

FINAL STUDY NOTES – 2 Kings Chapters 22-23 5/18-19/2026

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Time (US and Canada).

TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using (waze.com/live map) or MapQuest (mapquest.com), AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

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OPENING PRAYER

Review: 2 KINGS – Chapter 20 – Hezekiah’s Life Extended; The Babylonian Envoys; Death of Hezekiah. Chapter 21 – Manasseh Reigns in Judah; Amon’s Reign and Death.

THIS WEEK: 2 KINGS – Chapter 22 – Josiah Reigns in Judah – (vs. 1-2); Hilkiah Finds the Book of the Law – (vs. 3-20). Chapter 23 – Josiah Restores True Worship - (vs. 1-25); Impending Judgment on Judah – (vs. 26-27); Josiah Dies in Battle – (vs. 28-30); The Reign and Captivity of Jehoahaz – (vs. 31-34); Jehoiakim Reigns in Judah – (vs. 35-37).

Josiah Reigns in Judah

2Ki 22:1-2 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years (640-608BC; 22 years before 586BC Babylon captivity) in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath. [2] And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

- ***Josiah did what was right in the sight of the LORD!*** That is a wonderful word to have spoken concerning us. *In all the ways of his father David, he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. This good king never deviated from commitment and obedience to the LORD!* What a great testimony of a man! He walked a straight path, never wavering!

Josiah Repairs the Temple

2Ki 22:3 Now it came to pass, in the eighteenth year of King Josiah (26 years old), that the king sent Shaphan the scribe, the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the house of the LORD, saying:

- **Notice the chronology of Josiah's growth.** He becomes a king at 8 years of age. Then in (2Ch 34:3) *For in the eighth year (16 years old) of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year (20 years old) he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images.*
- **He calls for the repairing of the temple here at the age of twenty-six.** It is fascinating to notice the age of Josiah at each of these kinds of major events that occurred in his life and in Judah's history. He tells us about them at eight years old, sixteen years old, twenty years old, and twenty-six years old.
- **This should be a great encouragement to the youth among God's people.** An encouragement to surrender your life to the Lord, as early as you know you are to surrender your life to the Lord; and then to believe in the Lord for great things to be accomplished in and through your life!

2Ki 22:4 *"Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may count the money which has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have gathered from the people.*

- **Josiah had a great concern for the temple,** the place where God had ordained that the worship of Him was to be centered. It represented the presence of God among the children of Israel.

2Ki 22:5-7 *And let them deliver it into the hand of those doing the work, who are the overseers in the house of the LORD; let them give it to those who are in the house of the LORD doing the work, to repair the damages of the house—[6] to carpenters and builders and masons—and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house. [7] However there need be no accounting made with them of the money delivered into their hand, because they deal faithfully."*

- **During the reign of Manasseh, the temple was not only in a state of disrepair,** but under the reign of Manasseh, the temple had been desecrated. They built altars for Baal, right in the temple. They set up images of Asherah within the temple. It was in disrepair. Josiah opened it again; to replaster and refurbish it.

Hilkiah Finds the Book of the Law

2Ki 22:8 *Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.*

- **Under the long reign of Manasseh of fifty-five years,** they actually had lost track of the law. This gives you an idea of how Manasseh and Amon were against the LORD; that the scriptures were either destroyed, neglected, or hidden as a result. How does God's Word get lost in the temple? When the temple is supposed to be all about the teaching of God's word, the discipling of God's people, the obeying of God's word? You just think that is crazy. How could God's word get lost in a temple?
- **It is fascinating to watch as the word of God was diminished under Manasseh,** the growth of wickedness under Manasseh **grew in the proportion that the word of God disappeared** from being taught among God's people in the temple. They are always tied together. **You cannot remove the standard of God's Word, and hope to escape a significant downward slip** morally among the people to the degree the Word of God is removed as an influence from a people.
- **Today, look at what is happening before our very eyes spiritually in much of the church in America,** where there is that moving away from the teaching of the word of God. It is a sign that the church is backslidden, heading toward apostasy. It is a warning to us today!
- **Have I lost any zeal and love for the "Book of the Law"? How much am I being influenced by His Word every day? Am I actually spending time with Him in daily meditating, reading, seeking understanding, and praying with my Bible? Am I praying for all churches to teach the Bible?**

2Ki 22:9-10 *So Shaphan the scribe went to the king, bringing the king word, saying, "Your servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of those who do the work, who oversee the house of the LORD." [10] Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.*

- **Josiah is listening to his scribe read this.** You can imagine as he listens to one verse after another; after another; that he realizes Israel is completely on the wrong side of these promises of God. They are totally on the cursed side of things. You can imagine the sanctified horror that just begins to dawn on him as he is listening to all of this.

