



# Metropolis

metrocalvary @ children's ministry

## JOSIAH

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**Series:** History of Israel – The Divided Kingdom

**Reference:** Second Kings 21-23; Second Chronicles 34-35

**Today's Theme Verse:** <sup>8</sup> This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.

For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (*Joshua 1:8*)

**Theme:** Return to the Lord

**Objectives:**

1. The children will learn that people return to the Lord as they are moved by God's Spirit and respond to His Word.
2. The children will know that you cannot return to the Lord without turning from sin (repentance).
3. The children will understand that the only way to return to the Lord is through our Righteous King Jesus.

**Introduction:** We are setting aside some time to think about some of the heroes of the faith we read about in the Bible. As we look at these heroes we want to see that what makes them heroes is that they trusted in the Lord and they pointed us to Jesus; the greatest of all heroes. Today we are thinking about Josiah. Josiah is a hero because he heard and obeyed the word of God, he led the nation to repent, and he pointed the nation to the coming Savior, the Lord Jesus.

**Background:** Because King Solomon turned his heart away from the Lord, the Lord divided the kingdom (*First Kings 11:9-13*). After the death of Solomon the twelve tribes of Israel were divided into two kingdoms. There were ten tribes in the north called the Kingdom of Israel, and two tribes in the south called the Kingdom of Judah. Some of Judah's kings were good while most were bad, but all of Israel's kings were bad. During the time of the divided kingdom, God raised up prophets to proclaim his will and pronounce judgment to Israel and Judah and point people back to the Lord.

By the time of Josiah, the northern kingdom of Israel had fallen to the Assyrians and was taken into captivity in 722 B.C. (*Second Kings 17*). It would be another 78 years before the southern kingdom of Judah would fall to the Babylonians and be taken into captivity in 586 B.C. (*Second Kings 25*). In 605 B.C. Manasseh became king of Judah and proved to be the most wicked of all of Judah's kings (*Second Kings 21:1-9*). Because of his wickedness, the Lord declared by His prophets that Judah would be judged and fall to their enemies (*Second Kings 21:10-18*). And, although Manasseh wonderfully repented (*Second Chronicles 33:10-20*), the judgment would not be averted. Manasseh served the Lord God during the last years of his life, which certainly was a big influence on his grandson Josiah. Manasseh was followed by his son, Amon, who ruled only two years and did evil in God's sight. He was like Manasseh before he repented (*Second Kings 21:19-26*). Amon's son, Josiah, was six years old when Grandpa Manasseh died. He only knew the repentant Manasseh.

**Summary:** Josiah was eight years old when he became king of Judah. It was Josiah's desire to **Return to the Lord** (*Second Kings 22:1-2*). Not only that, he wanted to use his position to lead the nation in returning to the Lord. **People return to the Lord as they are moved by God's Spirit and respond to His Word.** In the process of repairing the Temple a copy of the Book of the Law (a part of the Bible) was found (*Second Kings 22:3-9*). When Josiah heard the Words of the Book of the Law, he knew that he and the people had sinned against God (*Second Kings 22:11-13*). In response, Josiah turned the nation away from its idolatry and sin (*Second Kings 23:1-20*). **You cannot return to the Lord without turning from sin (repentance).** And having ended the idol worship, Josiah restored the Passover (*Second Kings 23:21-23*). The Passover is a picture of Jesus (*Exodus 11-12*). Righteous King Josiah led the nation to **Return to the Lord** by bringing them back to the Passover lamb. **The only way to return to the Lord is through our Righteous King Jesus,** who is Himself the Passover Lamb (*First Corinthians 5:7*). The Passover lamb in Egypt was slain and its blood was applied to the doorposts so that those who were in the house would be saved and live and not die when the death angel came. Jesus our Passover Lamb was slain on the cross and he shed His blood so that all those who believe on Him and turn from sin are forgiven and they received the gift of eternal life.

