

FINAL STUDY NOTES – 2 Chronicles Chapters 33-34 9/28-29/2026

ROOM 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

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

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Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C.); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York).
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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

LAST WEEK: **2 Chronicles Chapter 31** – The Reforms of Hezekiah. **Chapter 32** – Sennacherib Boasts Against the LORD; Angels Destroy 185,000 Soldiers; Sennacherib's Defeat and Death; Hezekiah Humbles Himself, Life Extended 15 years; Hezekiah's Wealth and Honor; Death of Hezekiah.

THIS WEEK: 2 Chronicles Chapter 33 – Manasseh Reigns in Judah – (vs. 1-9); Manasseh Restores After Repentance – (vs. 10-17); Death of Manasseh – (vs. 18-20). Amon's Reign and Death – (vs. 21-25). **Chapter 34** – Josiah Reigns in Judah – (vs. 1-7); Hilkiah Finds the Book of the Law – (vs. 8-28); Josiah Restores Pure Worship – (vs. 29-33).

Manasseh Reigns in Judah

2Ch 33:1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem.

- **He had the longest reign of all the kings of Israel.** Here we have some good kings that were cut short! They did not have a very long reign. Here is a wicked evil king, God lets him stay there in Jerusalem for fifty-five years.
- **2Ch 33:2** But he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.
- **The practices of the Canaanite religions were unspeakably vile.** Their abominations were horrible; so much so, that God drove them out of the land. God destroyed them, using the people of Israel, as His tool of

judgement. God was striking out against the vile, abominable practices of the people of Canaan. He said, "Don't leave any of them, because of the vileness of their practices." Manasseh matched, embraced, and even exceeded the evil practices of the Canaanites!

2Ch 33:3 For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he raised up altars for the Baals, and made wooden images; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.

- He tears down the things, the sacred things that his father had built up. He builds up the abominable things that his father had torn down. Manasseh, what are you doing? He re-introduced the worship of Baalim into the land. The groves, which is the Asherim, which is completely sexual pornographic worship. He worshiped all the hosts of heaven and served them, Astrology. If you are into astrology, it is not biblical, the Bible forbids it. It is ancient. The Sphinx combines the body of a lion with the head of a woman or pharaoh and symbolically spans the zodiac constellations of Leo the Lion and Virgo the Virgin. Astrology has been around from the beginning, but it is fatalistic, having your life determined by the stars and the planets. My Father in heaven determines my life! I have a Shepherd! I do not have a star; they are worshiping the host of heaven.

2Ch 33:4 He also built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem shall My name be forever."

- Manasseh goes right into the temple itself. He builds altars to the false gods in the temple! When God allowed the children of Israel the privilege of building that temple, He said, I am going to be in this place that is going to represent My presence uniquely in all the world, not anywhere else. My eyes will be on this place. Manasseh gets in God's face, in His living room, He puts these altars, not just reintroducing it into the land, but right into the temple, right in front of God's face.

2Ch 33:5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

- They had the inner court, and the outer court. Manasseh profaned these places, by putting the signs of the zodiac right there within the temple precincts itself!

2Ch 33:6 Also he caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom! He practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

- Manasseh re-introduced the sacrifice of children to the idol Molech back into the land! Not only did he reintroduce it, but he even offered his children (sons)! He practiced the practice. We do not know how many that he offered into the fire. Apart from the word of God and the human condition, apart from the ministry of the Holy Spirit; This is where life can go. This is what he did!
- He is doing all of this in the sight of the LORD! Here is a nation that is completely demonized. He takes and makes the devil himself the source of the wisdom of the nation. It is horrifying. Manasseh was a monster.

2Ch 33:7 He even set a carved (pornographic) image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever;

- How could he do worse? But he did worse! He even set a carved image of Asherah, the goddess of fertility in the house of God! The place where God said, I will put My name forever.

2Ch 33:8 and I will not again remove the foot of Israel from the land which I have appointed for your fathers—only if! they are careful to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses."