2Ki 22:11 *Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes.*

- **As a demonstration of how this grieved him, recognizing the danger** that they were in. He tore his clothes as a sign of grief! He also wept (2Ki 22:19c) *and you tore your clothes and wept before Me.*

2Ki 22:12-13 *Then the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of*

Michaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying, [13] "Go, inquire of the LORD for me, for the people and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is aroused against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

- **Note Josiah's physical response, tearing his clothes, weeping!** He feels this deep, deep sense of alarm over what he has just heard. Then his verbal response was that we need to find a prophet to determine from the throne of God, if there is any hope at all that remains for Judah. He did not know what to do. He recognizes immediately that judgment is hanging over the nation and the wrath of God was going to fall upon them. He wanted to know what to do related to this.
- **His response to the word of God must have really blessed the heart of God** as he recognized this great distance that existed between the standard of God's word and the people that he was ruling there in the land, and the lives that they were actually living! It horrified him, causing him with a great and humble, soft heart to turn to the *LORD* for instruction! Here is this judgment that is there. He is very disturbed by it and wants to know what in the world to do.
- **So, they inquired of the prophets concerning what God had said** in His law, and concerning their guilt. "God, what will You do?" and "What are we going to do?"

2Ki 22:14 So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe. (She dwelt in Jerusalem (in the college) in the Second Quarter.) And they spoke with her.

- **Huldah was the prophetess at that time who walked with the LORD** and had the mind of the *LORD*. Both Jeremiah and Zephaniah began their prophetic ministries during the reign of King Josiah. At this time, however, early in his reign, the only true prophet available in Jerusalem was actually a prophetess. She did have an authentic word for Josiah from the *LORD*.

2Ki 22:15-16 Then she said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Tell the man who sent you to Me, [16] "Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants—all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read—

- **The LORD says, I will bring calamity on this place and its inhabitants.** Josiah, it is too late for you to turn the judgment back that is going to come upon these people because of their long history of wickedness and disobedience. Here is the reason that judgment is going to come.

2Ki 22:17 because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore My wrath shall be aroused against this place and shall not be quenched.' "

- **They have gone too far!** Too much idolatry! There comes a point of no return when they have gone too far.
- **That is a pretty heavy thing for Josiah to hear.** *LORD*, is there an exception somewhere in here? Praise the *LORD*, there is. It is the next word!

2Ki 22:18-19 But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, in this manner you shall speak to him, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Concerning the words which you have heard (Book of the Law)— [19] because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you," says the LORD.

- **Notice God's grace given here to Josiah, which was also previously extended to Hezekiah! (2Ch 32:26) Then Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah.**
- **Josiah's heart was tender! No other king had that description said of his heart.** While other kings were righteous (like Hezekiah or Asa), Josiah's profound, emotional repentance upon hearing the Law is highlighted here! Also, we read in (2Ki 23:25) **Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him.**
- **Notice the response of the LORD, because you humbled yourself, you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you," says the LORD.**
- **"But as for the king of Judah" – What a significant display of God's grace to His faithful ones.** The *LORD* is saying to Josiah, the same thing He said earlier to Hezekiah. Because of the disobedience and idolatry of the people of Judah, judgment was soon to come. **But, because** of the good kings' obedience and faithfulness, "**I**

also have heard you," says the LORD! Hezekiah and Josiah, in their lifetime would be spared! (1Th 5:9) For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Why did the good works and covenants of these two good kings not cause a more permanent revival and change of direction of the nation?** It seems that the change was only a surface, mostly political change, which did not cause a true, lasting change in the hearts of the nation, needed to be a real, lasting revival of Israel.

- **How well do the words, "whose heart was tender, humbled yourself, wept before Me" fit me?**

2Ki 22:20 Surely, therefore, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place." ' ' ' So they brought back word to the king.