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## LESSON:

### **<sup>1</sup>I. The State of the Nation (*Second Kings 21:19-26*)**

Judah had been ruled by a long line of mostly wicked kings who did not serve the Lord, but rather worshiped idols. The most wicked of these kings had been Manasseh (*Second Kings 21:1-9*). It was because of his wickedness that the Lord declared by His prophets that Judah would be judged and fall to their enemies (*Second Kings 21:10-18*). Manasseh repented and sought to bring the people back to the Lord (*Second Chronicles 33:10-20*). He stopped the idol worship and restored the worship of the Lord. But Manasseh's son, Amon, became king after him (*Second Kings 21:19-26*). He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He turned the people back to the sin and idolatry and was like Manasseh before he repented.

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<sup>1</sup> Portions of the CLASSROOM DISCUSSION adapted from "The Reason, Realities and Results of Revival" – a message by Pastor Richard Cimino.

## II. Josiah's Life and Reign Summarized (*Second Kings 22:1-2*)

Josiah became king of Judah when he was eight years old after the death of his father, Amon (*Second Kings 21:23-26*). He reigned 31 years. He was only 39 years old when he died (*Second Kings 23:28-30*).

Josiah was faithful to the Lord. He did right in the eyes of the Lord. Like the other kings of Judah, Josiah was compared to David. Unlike most of the Kings of Judah, Josiah walked in the ways of David. He did not turn left or right out of the way of following the Lord. This is how the kings in Israel should have lived (*Deuteronomy 17:18-20*). It was through the life and reign of this righteous king that God brought revival to the kingdom of Judah, and the people **returned to the Lord**.

## III. Question: How did God bring revival? How did the people of Judah **Return to the Lord**?

There are seven things we need to learn about revival and people returning to the Lord from the life and reign of King Josiah.

### 1. Repairing the House of the Lord (*Second Kings 22:3-7*)

Because King Josiah loved the Lord, he wanted the Temple to be repaired and maintained. Over the years, while the people of Judah had worshipped false gods they had neglected the Temple, the House of the Lord. It had fallen into disrepair. Josiah ordered that the money be spent and the work be done to repair the Temple. The New Testament teaches us that the Temple is symbolic of the people of God, the church (*Ephesians 2:19-22*). As God works revival, and people **return to the Lord**, broken lives and relationships are repaired and restored. As God works revival, and people **return to the Lord**, biblical truth that has been neglected is again believed and proclaimed.

### 2. Rediscovering God's Word (*Second Kings 22:8-10*)

While the work of repairing the temple was going on, Hilkiyah the high priest found the Book of the Law. The "Book of the Law" refers to the book of Deuteronomy (*Deuteronomy 28:61; 29 21*). It was commanded in the law that every king write for himself a copy of the book of Deuteronomy (*Deuteronomy 17:18*). Over the years the people had grown so far away from the Lord, that there wasn't even one copy of God's law available. The only copy left was buried, lost, and hidden "in the house of the Lord."

What a picture of a large segment of church culture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. People meet in churches weekly, but there is no place for the Word of God. It is lost amongst the crowded order of service - buried under social commentary, lost by man's attempt to make the Bible say something less than what is in it; or by man's attempt to make it say something more than what is in it. *Richard Cimino*

Hilkiyah the priest gave the Book to Shaphan the king's secretary, and Shaphan took it to the king and read it to him. As God works revival, and people **return to the Lord**, God causes His people to rediscover His Word. **People return to the Lord as they are moved by God's Spirit and respond to His Word.**

### 3. Recognizing Sin and Idols (*Second Kings 22:11*)

When Shaphan read the Book of the Law before the king, Josiah tore his clothes. By tearing his clothes Josiah was expressing grief and repentance over his and the nations sin and failure to keep God's law. "He came to a great sense of his own sinfulness, and the sinfulness of the Southern kingdom" (*Richard Cimino*). As God works revival, and people **return to the Lord**, they will begin to turn away from sin. **You cannot return to the Lord without turning from sin.** This turning from sin is called repentance.