- Only if! God had promised that if these people would worship Him and be faithful to Him, only if they are careful to be obedient! He would bless them. Notice what Manasseh is doing to Judah.

2Ch 33:9 So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.

- They were worse than those nations God had destroyed before them! Manasseh took them even lower!
- (2Ki 21:11) "Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations (he has acted more wickedly than all the Amorites who were before him and has also made Judah sin with his idols).
- **At this point it seems that the most wicked king in Judah, having reigned at least 25 years doing evil even beyond that of the Amorites, that there is no hope for him at all! But for the grace and mercies of God! If anyone will humbly repent and seek the LORD, He will be found! Oh, what grace and mercy that endures forever! What an encouragement for us!**

Manasseh's Repentance

2Ch 33:10 And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen.

- The final thing: though God spoke to them; God sent the prophets to them; God warned them! They would not listen!

2Ch 33:11 Therefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon.

- God caused the captains to deport Manasseh. They just took one man, the king. They took him with hooks, and they bound him with bronze fetters, and they carried him off to Babylon, which means that they would put a hook through a person's nose and then drag him wherever you want, like an animal. The LORD is in all of this to bring this man to repentance. Now when he was in affliction, the Bible says the goodness of God brings us to repentance. Some come from affliction. Manasseh came by affliction. Whatever was going on in that prison, in that province of Babylon, he was in affliction. He did not like where he was.

2Ch 33:12 Now when he was in affliction, he implored the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,

- Why would he need to humble himself greatly? Because he was about as high and lifted up in pride as you could possibly be related to the LORD. So, there was a great self-humbling that was needed, but he did it before the God of his fathers. Notice, he did humble himself greatly!
- When a person is in real difficulty, when it becomes a life and death situation, they know that their only hope for help is in the living God. You that have been witnessing them, they have been laughing at you, mocking, calling you all kinds of names. But when they are in trouble, you are the one they will call. Because they know that they need more than what they have been following after. "He sought the *God of his fathers*."
- **Our God is always looking for genuine humbling and crying out for forgiveness; for anyone willing to repent! He is saying this is how I love! This is how I am different from you. Even if someone spits in My face; rips out My beard; tortures Me; rips the skin off My back puts a crown of thorns on My head; Jesus is saying, I can love. I know the stakes. I understand eternity! We are to keep praying for the lost!**

2Ch 33:13 and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.

- The Bible says that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all would come to repentance. Manasseh was on his way to perishing. The LORD realized Manasseh was on such a high horse of pride. I am going to have to knock him down. I will have him go into captivity alone, among all of Judah and put him in prison in order to humble himself and make a decision for Me.
- God did not force him, but He will not make us willing, but He can make us willing to go! Manasseh humbled himself and prayed to the LORD. You know, we assume that when we pray, He must always pick up the phone. It is a marvel here. If I were God, I am not picking up that phone, after twenty years of all the bad things you have done! Never. God is not like me! Oh, the grace and mercies of God!
- We are told the LORD received his entreaty, his prayer. He heard his supplication and brought him back to Jerusalem, into his kingdom, and then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.
- God confronts Manasseh with His absolute sovereignty that He is God. You are worshiping all of these idols, and they cannot keep you from being brought into captivity by Me or Me judging you. So, the LORD gives them a second chance. This is just really beautiful! This man, given a second chance by God in life, is going to use every moment of his life to advance the kingdom of God.
- **This is absolutely encouraging for anyone with prodigals or with those loved ones who are continuing in sin! God's grace can get to someone even in a foreign dungeon! Manasseh in his affliction discovered prayer. God heard him and was gracious to him and restored him! Could this be here in the Bible to let us understand that no sin ever goes further than the blood of Jesus!**

2Ch 33:14 After this he built a wall outside the City of David on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, as far as the entrance of the Fish Gate; and it enclosed Ophel, and he raised it to a very great height. Then he put military captains in all the fortified cities of Judah.

- Not only did God restore him, but God also made him strong! The kingdom began to be restored under Manasseh, strengthening the kingdom.