- **Judgment is going to come, but because of your repentance, your tenderness, humbling yourself, your weeping before the LORD, it will not come in your lifetime. You will see peace during your reign.** The judgement of God was forestalled, or prolonged, but it is surely going to fall.
- **It would seem that it is also too late for the United States to avert judgment.** I think that by turning to the LORD with all our hearts, we may forestall the judgement. God is going to judge the United States, for the same reasons that He judged Israel, because we are guilty of doing the very same things. A nation that began with dependence upon God. A nation that looked to God for strength and for help, as they founded it. A nation when it became strong, turned its back upon God. We have gone so far away from God, enshrining so many different idols. We have worshiped so many different gods. The fire has been kindled and cannot be quenched.
- **What then am I, are we to do? We are in the same situation as Hezekiah and Josiah were in. God told them His judgment was coming soon! They were, as we are to be obedient to God and His Word! We are to "Watch, Wait and Work" for His second coming. Jesus said (Mat 5:16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. We are to return good for evil! We are to share the gospel with everyone! We are to pray for a revival!**

Josiah's Reforms

2Ki 23:1 Now the king sent them to gather all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem to him.

2Ki 23:2 The king went up to the house of the LORD with all the men of Judah, and with him all the inhabitants of Jerusalem—the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant which had been found in the house of the LORD.

- **Now the effect upon the king was a spiritual renewal.** He wept before God. He sought the LORD. Now he gathers the people, that they also may hear the word of God. Oh, the power of God's word! Jesus said to His disciples, (Joh 15:3) *You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.*
- **It is amazing how hard it is to find a church that teaches the Bible,** considering that the word of God is alive and so powerful! When it is the word of God that brings revival to the hearts of the people!

2Ki 23:3 Then the king stood by a pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people took a stand for the covenant.

- **As this word of the covenant was read, the word of God again out of Exodus,** as God said, "If you will do these things, then I will be your God." As they read the word of the covenant, when Moses read it, the people said, "We will do all that God has commanded!" They made that covenant with God, and God established a covenant with them. Now over the intervening years, they have broken that covenant with Him.
- **It was like, "All in favor, stand," and they all stood,** "that we will keep covenant with God." (2Ch 34:33) *Thus Josiah removed all the abominations from all the country that belonged to the children of Israel, and made all who were present in Israel diligently serve the LORD their God. All his days they did not depart from following the LORD God of their fathers.* But it was only surface, following the king. It was not a genuine work in the heart of the people. It was in the king himself. But many people were just sort of "hangers on." They just wanted to "jump on the bandwagon." It would not last.

2Ki 23:4 And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, the priests of the second order, and the doorkeepers, to bring out of the temple of the LORD all the articles that were made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven; and he burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried their ashes to Bethel.

- They got rid of all of the trappings of these false pagan religions, that had been brought into the temple, by Manasseh, under his evil reign, and got them all out of there, burned them, and then carried away their defiling ashes clear on up to Bethel, in contempt of that place of one of the golden calves.

2Ki 23:5 *Then he removed the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Judah and in the places all around Jerusalem, and those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, to the moon, to the constellations, and to all the host of heaven.*

- *Host of heaven, referring to the zodiac*, and those that were following the zodiac. They had the different houses, the twelve houses of the zodiac. Those that were following the stars, the zodiac, looking to their horoscopes for their guidance, and for direction. Josiah took all of these things out, getting rid of them.

2Ki 23:6-7 *And he brought out the wooden image (nude image of the Asherah) from the house of the LORD, to the Brook Kidron outside Jerusalem, burned it at the Brook Kidron and ground it to ashes, and threw its ashes on the graves of the common people. [7] Then he tore down the ritual booths of the perverted persons (sodomites, homosexuals, male prostitutes) that were in the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the wooden image.*

- They were doing this right in the house of the LORD! They had this house of the sodomites, and the prostitutes of Asherah, right near the temple of God, where the woman wove their hangings for the Asherah. They would make these little embroidery type figurines, and hangings for this goddess, a female sex goddess.

