

**BOOK OF 2 KINGS  
ELEMENTS OF GENUINE REVIVAL  
PT 2-REPENTANCE  
2 KINGS 23:1-3**

**Introduction**

We started looking last week at the beginnings of this **REVIVAL** in the nation of **JUDAH** that occurred during the reign of **KING JOSIAH** while the kingdom of **JUDAH** was under a cloud of impending **JUDGMENT** that the **LORD** had already decreed against them for all their evil leading up to and including the reign of **JOSIAH'S** grandfather, **MANASSEH!**

We are noting **THE ELEMENTS OF GENUINE REVIVAL** as we go through the text here.

We saw how this **REVIVAL** actually began when **JOSIAH** came to power and **did that which was right in the sight of the LORD** and **walked in all the way of DAVID** and **turned not aside to the right hand or to the left!**

*2 Chronicles 34:3 tells us that “...in the eighth year of his reign , while he was yet young he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.”*

**So at 16 years of age he was already making reforms in the land!  
I want to note from this that ONE MAN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**  
Now it was ten years later when he was 18 years into his reign that the **TEMPLE** was cleaned up and the **WORD OF GOD** was found!

We saw last week as we looked at *1 Kings 22* how that **GENUINE REVIVAL INVOLVES REDEDICATION!**

**THE TEMPLE OF GOD had been neglected, become rundown, and had fallen into a bad state of disrepair! THE WORD OF GOD had also been neglected and ignored for years because it was lost among the mess in the **TEMPLE!****

**We said that ONE OF THE DEFINING MARKS OF REVIVAL IS A RENEWED DEVOTION TO THE HOUSE OF GOD AND THE WORD OF GOD!**

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The **BIBLE** is the “**FINAL AUTHORITY**” and it must be honored as such!

**THE BIBLE TELLS US WHAT WE ARE TO BELIEVE AND BE!**

A real, genuine **REVIVAL** will be marked by a return to the **WORD OF GOD** as the **FINAL AUTHORITY**.

A **GENUINE REVIVAL** will revolve around the **WORD OF GOD** as **GOD'S** people clean up their **TEMPLE** (*i.e. body*), get back into **GOD'S WORD**, and **DEDICATE** themselves to keeping and honoring its **WORDS!**

**WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT GENUINE REVIVAL INVOLVES REPENTANCE! (23:1-3)**

- I. WE SAW JOSIAH'S PERSONAL RESPONSE TO THE LAW!**  
We saw last week that when **HILKIAH** the **HIGH PRIEST** found the **BOOK OF THE LAW**, he brought it to **SHAPHAN** the **SCRIBE** who read it and then brought it to **KING JOSIAH** and read it to the **KING**. (22:8-10)

**JOSIAH'S** response was immediate! “*He rent his clothes*” (22:11) **Understand that in that culture, the tearing of one's clothes was an act of great anguish and sorrow, and was associated with showing one's mourning or repentance.**

If **JOSIAH** didn't know before that time that **JUDAH** was in a heap of trouble with the **LORD**, he knew it when he heard the **LAW!** **GOD'S LAW** laid out their exceeding sinfulness before the **LORD!** That is one of the purposes of the **LAW!**

*Romans 3:19-20—“19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”*

(Cf. *Romans 7:5-25*)

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But the **LAW** of the **LORD** not only brought **CONVICTION OF SIN**, but it also prescribed the **LORD’S JUDGMENT** for their having broken the **LORD’S LAW**, as well as the provision for **SACRIFICES for sin!**

The first thing **JOSIAH** did after tearing his clothes was to send an entourage to enquire of the **LORD** to find out just how much trouble they were in and what they should do! And that was exactly what he should have done!

Some people hear the **WORD** and turn a deaf ear to it or cast it off!  
Some people hear the **WORD** and make light of it!  
Some people hear the **WORD** and are convicted by it and moved by it!  
We need to be careful how we **RECEIVE** the **WORD** and what we do with it!

*James 1:21–22– “21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”*

**JOSIAH** had a proper response to the **WORD OF GOD**. But later on we will see that his son, **JEHOIAKIM**, one of two sons of **JOSIAH** that reigned after him, did **NOT** have a proper response to the **WORD**. (Cf. *Jeremiah 36*) But that is for later study!

**JOSIAH** was told by **HULDAH THE PROPHETESS** that because he had a proper response to the **WORD**, the **JUDGMENT** that the **LORD** had determined on **JUDAH** would **NOT** come during **HIS REIGN**.

So, the **LORD** gave **JOSIAH** and **JUDAH** a space of **GRACE** during his reign! But that only came because **JOSIAH** determined to do what was right in his life and in his reign! (*22:19-20*)

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**II. WE SEE JOSIAH TOOK THE LAW TO THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH! (23:1-3)**

He read the **LAW** to them and led them in a time of **PERSONAL** and **NATIONAL REPENTANCE!**

They **REPENTED** and joined together in a **COVENANT** by which **they committed themselves to keep and honor the WORD OF GOD.**

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Sadly, **REPENTANCE** is a word we don’t hear mentioned very much anymore. The dictionary defines **REPENTANCE** as “*deep sorrow or contrition over a past sin.*”

The **BIBLE**, however, has a somewhat expanded definition of what **REPENTANCE** truly is. In the **OLD TESTAMENT**, the word “*repent*” means “*to be sorry*”. In the **NEW TESTAMENT**, the word “*repent*” means “*to change one’s mind*”. It refers to “*a change of mind that results in a change of action.*”

When true **REPENTANCE** occurs, an individual **first recognizes the fact that they have done something wrong. They feel SORROW because of their sin; they experience a CHANGE OF MIND about their sin!** They head out in a **NEW DIRECTION!** (i.e. **They turn from their direction away from the LORD back to HIM!**)

**REPENTANCE** is not just being sorry we did something, or being sorry that we were caught doing something. **REPENTANCE** means that we are sorry enough over what we have done that we stop doing it! **REPENTANCE** means that we are **no longer walking away from GOD, following our own path for our lives, but rather we begin to walk toward GOD, following HIS path for our lives!**

Sadly, **REPENTANCE** is being neglected in many pulpits of our day. Yet, if we are ever going to see a **GENUINE REVIVAL** in our day, there must be **REPENTANCE** among the **PEOPLE OF GOD** first!

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*(2 Chronicles 7:14)*

We must learn to take the **BIBLE** as our guide for living a life that is pleasing to the **LORD**. We must **REPENT!** (i.e. **Turn from our wicked ways** before the **LORD** will bring **REVIVAL** in our lives!) When we discover a difference between the way we are living our lives and how the **BIBLE** says we should be living our lives, we must **REPENT!** (i.e. We must change our minds about our ways and then turn our steps back in **GOD'S** direction!)

**GOD** isn't going to change **HIS** mind and **HE** isn't going to change **HIS WORD!**  
**HE** demands **REPENTANCE** from all those who are out of step with **HIM!**  
**HE** requires **REPENTANCE** from all those who want to experience a **GENUINE REVIVAL!**

We cannot hold on to our own sinful, selfish ways and still have the **POWER, PRESENCE** and **BLESSINGS** of the **LORD!** There must be **REPENTANCE** before there can ever be **RESTORATION** and **REVIVAL.**

(**JESUS** illustrated this in **HIS PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON** – *Luke 15:11-24!* The **PRODIGAL** never made things right with the father until he first came to himself and got honest about his own sins! When we come clean, we can also be made clean!

*1 John 1:5-10*

That's our **BIBLE** Study for this evening. **LORD** willing next week we will see that another **ELEMENT OF GENUINE REVIVAL** is **REFORMATION!**