2Ch 33:15 He took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem; and he cast them out of the city.

- He got rid of all of these pagan trappings that he had brought in.

2Ch 33:16 He also repaired the altar of the LORD, sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.

- Oh, how thankful he was for what God had done! And how thankful he should be! His life was as good as gone! It was destroyed; yet God restored! Thus, he is approaching God. “Peace offerings, thank offerings.”

2Ch 33:17 Nevertheless the people still sacrificed on the high places, but only to the LORD their God.

- They now made their sacrifices on the places to the LORD, But God did not ordain nor order that. Many people seek to worship God in ways that have not been ordained by God. In fact, they are seeking to worship God in sort of pagan rituals, “only we’ll put the name Jesus to the pagan ritual.” So, Ishtar, the pagan holiday, which actually comes from Greek Asherah or Ashtoreth, the female sex goddess, Ishtar’s celebration of life came in the spring. We say, “Well we will celebrate Easter,” which comes from Ishtar, in the spring. So, we want to just Christianize the thing. Worshiping God in ways that God did not ordain. So, people get the bunnies, they color the eggs, and they follow the pagan practices. Only now under the guise of, “Jesus rose from the dead!”

- If we are going to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, great! Let’s do it! But let us leave out the colored eggs, the bunnies, the pagan aspects of it. Let us just rejoice on the first day of the week that Jesus rose from the dead. It is good to have memorials and reminders. But let us not do it with pagan trappings. Here are the people worshiping the LORD, but they are worshiping in these same high places where they had worshiped the other gods, following the pagan practices, worshiping God in unprescribed ways.

2Ch 33:18-19 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, his prayer to his God, and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of the LORD God of Israel, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel. [19] Also his prayer and how God received his entreaty, and all his sin and trespass, and the sites where he built high places and set up wooden images and carved images, before he was humbled, indeed they are written among the sayings of Hozai.

- *The book of the kings of Israel.* We do not have that Book in the Bible. It must have been lost. In *2Kings*, we have scripture describing Manasseh’s life and reign, but nothing about his prayer and the speeches of the prophets or his repentance and conversion.

2Ch 33:20-23 So Manasseh rested with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house. Then his son Amon reigned in his place. [21] Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. [22] But he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done; for Amon sacrificed to all the carved images which his father Manasseh had made, and served them. [23] And he did not humble himself before the LORD, as his father Manasseh had humbled himself; but Amon trespassed more and more.

- It means he multiplied transgression here. Notice how Amon follows Manasseh’s evil things, not the good!

2Ch 33:24 Then his servants conspired against him, and killed him in his own house.

- After his conversion, Manasseh had taken the idols and all, and he put them out of the city, but he did not destroy them but them in the city dump. When Amon his son became king, he went out and recovered these idols and all that his dad had made. He brought them back and began to worship them.
- The next king, Josiah, as he reforms we find that he ground these things to powder, obliterating them, as was the commandment of the LORD. So, here is the incomplete kind of thing. Manasseh yes, God heard him, God restored, and he got rid of the idols, but not completely. Thus, his son followed in the path of his dad, in the path of evil more and more.
- Amon reigned for only two years and was assassinated.

2Ch 33:25 But the people of the land executed all those who had conspired against King Amon. Then the people of the land made his son Josiah king in his place.

Josiah Reigns in Judah

2Ch 34:1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem.

- Not a long time of reign, when you consider he was only eight years old when he began his reign. It means that he died at the age of thirty-nine.

2Ch 34:2 And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

- In contrast to his father and grandfather, Manasseh and Amon, Josiah was a good king, like Hezekiah, his great grandfather, he walked with the LORD, instituting spiritual reforms in Judah. However, tragic to say,

in spite of the fact that Josiah was one of the best kings of Judah, because of the actions of his father, his grandfather Manasseh, and the long period of history in which Manasseh reigned and led the people in all of the abominable idolatries, the die was really cast. God to be just; He had to judge Judah. They had gone beyond the point of return. Though Josiah was a good king, all he did by his good reign, was forestall the judgement of God that was impending and imminent.