2Ki 23:8-10 *And he brought all the priests from the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba; also he broke down the high places (Hezekiah, Josiah's great-grandfather had destroyed them. Then under Manasseh they were put back into use, and now Josiah again destroys them) at the gates which were at the entrance of the Gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were to the left of the city gate. [9] Nevertheless the priests of the high places did not come up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, but they ate unleavened bread among their brethren. [10] And he defiled Topheth (a drum), which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech.*

- They were sacrificing their babies, burning them to death. He destroyed the place of child sacrifice there in the valley of Hinnom, or Gehenna.

2Ki 23:11 *Then he removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance to the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathan-Melech, the officer who was in the court; and he burned the chariots of the sun with fire.*

- According to the ancient superstitions, the sun was carried on a chariot, drawn by horses through the sky each day. It was a common worship among the ancients, the worshiping of the sun. They would have these horses and chariots, and supposedly they represented the horses and the chariots that carried the sun to the sky every day. They were objects of worship, and veneration. They even had these in Israel, in Judah. Josiah got rid of those.

2Ki 23:12-13 *The altars that were on the roof, the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, the king broke down and pulverized there (cannot be used again), and threw their dust into the Brook Kidron. [13] Then the king defiled the high places that were east of Jerusalem, which were on the south of the Mount of Corruption, which Solomon king of Israel had built (about 325 years earlier-what lasting impact!) for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the people of Ammon.*

- *Mount of Corruption* (The Mount of Olives) where Solomon had built high places for his wives. For he had married many wives from other nations, and they were worshiping on these high places, over on the southern slopes of the Mount of Olives. It became known as the Mount of Corruption. That whole area of the Mount of Olives became an area of pagan worship, all the way up to Mount Scopus.

2Ki 23:14 *And he broke in pieces the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images, and filled their places with the bones of men.*

- He took these bones, and put them on these places, showing his disdain, to defile, to desecrate them.

2Ki 23:15-16 *Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he broke down; and he burned the high place and crushed it to powder, and burned the wooden image. [16] As Josiah turned, he saw the tombs that were*

there on the mountain. And he sent and took the bones out of the tombs and burned them on the altar, and defiled it according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.

- **This prophecy was made about 325 years earlier.** For us today that would be like going back to the early 1700's, about 75 years before this country's independence.
- **(1Ki 13:1-3) And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. [2] Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.' [3] And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the LORD has spoken: Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out."**
- **Here Josiah is fulfilling exactly what was said would happen,** over three hundred and twenty-five years earlier. So, God's word. Man! You can be sure it will come to pass.
- **Josiah broke down and burned the high place.** He stamped it to small powder, and he burned the image. As Josiah turned, he spied these sepulchers that were there in the mount. He sent and took the bones out of the sepulchers, and burned them upon the altar, defiling it, according to the word of the LORD."

2Ki 23:17 Then he said, "What gravestone is this that I see?" So the men of the city told him, "It is the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and proclaimed these things which you have done against the altar of Bethel."

- **On one of the gravestones there was this little tablet with an inscription on it.** That is where that young prophet was buried, who came up and prophesied these things. The inscription over his tomb was there.

2Ki 23:18-20 And he said, "Let him alone; let no one move his bones." So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet who came from Samaria. [19] Now Josiah also took away all the shrines of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the LORD to anger; and he did to them according to all the deeds he had done in Bethel. [20] He executed all the priests of the high places who were there, on the altars, and burned men's bones on them; and he returned to Jerusalem.

- **The area of Samaria.** During this period of history, in which Josiah was reigning, the Sidonians, had begun massive invasions. The Assyrians were attacked by both the Babylonians, who began to rise in power, and by the Medes. Thus, they could not exercise the control over Samaria any longer. Josiah took advantage of that turmoil up there. Assyria had to let go of her control on all of these little provinces. Josiah pretty much had a free reign in his territory. He was able to move on up into Samaria and bring it back under his reign for a time until later when the Babylonians came down, conquering Judah.

Josiah Restores the Passover

2Ki 23:21 Then the king commanded all the people, saying, "Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant."

- **In the law it was told that they were to have this *Passover Feast*.** They were to present themselves before the LORD. Celebrating the Passover is a wonderful thing. It not been kept for a long time. It had passed by.

2Ki 23:22 Such a Passover surely had never been held since the days of the judges who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah.

- **Never in Judah's history had there ever been such a *Passover* with as many lambs being sacrificed.** It was with the greatest celebration, as was ordered by Josiah!