### 4. Requesting Instructions (*Second Kings 22:12-20*)

Not content to simply hear the reading of God's Word, Josiah sent his men to a Prophetess named Huldah to seek instructions from the Lord. How was he to apply God's Word to his life and the life of the nation? It is self-deception to hear God's Word and not put it into practice (*James 1:22*). As God works revival, and people **return to the Lord**, they will seek to apply God's Word to their lives. **People return to the Lord as they are moved by God's Spirit and respond**

to His Word. Josiah knew that God's wrath was coming upon the nation because they had failed to keep His law. There seems to have been hope that God's judgment could be averted. Through the prophetess Huldah, the Lord restated the certain judgment that would come upon Judah that He had pronounced to Manasseh (*Second Kings 21:10-15*). But because Josiah had repented, the Lord said that the judgment would not come in his lifetime. Josiah had **returned to the Lord** as demonstrated by his acts of repentance. As God works revival, and people **return to the Lord**, they will begin to turn away from sin. You cannot return to the Lord without turning from sin. This turning from sin is called repentance.

#### **5. Responding Outwardly in Covenant (*Second Kings 23:1-3*)**

Josiah read publicly the Book of the Law to people of Judah. Josiah made a covenant with the people of Judah before the Lord that they would keep the commandments of the Lord with all their hearts. As God works revival, and people **return to the Lord**, God causes His people to rediscover His Word. People return to the Lord as they are moved by God's Spirit and respond to His Word. All the people agreed and joined in the covenant.

#### **6. Removing Idols (*Second Kings 23:4-6*)**

Josiah responded to the Word of the Lord by putting an end to the idolatry in Judah. He began with the idolatry that was in the Temple of the Lord and moved out from there.

Inside the Temple of God there were actually altars to false gods. Josiah ordered them to be taken out, burned up and stomped upon. Don't miss the order of these things - There are some who think that this is to come first in revival. But it does not. In the Bible you always see the moving of God first and the removal of idols and sin as a response to God. You see we are so given over to sin, that unless God moves upon our hearts we have no desire and no power to remove sin from our lives. But when we are touched by the goodness of God, we are moved to repent... remove sin from our lives. *Richard Cimino*

As God works revival, and people **return to the Lord**, they will begin to turn away from sin. You cannot return to the Lord without turning from sin. This turning from sin is called repentance. Verses 7-20 tell how Josiah even went up into the land of the kingdom of Israel, which was then occupied by the Assyrians, to put an end to idolatry. This was prophesied long before (*First Kings 13*).

#### **7. Remembering the Lamb (*Second Kings 23:21-23*)**

Josiah led the people to celebrate the Passover. Passover was a remembrance of the way God had delivered the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. Passover was also looking forward to Jesus, "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (*John 1:29*). Although God had commanded that the Passover be celebrated every year, it had been neglected for many, many years. No Passover like this one had been kept in all Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet (*Second Chronicles 35:18*). To **return to the Lord** you must go to Jesus. He is the fulfillment of the Passover (*First Corinthians 5:7*). If you have not come to the Lord, you must come through faith in Jesus alone. Jesus died to pay the penalty for sinners and He rose again from the dead. All who put their faith in Him and turn from sin will be saved and receive the gift of eternal life. Righteous King Josiah led the nation to **Return to the Lord** by bringing them back to the Passover lamb. The only way to return to the Lord is through our Righteous King Jesus, who is Himself the Passover Lamb (*John 14:6; John 1:29*). As God works revival, and people **return to the Lord**, they will come to the Lord through faith in Jesus, God's only Son. As God works revival, and people **return to the Lord**, it will be all about Jesus.

When men and women are experiencing revival will be talking about Jesus. It is Jesus who revives us. It is Jesus who becomes more wonderful to us. That is always the result of true revival. Glory is brought to Jesus.

Jesus is the *alpha and omega* - Jesus is the *first and the last*. All of this starts with Jesus and ends with Jesus. There is nothing deeper than Jesus. There is nothing more than Jesus. Beware of anything that gets more attention than Jesus. The result of real revival in the hearts of people is people being in love with Jesus. That is what we want to see, that is what we want to experience. *Richard Cimino*

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Listen to the Lesson! Make a Mark For each time you hear:

BIBLE	GOD	JESUS	LOVE
Christian	Faith	Heaven	Pray

Lesson Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORY VERSE

QUESTIONS I HAVE?

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PRAYER REQUESTS

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