- **Again, as we look at the history of the nation of Judah, we realize that we are coming into the time** in which Jeremiah was called to be a prophet. Jeremiah began his ministry as a prophet during the reign of Josiah. He continued to prophesy through the decline, and the death of the nation of Judah. He had the difficult task of being the prophet, to oversee, and to observe the death of the nation. No matter what he said, the people were determined to go on in their obdurate way, in opposition to God.
- **We take much comfort also in the fact, that before God brought His judgement upon Sodom and Gomorrah,** He delivered the righteous man Lot, out of that den of iniquity. It is my hope, that before God brings judgement upon this land, He will deliver His body, His church, out of the land. I, with Paul, look for the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the blessed hope of His appearing. But it is concerning as we now come into the final stages of the history of the nation of Judah, we see this final plunge. There was this time of the forestalling of this judgement, because of the righteousness of Josiah.

2Ch 34:3 For in the eighth year of his reign (16 yrs. old), while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year (20 yrs. old), he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images.

- **Josiah is going to walk with the LORD faithfully all the days of his life.** He is not going to move to the left or to the right. He is going to be completely faithful. Josiah looks at his father and there is nothing to emulate or to imitate in his father. His father is no hero at all. His father has no repentance; no turning is what he was. Yet here is a man who is looking in his life for an example in his life And so he says, I do not have an example in my father. I do not have a hero in my father. I will look someplace else for a hero or a model.
- **Of course, our hero is Jesus. He never fails us.** The greatest example to fashion our lives is after the power of the Holy Spirit. But he looked and said, all right, who can I follow that is worthy of being an example in my life as a king of Judah? I cannot make my father give him that place in my life, but I know who I can. And he gave David his example. If you do not have an example in your parents, then look someplace else for an example. They are all over in the kingdom of God and among God's people and learn from them.
- ***This is remarkable that Josiah, at such a young age of twenty, can lead a nation to turn away from evil and seek the LORD! What a great example for young people!***

2Ch 34:4 They broke down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and the incense altars which were above them he cut down; and the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images he broke in pieces, and made dust of them and scattered it on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them.

- They scattered the dust of these idols upon the graves of the pagan priests that had once been used in worship. They of course burned them, and then just took the ashes, and ground them into powder.
- ***This is another excellent example for us in removing the sin from our lives. Not just to set them aside, later returning to them, but to destroy them completely so they can never come back!***

2Ch 34:5-7 He also burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. [6] And so he did in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, as far as Naphtali and all around, with axes. [7] When he had broken down the altars and the wooden images, had beaten the carved images into powder, and cut down all the incense altars throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.

- **Josiah took this cleansing from idolatry of public areas.** He took this campaign into the northern kingdom of Israel, even though Assyria was ruling there at the time, going up into the area of Bethel, where one of the great golden calves that were worshipped.
- **This was prophesied back in Jeroboam's time, in 1 Kings 13 where the young prophet came to him while he was offering sacrifices and incense and all at the altar there in Bethel and denounced the idolatry of Jeroboam.**
- **Jeroboam stretched out his arm, and he ordered him to be arrested.** His arm was paralyzed right there. The young prophet continued his prophecy to Jeroboam, speaking of a king who would come by the name of Josiah, who would ultimately destroy this altar. He named him by name. What he had prophesied would occur, was fulfilled here in this cleansing by Josiah.

The Book of the Law Found

2Ch 34:8 *In the eighteenth year (26 yrs. old), of his reign, when he had purged the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.*

- Under Manasseh the temple was profaned in Jerusalem. When the priests saw how that Manasseh was just desecrating the temple, they took the Ark of the Covenant out of the Holy of Holies.
- Manasseh had built pagan altars within the temple. He had set the signs of the zodiac in the inner and outer court of the temple. He set up an idol right in the Holy of Holies, which of course, is a foreshadowing of the future, when the temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem, and the Antichrist will come to Jerusalem, and stand in the Holy of Holies. He will set an image of himself within the Holy of Holies, and demand that the whole world worship this image. Manasseh thus profaned the Holy of Holies.
- The temple had been really brought into disrepair, and disuse, as the result of Manasseh. But now in the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah, he then ordered the house of the LORD repaired.