2Ki 23:23-25 But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah (26 years old) this Passover was held before the LORD in Jerusalem. [24] Moreover Josiah put away those (who had been into Satanic worship and witchcraft) who consulted mediums and spiritists, the household gods and idols, all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD. [25] Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him.

- **Now before him there was no king like him.** The same is said of Hezekiah, (2Ki 18:5) Hezekiah might excel him in some things, as Josiah might excel Hezekiah in others; **who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might,** with such sincerity, heartiness, zeal, and steadfastness; **according to all the Law of Moses;** having respect to every commandment, especially relative to worship, with the greatest precision and exactness; **nor after him did any arise like him,** for all the kings to the captivity were wicked.

- Josiah really had a tremendous heart towards God. Serving God with singleness of heart, and ordering these spiritual reforms.

2Ki 23:26 *Nevertheless the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath, with which His anger was aroused against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him.*

- Manasseh had taken the nation too deep, too far down. There was no turning back.

2Ki 23:27 *And the LORD said, "I will also remove Judah from My sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, 'My name shall be there.'"*

- Judgment is going to come on Jerusalem, Judah, and the temple, all are going to be destroyed!

Josiah's Death in Battle

2Ki 23:28-30 *Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? [29] In his days Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt went to the aid of the king of Assyria, to the River Euphrates; and King Josiah went against him. And Pharaoh Necho killed him at Megiddo when he confronted him. [30] Then his servants moved his body in a chariot from Megiddo, brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own tomb. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, anointed him, and made him king in his father's place.*

- We get more details in 2 Chronicles of the end of Josiah. **Josiah Killed in Battle - (2Ch 35:20-24)** *After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by the Euphrates; and Josiah went out against him. [21] But he sent messengers to him, saying, "What have I to do with you, king of Judah? I have not come against you this day, but against the house with which I have war; for God commanded me to make haste. Refrain from meddling with God, who is with me, lest He destroy you." [22] Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight in the Valley of Megiddo. [23] And the archers shot King Josiah; and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded." [24b] So he died, and was buried in one of the tombs of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. Josiah should have stayed home. He had no business engaging in this war.*
- Because of his unbridled zeal, Josiah allowed himself to get into a conflict that God had not called him to. His heart may have been right, but his direction was wrong. and our strengths, unguarded zeal, become our weakness. It was not of faith to *disguise* himself? There is no record of any prayer before the battle. This rash act of Josiah seems unaccountable. Sadly, here is this great king whom God and the nation loved.
- **Am I prone to meddle because of my unbridled and unguarded zeal, to get into areas that I should not get into as Josiah did? Areas where my Lord has not called me? Lord, help me never to pursue anything that is not of You!**

Jehoahaz's Reign and Captivity

2Ki 23:31-32 *Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah (not the prophet from Anathoth) of Libnah. [32] And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.*

- Here there was a tremendous spiritual reformation under Josiah, but it was only surface with the people. Josiah's heart was in it, but not so with the people it was only surface and not a genuine, real move towards God. Thus, at the death of Josiah, the people lapsed back into the old practices. The same as with Nehemiah.
- So, we have four kings after Josiah.
 - ✓ **Jehoahaz** (3 mo. reign; Josiah's fourth son, also called Shallum).
 - ✓ **Eliakim (Jehoiakim)** (608-597BC) 11 yr. reign; Josiah's second son, Pharaoh Necho changed his name to Jehoiakim.
 - ✓ **Jehoiachin** (3 mo. reign; Also call Jeconiah, Jehoiakim's first son).
 - ✓ **Zedekiah** (597-586BC) 11 yr. reign; Jehoiakim's second son, also called Mattaniah). Their reigns were short. Judah is at the end of the rope; the nation is just about to go down. God has withdrawn His hand of blessing and protection. Now they must face the judgement of God for their sins.
- In the Book of Jeremiah, we are given the reign of these kings and the declining downward, as Jeremiah was the instrument that God used to oversee the death of the nation. That surely must have been one of the

most difficult jobs any prophet was called to do. To prophecy to the nation, during its final days. To watch it die. Still the people were persisting in their evil ways, not turning from their wickedness.

