

### Josiah's Reign

- Begins to rule at 8, and he repairs the temple at either 18 or 26.
- Zephaniah, Jeremiah, and Huldah are prophets during this time.
- They have been gathering money, but have done nothing with it.
- He is described as being like David, but is actually better.

### Law Found

- The law is discovered, and has been completely ignored and forgotten.
- The kings were commanded to write copies of the law, but they have not done so.
- The king tears his clothes in repentance and acknowledges that God will be filled with wrath, which is righteous judgment.
- Huldah, the prophetess, prophesies that judgment is coming, but Josiah will be spared because of his repentance.
- Huldah is not a prophet just because there are no righteous men.
- It is significant that no one else joins him in weeping.
- Josiah gets to die first and not have to see the judgment.
- Israel should join him in repenting, but does not.

### The Reforms

- The king gathers all of the people and reads the law (None of them repent, but they do make promises).
- Idolatrous vessels in the temple are removed and burned.
- The false priests are removed, later some are killed.
- Male prostitutes removed, which have been near the temple.
- The high places of false worship are torn down and defiled.
- Chariots of sun worship are burned and removed.
- Altars are turned to dust and defiled.
- An unnamed prophet's bones are left alone (1 Kings 13:2).
- Sacrificed the high priests on the false altars they made.
- Some of the defilement can appear harsh and possibly extreme.

### Passover

- No one has observed Passover since the time of the judges.
- That means no kings, including David, ever observed Passover.
- There was no other king before or after like Josiah.
- His repentance was not enough to stop God's judgment on Judah.
- He goes to fight Pharaoh Neco, who was going to fight the Assyrians.
- He dies at the Valley of Megiddo.

### Differences in Chronicles

- His story is also mentioned in 2 Chronicles 34-35.
- Kings was written before the exile in Babylon and Chronicles was written afterwards.
- Josiah starts seeking the Lord at 16.
- He begins to tear down idols and high places 6 years before finding the law.
- It gives more details on the grandeur of the Passover feast.
- The names of other leaders are repeatedly mentioned.
- Josiah was warned by God not to fight Egypt, but refused to listen.

### Jesus

- Josiah was a great king, and only Jesus was like Him.
- Jesus is actually able to change the hearts of the people and turn them back.
- This revival and heart change could not come from monarchical policy.
- Josiah's personal repentance could not deal with God's wrath, but Christ's does.
- Josiah dies at Megiddo, where Jesus defeats the antichrist (Rev 16:16).

### Takeaways

- Godly leaders alone are not enough to save a nation.
- The greatest revival ever seen is not enough; we need Jesus.
- We are corporately and individually responsible to repent.