2Ch 34:9 *When they came to Hilkiah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Levites who kept the doors had gathered from the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, from all the remnant of Israel, from all Judah and Benjamin, and which they had brought back to Jerusalem.*

- This would occur periodically whenever the temple needed rebuilding or repair. The priests would go out and collect money from the people throughout the land. The whole nation is giving financially to restore the temple.

2Ch 34:10-13 *Then they put it in the hand of the foremen who had the oversight of the house of the LORD; and they gave it to the workmen who worked in the house of the LORD, to repair and restore the house. [11] They gave it to the craftsmen and builders to buy hewn stone and timber for beams, and to floor the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed. [12] And the men did the work faithfully. Their overseers were Jahath and Obadiah the Levites, of the sons of Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to supervise. Others of the Levites, all of whom were skillful with instruments of music, [13] were over the burden bearers and were overseers of all who did work in any kind of service. And some of the Levites were scribes, officers, and gatekeepers.*

- They were able to take the resources, placing it right into the hands of the trustworthy and faithful workers.

2Ch 34:14 *Now when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found the Book (10x in chapter) of the Law of the LORD given by Moses.*

- The discovery again of the Torah. It called "book." In the Hebrew, the word used is "scroll" throughout.

2Ch 34:15-16 *Then Hilkiah answered and 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. [16] So Shaphan carried the book to the king, bringing the king word, saying, "All that was committed to your servants they are doing.*

- The project is going great down there at the temple.

2Ch 34:17-18 *And they have gathered the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers and the workmen." [18] Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.*

- Shaphan the scribe is reading this book to the king.

2Ch 34:19-21 *Thus it happened, when the king heard the words of the Law, that he tore his clothes. [20] Then the king commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying, [21] "Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for those who are left in Israel and Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do according to all that is written in this book."*

- Hearing the law of the LORD. Hearing the curses that God pronounced upon the nation, if they would forsake His law; if they would turn and worship the other gods, God declared the judgements and the curses that would come upon them. When Josiah heard this read, he realized, "We are ripe for judgement. I mean we have done those things that God pronounced the curse upon us if we would do them. Our fathers were guilty of doing these very things, and thus, the judgement of God is hanging over our heads."

Huldah Prophecies Disaster

2Ch 34:22-24 So Hilkiah and those the king had appointed went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tokhath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe. (She dwelt in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter.) And they spoke to her to that effect. [23] Then she answered them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Tell the man who sent you to Me, [24] "Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants, all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah,

- The king wants to enquire about the LORD as to what is going to happen to us, because we are guilty. Our fathers have done those things that God warned about in the law."
- In Deuteronomy, we read the curses that God pronounced, that would come upon the people. They would be driven from the land and dispersed throughout the world, and all these curses that God said He was going to bring upon them, those things that were written in the law.

2Ch 34:25 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 will be poured out on this place, and not be quenched.' " "

- God pronounces the pending judgement that is hanging over the nation.

2Ch 34:26-28 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— [27] because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words against this place and against its inhabitants, and you humbled yourself before Me, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you," says the LORD. [28] "Surely 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 and its inhabitants." ' " So they brought back word to the king.

- Huldah the prophetess, affirmed that, "Yes, judgement is coming, the curses that God declared in the law are going to fall upon Judah, because of the iniquity of their fathers." However, the judgement of God is forestalled because of the tenderness of the heart of king Josiah, towards the LORD. How that when he heard these things, he tore his clothes, and he began to weep before God, for the sins of the people and of the nation. He humbled himself before God, and thus God said, "It will not come in your lifetime. You will go to the grave in peace. It will not happen during your lifetime, but this judgement is definitely on the way."

