

Great Stories of the Bible - 03/27/22

Josiah – He Did What Was Right

TEXT- 2 Kings 22:1-2 *Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath. 2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.*

INTRO – Josiah was the king of Judah from approximately 640 to 609 B.C. His reign in Jerusalem is discussed in 2 Kings 22–23 and 2 Chronicles 34–35. Josiah was the son of King Amon and the grandson of King Manasseh—both of them wicked kings of Judah. Yet Josiah was a godly king and known as one of the world's youngest kings; he began his reign at age 8 after his father was assassinated. A highlight of Josiah's reign was his rediscovery of the Law of the Lord.

I. He was the good son of a wicked father.

Hezekiah, was a good king, succeeded by Manasseh, a very wicked king. Amon was also a wicked king. Josiah was a “root out of a dry ground.” Manasseh built up what Hezekiah had torn down, and tore down what Hezekiah had built up.

Instead of imitating godly Hezekiah, Manasseh followed the ways of King Ahab. History tells us that Isaiah was sawn in two by Manasseh; Hebrews 11:37 . . . *they were sawn asunder,*

Young persons who are from unfavorable circumstances, should take comfort and courage from the life of Josiah.

The Assyrian captains took Manasseh to Babylon where he was put into prison.

When he was in affliction he besought the Lord.” God in His grace forgave the evil king and permitted him to return to his throne.

God gave Manasseh the longest reign of any Hebrew king, yet he accomplished almost nothing.

His father was perhaps Judah's greatest king (except for David); the prophet Isaiah was ministering in his day; yet Manasseh failed to find the Lord until the close of his life.

II. Josiah had godly influence by his mother and the high priest

In the eighth year of his reign, when he was sixteen, Josiah began to seek the Lord. “While he was yet young”

Hilkiah the high priest taught Josiah the Word of God.

A mother's hand into his young mind, bore fruit many days after in personal decision for God, and national reformation?

A mother's influence, cannot be over-estimated.

“He began to seek after the God of David, his father.”

Religion became to him all—a matter of *personal* concern.

“Everyone shall give account of *himself* unto God.”

What are your convictions?

- Joseph received visions from God as a young man
- Samuel served God as a young man
- David had a heart for God as a young man
- Daniel and the three Hebrew children stood for God
- A little maid gave counsel to Naaman

III. The condition of the people was evil

The people were deteriorating; sinking lower and lower.

Idolatry had eaten into the heart and life of the nation

Single handed Josiah resolved to stem the tide of national ungodliness.

Instead of bowing to the culture he rose to the occasion,

He showed courage to declare himself on the Lord's side, when the nation's life was in an entirely opposite direction.

“Topheth” — the valley of the son of Hinnom where the people burned their children as sacrifices to Molech. Manasseh made this valley a garbage dump and Ge-hinnom became, in the NT, “Gehenna” — a vivid illustration of hell.

The Mount of Olives had been a “mount of corruption” **2 Ki 23:13**

Josiah uncovered the altar of wicked King Jeroboam

IV. He Becomes a reformer

He set out ridding the country of every trace of idolatry”

The houses of Israelites were to be cleansed from every morsel of leaven.

Every instrument or image, if of wood, was burnt; if of metal or stone, was shattered to pieces and ground to powder”

At least six years were occupied in this reformation.

Having purged away the idols, Josiah could now concentrate on re-establishing the true worship of Jehovah.

It is not enough to tear down; we must also build up.

He commanded the priests to gather money and repair the temple.

While repairing the temple, the high priest discovered a copy of the Law Many reforms followed:

The temple was cleansed from all objects of pagan worship,

The idolatrous high places in the land were demolished.

Josiah restored the observance of the Passover **2 Kings 23:2–23**

Removed mediums and witches from the land.

2 Kings 23:25 *And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.*

Josiah died in battle against the Egyptian Pharaoh Necho at Megiddo.

King Josiah was buried in Jerusalem in his own tomb, and his son

Jehoahaz took the role of king.

V. The Results

What did Josiah's reforms and restorations accomplish?

During Josiah's day, there was peace and blessing;

Josiah's godly life and ministry had stayed the hand of judgment a few more years, but captivity was coming and nothing could prevent it.

Much can be learned from Josiah's life that is positive.

First, Josiah shows the influence a person can have from a very young age.

Even children have enormous potential to live for God

Second, Josiah lived a life fully committed and obedient to God

Third, Josiah properly responded to God's Word.

CONCL - 2 Kings 22:19 *Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD.*

Many revivals have begun through the influence of young people.