:2).***
   3. Manasseh had a great influence in his evil ways upon the people of Judah – ***“So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel” (2 Chronicles 33:9).***
   4. His son **Amon ruled after him (2-year reign**) – ***“he did evil in the sight of the Lord, as his father Manasseh had done” (2 Chronicles 33:22).***
   5. Amon was assassinated by his servants, and then Josiah was made king (**cf. 2 Chronicles 33:24-25)**.
4. Josiah was born in to a morally depraved time in Judah, **and was handed the throne at the young age of 8.** His reign as king, especially at such a young start, and in such time of difficulty in unfaithfulness, was very impressive.
5. The Reign of King Josiah
6. He did what was right **(cf. 34:1-2).**
   1. ***“he did not turn aside to the right hand or the left”*** – To the degree of his knowledge of the Law, he strove to observe every bit.
   2. **(34:3-7)** – Purged Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, and idols.
      1. **(v. 3a)** – began to seek God at a young age – 16.
      2. (**v. 3b)** – began the purge at a young age – 20.
      3. **Despite the influence Manasseh had on Judah, Josiah sought to follow God, and led his people in the way of righteousness. (Must have taken great courage.)**
   3. **(34:8)** – Sent men to repair the house of the Lord (**to once again make sure the place of God was regarded as holy.)**
      1. He sent money to the men in order to repair the temple.
      2. **The house of the Lord began repair, and something important was found 🡪**
7. The Book of the Law
   1. **(34:14-18)** – The book of the Law, long misplaced, was found and taken to king Josiah.
   2. **(34:19-21)** – Shaphan read the contents of the book to Josiah.
      1. ***“he tore his clothes”*** – humility and sorrow for not practicing its contents.
      2. **(v. 21)** – Turned to God in fear (as all should have).
      3. ***“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth” (Deuteronomy 28:1).***
      4. ***“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you” (Deuteronomy 28:15).***
      5. It is those curses which Josiah heard, of which included: ***“The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies” (Deuteronomy 28:25).***
   3. **(34:26-28)** – God promised to spare Josiah from seeing the calamity.
      1. Inquired of the Lord concerning the curses – went to Huldah the prophetess.
      2. Huldah said these things would come to pass.
      3. **However, because Josiah humbled himself in godly sorrow, God would spare him from the calamity.**
8. Josiah Reads the Book to the People
   1. **(34:29-32)** – Josiah had the book of the covenant read to the people.
      1. **(v. 31)** – made a covenant himself to follow it.
      2. **(v. 32)** – made those who were present take a stand.
   2. (**34:33**) – Josiah restored true worship.
      1. **(35:1, 16-19**) – Josiah observed the Passover like none other.
      2. In the end, Josiah was killed in battle.
      3. ***“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” (2 Kings 23:25).***
      4. **Josiah left behind a legacy, and a great example due to his faithfulness.**
9. Applications to Consider
10. Godly Sorrow Leads to Repentance **(cf. 2 Chronicles 34:19, 27)**
    1. **God expects us to understand the gravity concerning sin.**
    2. Sin is a terrible thing, and failing to follow God brings dire consequences (**cf. Romans 6:23).**
    3. **2 Corinthians 7:8-11** – Upon hearing the word of God, and being convicted of sin, we should be moved to godly sorrow.
       1. This sorrow leads to repentance.
       2. **Repentance is shown. (EX: Josiah in restoring worship, and leading the people.)**
11. Strength in Example (**cf. 2 Chronicles 34:31-32)**
    1. **Josiah was a leader, and leaders affect those they lead greatly by serving as an example.**
    2. After himself making a covenant before the Lord, he was able to influence others to ***“take a stand.”***
    3. **1 Timothy 4:12-13, 16** – Like Timothy, we should constantly think of being an example to others.
    4. **Titus 2:6-8** – We should follow Paul’s instructions given to Titus as well.
    5. **This is sorely needed as more and more individuals become laxer concerning spiritual matters. More need to stand up and be an example of righteousness.**
12. Importance of the Word of God (**cf. 2 Chronicles 34:30**)
    1. **Josiah did not set the book of the law down and begin speaking other things.**
    2. He used the word of God to convict the people, and exhort them to follow what was written.
    3. **His sorrow notes the importance of the word of God in that things were neglected due to a lack of divine guidance through the word.**
    4. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – If we wish to be approved, complete, and thoroughly equipped before God we must read and follow scripture.
    5. ***“These things I write to you …that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:14-15).***
    6. The church cannot function properly if we do not appeal to scripture!

**Conclusion**

1. Josiah reigned in Judah as a righteous king before God.
2. He leaves us an example to follow.
3. We should remember Josiah, and learn from his ways.