2Ch 34:29-31 Then the king sent and gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. [30] The king went up to the house of the LORD, with all the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem—the priests and the Levites, and all the people, great and small. 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. [31] Then the king stood in his place 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 the covenant that were written in this book.

- They are standing in that place of promise, before the people, in the temple, as they read to them the law of the LORD, the king publicly made a confession, and a commitment to the LORD to keep the LORD's commandments, the testimonies, the statutes, with all of his heart, and all of his soul.
- Josiah is going for it! A total commitment to the LORD! "With all my heart, with all my soul, I am going to serve the LORD." It was a tremendous commitment on the part of King Josiah!

2Ch 34:32-33 And he made all who were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin take a stand. So the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers. [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.

- The temple was reopened. They began to worship at the temple again. The king had made a commitment with all his heart and with all his soul. They made it a law that all the people were going to serve the LORD. The people were doing it because it was required of them. But with the people it was not a wholehearted commitment. It was because the king was doing it, becoming a popular thing. There are always those that will follow the movement, whichever way the breeze is blowing, drifting like a feather. They have no inertia on their own. With the king serving God, it became the popular thing; everybody starts going to the temple again.
- This is when Jeremiah began his ministry. One of the first commissions that Jeremiah received from the Lord. Jeremiah gives us the context of the historic spiritual outward reform. It was a surface reform. The king

has made the commitment but with the people, so many of them, it is not a true commitment. "The king is serving the LORD, so we go to church and we clean up our act, and we change a bit here," but it was not happening in their hearts. As soon as Josiah died, the people reverted to the old ways, and they began a plunge almost straight down, after the death of Josiah.

- **You will hear it again, as Jeremiah is lamenting these things.** Jeremiah is dealing with these issues, of surface kind of commitment, and the necessity for the deep heart commitment to God. But for Josiah the king, we have to give him good points. He made those that were in Israel to serve, but that is the problem, you cannot make men serve the LORD.
- **You cannot legislate spirituality. You cannot legislate righteousness.** That was the mistake of Josiah. He ordered that all the people serve the LORD. Well, they did, in obedience to the order, but not from their hearts. The only service that God counts, is that service that comes from your heart. Only that which stems from my love for the LORD. As Paul said, "The love of Christ constrains me." That is the kind of service God accepts, and God blesses.
- **He made all...to take a stand! In my Christian walk, how strongly and consistently am I taking a stand from my heart; diligently serving the LORD to all that is written in His book?**

SUMMARY:

- **2Ch 33:9** At this point it seems that the most wicked king in Judah, having reigned at least 25 years doing evil even beyond that of the Amorites, that there is no hope for him at all! But for the grace and mercies of God! If anyone will humbly repent and seek the LORD, He will be found! Oh, what grace and mercy that endures forever! What an encouragement for us!
- **2Ch 33:12** Our God is always looking for genuine humbling and crying out for forgiveness; for anyone willing to repent! He is saying this is how I love! This is how I am different from you. Even if someone spits in My face; rips out My beard; tortures Me; rips the skin off My back puts a crown of thorns on My head; Jesus is saying, I can love. I know the stakes. I understand eternity! We are to keep praying for the lost!
- **2Ch 33:13** This is absolutely encouraging for anyone with prodigals or with those loved ones who are continuing in sin! God's grace can get to someone even in a foreign dungeon! Manasseh in his affliction discovered prayer. God heard him and was gracious to him and restored him! Could this be here in the Bible to let us understand that no sin ever goes further than the blood of Jesus!
- **2Ch 34:3** This is remarkable that Josiah, at such a young age of twenty, can lead a nation to turn away from evil and seek the LORD! What a great example for young people!
- **2Ch 34:4** This is another excellent example for us in removing the sin from our lives. Not just to set them aside, later returning to them, but to destroy them completely so they can never come back!
- **2Ch 34:32** He made all...to take a stand! In my Christian walk, how strongly and consistently am I taking a stand, diligently serving the LORD to all that is written in His book?

2Ch 34:15-16 Then Hilkiah answered and 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.

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 Chronicles, Chapters 35-36