2Ki 23:33-37 Now Pharaoh Necho put him (Jehoahaz) in prison at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and he imposed on the land a tribute of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold. [34] Then Pharaoh Necho made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in place of his father Josiah, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. And Pharaoh took Jehoahaz and went to Egypt, and he died there. [35] So Jehoiakim gave the silver and gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give money according to the command of Pharaoh; he exacted the silver and gold from the people of the land, from every one according to his assessment, to give it to Pharaoh Necho. [36] Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years (608-597) in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zebudah the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah. [37] And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

- **So, corruption sets in again, as the nation of Judah is taking its final plunge to its destruction.** It is always tragic when you see a nation forsaking God. (*Pro 14:34*) Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people. Again, God was crying out against Judah in (*Jer 2:11-13*) *Has a nation changed its gods, Which are not gods? But My people have changed their Glory For what does not profit. [12] Be astonished, O heavens, at this, And be horribly afraid; Be very desolate," says the LORD. [13] "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns— broken cisterns that can hold no water.*
- **To forsake the LORD is truly tragic!** If a nation will worship God, and serve God, that nation will be blessed beyond measure! There is such a potential for greatness, for strength. For people to live together, in prosperity and in abundance. The potential is there, but in the time of prosperity they become independent of God, and they begin to turn from God, and forsake Him. Pleasure, power, materialism or sex, becomes their god. With that comes the weakening of the moral fiber of the nation, and the ultimate downfall, and overthrow.
- **That is what is happening in the United States.** We are a nation with perhaps the greatest potential of any nation. It was God who blessed, who made us strong. The dependence of our forefathers upon God, who looked to God for guidance and direction. We have come to think that if a man dared to trust in God for guidance of the nation, that would disqualify him, and make him unfit as a candidate for office. God help us, we have gone a long way down. Our only hope is perhaps the prolonging, but not the averting of judgement. However, I have great hope for a true national revival. We need to pray for that!

SUMMARY:

- **2Ki 22:8 Have I lost any zeal and love for the “Book of the Law”?** How much am I being influenced by His Word every day? Am I actually spending time with Him in daily meditating, reading, seeking understanding, and praying with my Bible? Am I praying for all churches to teach the Bible?
- **2Ki 22:19 How well do the words, “whose heart was tender, humbled yourself, wept before Me”** fit me?
- **2Ki 22:20 What then am I, are we to do?** We are in the same situation as Hezekiah and Josiah were in. God told them His judgment was coming soon! They were, as we are to be obedient to God and His Word! We are to “Watch, Wait and Work” for His second coming. Jesus said (*Mat 5:16*) *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.* We are to return good for evil! We are to share the gospel with everyone! We are to pray for a revival!
- **2Ki 23:30 Am I prone to meddle because of my unbridled and unguarded zeal,** to get into areas that I should not get into as Josiah did? Areas where my Lord has not called me? Lord, help me never to pursue anything that is not of You!

THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET! Amy Grant; Michael W. Smith (1:55/1:58)

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path (2X)

When I feel afraid Think I've lost my way Still You're there right beside me And nothing will I fear As long as You are near Please be near me to the end Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path And a light unto my path You're the light unto my path

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study 2 Kings, Chapters 24-25

A REMINDER! It is time to vote! As stewards of this great opportunity in our Republic of the USA, may we all be sure and **let our voice be heard and vote!**

I filled out my ballot with the help of this site. Just looked through the sites online and found this **conservative "Reform California" voter guide**, from Carl DeMaio (member of the Ca State Assembly). It is for Orange County. **Search for a voter guide for your county to see local input.** May we **pray and vote** as the **LORD leads.** <https://www.reformcalifornia.org/voter-guides/orange-county>

Links to Messages - FREEDOM 250, Washington DC Mall, 5/17/26

Rededicate 250: A National Jubilee of Prayer, Praise & Thanksgiving

Join with neighbors and friends from every state in the Union in giving thanks and praise to God for 250 years of His Providence for the United States, in praying that God Bless and Protect America for the next 250 years, and in solemnly rededicating our country as One Nation under God. In speech, song, and storytelling, we will bear witness to the extraordinary story of how God has powerfully and wondrously shaped the United States of America—remembering the people, sacrifices, and defining moments in which God has powerfully manifested Himself in our history.

