King Josiah: A Model for Revival

By
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- Josiah [was] eight years old when he became king,
- and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem.
- He did right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of his father David and did not turn aside to the right or to the left.
  - 2 Chronicles 34:1-3 (NASU)
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• For in the eighth year of his reign while he was still a youth, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, the carved images and the molten images.

• 2 Chronicles 34:1-3 (NASU)
Josiah removed all the abominations from all the lands belonging to the sons of Israel, and made all who were present in Israel to serve the Lord their God. Throughout his lifetime they did not turn from following the Lord God of their fathers. 2 Chronicles 34:33 (NASU)
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• Before him there was no king like him who 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; nor did any like him arise after him.
  • 2 Kings 23:25 (NASU)
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• Background
  – Born 640 BC and died in 609
  – King Manasas was his grandfather
  – Josiah means “God will give or bring”
  – He is mentioned in Christ’s genealogy in Matthew 1
  – He governed and reformed the nation before Israel went into captivity
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• Background
  – Judah was distant from God and His law
  – Josiah was zealous for God
  – The Law was found under the rubble of the Temple
  – The Law is read before King Josiah
  – King Josiah repents for himself and the people
  – Josiah starts a spiritual reformation
  – The reform influences all levels of society
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I. King Josiah and the Lord

II. King Josiah and the Word

III. King Josiah and the People of God
I. King Josiah and the Lord
   A. Relationship
   B. Renewal
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II. King Josiah and the Word

A. Repentance

B. Transformation
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III. King Josiah and the People of God
   A. Assembled the Leaders and the People of God
   
   B. Celebration and Worship
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I. King Josiah and the Lord

A. Relationship

• Israel was a divided nation
• All the kings of the north did evil in God’s eyes
• Some of the kings of the south feared God
• King Josiah was a shining light in the midst of darkness
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I. King Josiah and the Lord
   • Relationship
     • The king was to model spiritual leadership
     • The king was God’s regent
     • As the king walked with God the people followed him
     • Josiah tried to turn the focus of the nation toward God and away from idols
I. King Josiah and the Lord

A. Relationship

• Josiah took responsibility for himself
• Josiah looked for confirmation from a prophetess called Huldah (2 Chro 34:22-28)
• She was respected and had a good testimony among the people of God
I. King Josiah and the Lord

B. Renewal

- King Josiah had a tender heart, humbled himself, tore his clothes and wept before God
- The result was that the Lord heard him
- Josiah had a passion for God
- Josiah is worthy to be imitated
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II. King Josiah and the Word
   A. Repentance
   B. Transformation
II. King Josiah and the Word

A. Repentance

• Upon hearing the word, Josiah tore his clothes
• This was a sign of grief
• Josiah knew the spiritual consequences of not following the Law i.e., God’s wrath
• Josiah feared for himself and the people
II. King Josiah and the Word

A. Repentance

• Josiah feared the Lord through His Word
• Josiah wanted to turn himself and the nation around
• The repentance began with himself
• Later the leaders and people followed
II. King Josiah and the Word

B. Transformation

- Josiah noted the practice of the nation according to God’s standard
- The country was guilty of idolatry, practice of the occult and following the behavior of the nations
- Josiah knew the importance of God’s Word to change the nation
- Revival needs to be accompanied by a fervor for God’s Word
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ILLUSTRATION:
• Study it carefully, think of it prayerfully,
• Till in your heart its precepts dwell;
• Slight not its history, ponder its mystery,
• None can e’er prize it too fondly or well.
• Author Unknown
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III. King Josiah and the People of God
   A. Assembled the Leaders and the People of God
   B. Celebration and Worship
III. King Josiah and the People of God

A. Assembled the Leaders and the People of God (2 Chro.34:29-32)

- Gathered the elders of Judah and Jerusalem (the political leaders)
- He gathered the priests and the Levites (the religious leaders)
- Brought the people together from the greatest to the least
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III. King Josiah and the People of God

A. Assembled the Leaders and the People of God

• The King read the word of the book of the covenant to all
• The King made a vow to follow the covenant personally
• King Josiah challenged the people to stand with him
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III. King Josiah and the People of God

B. Celebration and Worship (2 Chr. 35:1-19)

• Celebrated the Passover in Jerusalem
• King Josiah set the priests in their office and encouraged them in the service of the house of the Lord
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III. King Josiah and the People of God

B. Celebration and Worship (2 Chr. 35:1-19)

- The Passover was the reminder of God as Redeemer and Covenant Keeper
- The celebration was a reaffirmation of allegiance only to the Lord
- The Passover was a view of the past which points to the present and the future
- God continues to be faithful
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III. King Josiah and the People of God

B. Celebration and Worship (2 Chr. 35:1-19)

• There had not been celebrated a Passover like it in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet; nor had any of the kings of Israel celebrated such a Passover as Josiah did with the priests, the Levites, all Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (2 Chr. 35:18) NASU
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I. King Josiah and the Lord

II. King Josiah and the Word

III. King Josiah and the People of God
CONCLUSION

A warning: 2 Kings 23:26- “However, the Lord did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath with which His anger burned against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him.”
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• CONCLUSION
  – Revival Leaders Must Be
    • God Centered
    • Word Focused
    • Influencers of the People of God
  – John Knox prayed to the Lord “Give me Scotland or I will die”

• Let’s Pray