

Rediscovering the Law of the LORD

2 Kings 22-23

2 Kings 22:1-7

A Good Start

1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. His mother's name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah; she was from Bozkath. 2 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in all the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

2KI 22:3 In the eighteenth year of his reign, King Josiah sent the secretary, Shaphan son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the temple of the LORD. He said: 4 "Go up to Hilkiah the high priest and have him get ready the money that has been brought into the temple of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have collected from the people. 5 Have them entrust it to the men appointed to supervise the work on the temple. And have these men pay the workers who repair the temple of the LORD-- 6 the carpenters, the builders and the masons. Also have them purchase timber and dressed stone to repair the temple. 7 But they need not account for the money entrusted to them, because they are acting faithfully."

QUESTIONS:

As an eight year old king, Josiah must have had advisors helping to direct his reign. Since his mother is prominently mentioned in verse one, many commentators think she was instrumental in his desire to do right for

his father, Amon, had been an evil king (see 2 Kings 21:20).

Why are parents so crucial in the spiritual development of their children and how should they fulfill that role? (see Deut 6:4-9 and Ephesians 6:4)

Why does vs 2 emphasize that Josiah did what was right "in the eyes of the LORD" and that he didn't turn "aside to the right or to the left?"

How does the LORD view your righteousness and how straight is your walk of obedience before Him?

When Josiah was 21 (see vs 3) he instructed the high priest to have repairs made to the Temple of the LORD. Apparently his father and the other kings who had allowed idolatry to continue in Judah had also let the Temple of the LORD fall into disrepair.

Money had been collected from the people for the repairs and was entrusted to the workers without even needing an accounting of it, because the workers were so trustworthy.

How trustworthy are you?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. If your body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit, what kind of shape is His Temple in? (physically, mentally, and spiritually?)

2 Kings 22:8-13

An Important Find

2KI 22:8 Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the LORD." He gave it to Shaphan, who read it. 9 Then Shaphan the secretary went to the king and reported to him: "Your officials have

paid out the money that was in the temple of the LORD and have entrusted it to the workers and supervisors at the temple." 10 Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king.

2KI 22:11 *When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes. 12 He gave these orders to Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Acbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king's attendant: 13 "Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the LORD's anger that burns against us because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us."*

QUESTIONS:

While doing the repairs they found the Book of the Law. Though the text is not specific about what portion of the Law they found, the king's response to what he heard leads many people to believe that it at least included Deuteronomy 28-30. Glance back over that passage to see God's promises of blessings for obedience and His warnings against disobedience.

What does the tearing of his robes indicate about Josiah?

How seriously do you take the commandments and warnings of God's Word?

When was the last time that something you read in the Bible

brought true conviction to you and why?

Josiah believed God's anger was great against them, because their fathers had not obeyed God's Word. He lamented over their guilt, but also feared the judgment that God warned would follow. Do you believe that God is angry with us today for the same reasons? Why or why not?

2 Kings 22:14-20

A Word from the LORD

2KI 22:14 Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Acbor, Shaphan and Asaiah went to speak to the prophetess Huldah, who was the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the Second District.

2KI 22:15 She said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Tell the man who sent you to me, 16 'This is what the LORD says: I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people, according to everything written in the book the king of Judah has read. 17 Because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods and provoked me to anger by all the idols their hands have made, my anger will burn against this place and will not be quenched.' 18 Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says concerning the words you heard: 19 Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people, that they would become accursed and laid waste, and

because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the LORD. 20 Therefore I will gather you to your fathers, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place.' "

So they took her answer back to the king.

QUESTIONS:

This is one of the prominent passages where God uses a woman to speak the Word of the LORD and prophesy God's message to His people. Specifically, God instructs Huldah to answer Josiah's inquiry concerning the fulfillment of the judgment which he read about in the Book of the Law. Huldah related that God was angry and would bring judgment on the land, but because Josiah was remorseful when he heard, the LORD would allow him to die before the disaster came.

How do you think Josiah felt about God's message to him?

Is your heart "responsive" to what you read in God's Word and do you "humble yourself before the LORD" when you hear about His judgment that will come upon people in the Last Days?

What about your life and attitude would cause God to delay that judgment?

2 Kings 23:1-3

A Proper Response

2KI 23:1 Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. 2 He went up to the temple of the LORD with the men of Judah, the people of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets--all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of

the LORD. 3 The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD--to follow the LORD and keep his commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant.

QUESTIONS:

Josiah had received word from the LORD that he would not see the coming destruction, so why did he have everyone come to listen to the Word of the LORD be read?

Josiah led the people to a national revival. They listened to the Word and made commitments to obey the covenant. The rest of 2 Kings 23 describes how they removed idolatry and wicked practices and began to observe the covenant ceremonies and rituals which God commanded.

What would it take to see revival come to the churches of America?

What would it take for revival to come to you?

APPLICATION

2 Kings 23: 25 concludes this about Josiah: *Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the LORD as he did--with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.*

How would God describe you and your walk with Him? How would you like Him to describe you? What do you need to rediscover in order to become the person that God wants you to be?

FAITH SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

May 2, 2010

Rediscovering the Law of the LORD

Focal Passage: 2 Kings 22-23

Cross References: Deuteronomy 6:4-9;
Ephesians 6:4; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20;
Deuteronomy 28-30

Central Idea: Josiah, one of Judah's few good kings, orders the Temple to be repaired and in the process finds the book of the Law which brings conviction upon the king and his nation.

Lesson Idea: The Word of God is often neglected, but if we will rediscover its message, it will bring a conviction to our lives that leads to repentance and revival..

Historical Context: Josiah became king of Judah in 640 BC at the young age of eight years old. He reigned for 31 years and was a good and righteous king. According to 2 Chronicles 34:3-7, Josiah made a strong commitment to the LORD at the age of sixteen. At the age of twenty he began ridding Judah of the idolatry that was so rampant. A year later, as recorded in 2 Kings 22, Josiah ordered the Temple to be repaired. It is during this repair that an important discovery is made that shakes Josiah and his nation to their core.

Bible in a Year Daily Readings

April 25-May 2, 2010

Apr 25 2nd Kings 19 - 21
Apr 26 2nd Kings 22 - 23
Apr 27 2nd Kings 24 - 25
Apr 28 1st Chronicles 1 - 2
Apr 29 1st Chronicles 3 - 4
Apr 30 1st Chronicles 5 - 6
May 1 1st Chronicles 7 - 9
May 2 1st Chronicles 10 - 12

Read the Bible Through Highlights of the Week:

April 25-May 2, 2010

2 Kings 22: Josiah finds the Law
2 Kings 23: Josiah's reforms
2 Kings 24: Exile into Babylon
2 Kings 25: Jerusalem destroyed

NOTE:

The books of 1-2 Chronicles are a retelling of much of the information from 1-2 Samuel and 1-2 Kings, though sometimes with details that are not found in any of the other books.

1 Chron 1-9: Genealogies
1 Chron 10: Death of Saul
1 Chron 11: David and his mighty men