President Trump's Reading Scripture, FREEDOM 250, Washington DC Mall, 5/17/26

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DYdM9P3iWe1/> (click "off mute" button)

Speaker Mike Johnson's prayer message, FREEDOM 250, Washington DC Mall, 5/17/26

[google.com/search?q=yesterday%27s+Speaker+Mike+Johnson+at+National+Mall&sca_esv=13817b06bb68fc1a&sxsrf=ANbL-n5TOgFyAfqUwIs5w5D3tGlwf385DQ%3A1779103840724&ei=YPgKao76K7OekPIP1aao0Qw&biw=1000&bih=558&ved=0ahUKEwiOqsej3sKUAXUzD0QIHdUTKsoQ4dUDCBI&uact=5&oq=yesterday%27s+Speaker+Mike+Johnson+at+National+Mall&gs_l=EGxnd3Mtd2l6LXNlcnAiMXllc3RlcmRheSdzIFNwZWFrZXIgtWlrZSBKb2huc29uIGF0IE5hdGlvbmF5IE1hbGxIqt0BUOwfWJzQAXABeAGQAQCYAWOgAbgMqgECMjK4AQPIAQD4AQGYAg-gAo8JwgIKEAAYRxjWBBiwA8ICBxAjGLACGCfCAgUQABjvBcICCBAAGIkFGKIEwgIIEAAYgAQYogSYAwCIBgGQBgiSBwQxNC4xoAefQLIHbDEzLjG4B4oJwgcGMC4xMC4lyAcngAgB&sclient=gws-wiz-serp#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:80827fd7,vid:n26Tls2e1PI,st:0](https://www.google.com/search?q=yesterday%27s+Speaker+Mike+Johnson+at+National+Mall&sca_esv=13817b06bb68fc1a&sxsrf=ANbL-n5TOgFyAfqUwIs5w5D3tGlwf385DQ%3A1779103840724&ei=YPgKao76K7OekPIP1aao0Qw&biw=1000&bih=558&ved=0ahUKEwiOqsej3sKUAXUzD0QIHdUTKsoQ4dUDCBI&uact=5&oq=yesterday%27s+Speaker+Mike+Johnson+at+National+Mall&gs_l=EGxnd3Mtd2l6LXNlcnAiMXllc3RlcmRheSdzIFNwZWFrZXIgtWlrZSBKb2huc29uIGF0IE5hdGlvbmF5IE1hbGxIqt0BUOwfWJzQAXABeAGQAQCYAWOgAbgMqgECMjK4AQPIAQD4AQGYAg-gAo8JwgIKEAAYRxjWBBiwA8ICBxAjGLACGCfCAgUQABjvBcICCBAAGIkFGKIEwgIIEAAYgAQYogSYAwCIBgGQBgiSBwQxNC4xoAefQLIHbDEzLjG4B4oJwgcGMC4xMC4lyAcngAgB&sclient=gws-wiz-serp#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:80827fd7,vid:n26Tls2e1PI,st:0)

Sec of War Pete Hegseth's prayer message, FREEDOM 250, Washington DC Mall, 5/17/26

https://www.google.com/search?q=pete+hegseth+message+yesterday+at+national+mall&oq=pete+hegseth+message+yesterday+&gs_l=EGZjaHJvbWUqBwgBECEYoAEyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigATIHCAMQIRigAdIBCTIyNTg4ajBqOagCBRAcAFES43pXk_Ylv0&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:6ebf9043,vid:c3_cwSvrDjA,st:0

Sec of State Marco Rubio's prayer message, FREEDOM 250, Washington DC Mall, 5/17/26

https://www.google.com/search?q=marco+rubio%27s+message+at+national+mall+yesterday&oq=marco+rubio%27s+message+at+national+&gs_l=EGZjaHJvbWUqBwgBECEYoAEyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigATIHCAMQIRigATIHCAMQIRirAjIHCAQQIRirAjIHCAUQIRirAjIHCAyQIRiPAjIHCACQIRiPatIBCTEzMT3ajBqOagCALACAQ&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:7944fef3,vid:YL2KWIQ3Yis,st:0

Notice of Celebration of Life for **GLENN SHACKELL**

Saturday, May 30, 2026, 11:00 AM

Calvary Life Church

19300 S. Vermont Ave, Gardena, CA 90248

Life Room

714 658 0822