

JOSIAH

History

- Assyria in the final stages of dominion
- Nineveh falls during Josiah's reign
- Josiah – great grandson of Hezekiah
- Son of Amon, son of Manasseh (most wicked king)
- Judah completely lost in idol worship from Manasseh and Amon

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History

- Birth prophesied 300 years prior to King Jeroboam (1 Kings 13)
- Became king when only 8 years old
- Age 16 – begins to seek the God of David
- Age 20 – begins to purge Israel and Judah of idol worship and high places
- Age 26 – begins to purify the land/temple
- Book of the Law found in temple (probably Deuteronomy)

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2 Chronicles 34 (NIV)

¹⁴ While they were bringing out the money that had been taken into the temple of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD that had been given through Moses. ¹⁵

Hilkiah said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the LORD." He gave it to Shaphan. ¹⁶ Then Shaphan took the book to the king and reported to him: "Your officials are doing everything that has been committed to them. ¹⁷ They have paid out the money that was in the temple of the LORD and

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have entrusted it to the supervisors and workers." ¹⁸ Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king.

¹⁹ When the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his robes. ²⁰ He gave these orders to Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Abdon son of Micah, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king's attendant: ²¹ "Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for the remnant in Israel and Judah about what is written in this book that has been found.

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Great is the LORD's anger that is poured out on us because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written in this book."

²² Hilkiah and those the king had sent with him went to speak to the prophetess Huldah, who was the wife of Shallum son of Tokhath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the Second District.

²³ She said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Tell the man who sent you to me, ²⁴ 'This is what the LORD says: I am going to

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bring disaster on this place and its people—all the curses written in the book that has been read in the presence of the king of Judah. ²⁵ Because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods and provoked me to anger by all that their hands have made, my anger will be poured out on this place and will not be quenched.' ²⁶ Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says concerning the words you heard: ²⁷ Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before God

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when you heard what he spoke against this place and its people, and because you humbled yourself before me and tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the LORD. ²⁸ Now I will gather you to your fathers, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place and on those who live here.' "

So they took her answer back to the king.

²⁹ Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. ³⁰ He went up to the temple of the LORD with the men of Judah, the people

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of Jerusalem, the priests and the Levites—all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the LORD. ³¹ The king stood by his pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD – to follow the LORD and keep his commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in this book.

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³² Then he had everyone in Jerusalem and Benjamin pledge themselves to it; the people of Jerusalem did this in accordance with the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.

³³ Josiah removed all the detestable idols from all the territory belonging to the Israelites, and he had all who were present in Israel serve the LORD their God. As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the LORD, the God of their fathers.

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4 Themes Emerge

1. God's Wrath Concerning Idolatry
2. The Certainty of God's Word
3. Ignorance is no Excuse
4. Josiah's Response to God's Word

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4 Themes Emerge

1. God's Wrath Concerning Idolatry

- God hates idol worship
- It is destructive for his people
- Every type of evil arises from worshipping created things
- The consequence for idol worship is judgement and destruction
- What we learn from the history of God's people is that our default setting seems to be to chase after idols

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4 Themes Emerge

1. God's Wrath Concerning Idolatry
2. The Certainty of God's Word
 - Even though Josiah humbled himself and repented, the words from the prophets regarding Israel and Judah would come to pass
 - There is no doubt from the writer of Chronicles that what had been written would happen

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4 Themes Emerge

1. God's Wrath Concerning Idolatry
2. The Certainty of God's Word
3. Ignorance is no Excuse
 - God's wrath was on the people even though the book of the Law was lost

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4 Themes Emerge

1. God's Wrath Concerning Idolatry
2. The Certainty of God's Word
3. Ignorance is no Excuse
4. Josiah's Response to God's Word
 - Humbled himself before God's word – Josiah recognized the authority of God's word by placing himself (the king!) under it.
 - Humbled himself before God – tore his robe and wept – signs of sincere repentance.
 - Renewed broken covenant relationship

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4 Lessons for Us from the Story

1. God's Wrath Concerning Idolatry

- God still hates idolatry
- Considers the pursuit of anything over him to be unfaithfulness on our part
- Throughout NT God's people are warned to steer clear of idolatry
- Romans 1:18-24

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Romans 1:18-24 (NIV)

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor

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gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

²⁵They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

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4 Lessons for Us from the Story

1. God's Wrath Concerning Idolatry
2. The Certainty of God's Word
 - The Bible under attack
 - One of our enemies oldest tactics is to cause us to doubt God and his word
 - Jesus "...not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen will disappear from the Law.."
 - Peter assures us of the certainty of God's word (2 Peter 1:16-22)

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2 Peter 1:16-22 (ESV)

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

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¹⁹And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

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4 Lessons for Us from the Story

1. God's Wrath Concerning Idolatry
2. The Certainty of God's Word
3. Ignorance is no Excuse
 - Neglecting God's word or not knowing what God expects of you will not be an excuse
 - God's word is more accessible than any other generation before us yet we are more biblically illiterate than any other generation

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4 Lessons for Us from the Story

1. God's Wrath Concerning Idolatry
2. The Certainty of God's Word
3. Ignorance is no Excuse
4. Responding to God's Word
 - How do you respond to the Bible when it doesn't match up or condemns the way you are living or behaving?
 - Have you humbled yourself and put yourself under the Bible or have you elevated yourself?
 - Is your Bible being neglected?