

7 Kings --- Josiah

Josiah's Story

- 2 Kings 22 – 23
- 2 Chronicles 34 – 35

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

34:3 NIV In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young (16 years old)...he began to seek the God of his father David... In his twelfth year (20 years old) he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles and idols.

2 Chronicles 35:18, 19 NLT Never since the time of the prophet Samuel had there been such a Passover. None of the kings of Israel had ever kept a Passover as Josiah did, involving all the priests and Levites, all the people of Jerusalem, and people from all over Judah and Israel. 19 This Passover was celebrated in the eighteenth year (26 yrs old) of Josiah's reign.

Key Verse: *2 Kings 23:25 NLT Never before had there been a king like Josiah, who turned to the Lord with all his heart and soul and strength, obeying all the laws of Moses. And there has never been a king like him since.*

Five Things that Made Josiah the GOAT

He Discovered His Purpose Early.

Read it again *2 Chr. 34:1-3 NIV "Josiah was eight years old when he became king... 2 He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.*

v.3 In the eighth year of his reign (16 yrs), while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David...

His principles shaped his purpose, and his purpose paved a pathway for his life.

The bible says he followed his path *not turning aside to the right or the left.*

Ephesians 1:3-5 ESV Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.

He Reversed the Curse of His Father's Sins.

He *followed the ways of his father David*? But wait what? David was an ancestor but not his father.

How did he become the GOAT? The greatest king of all time?

He Purged the Land, His Life and the Temple.

2 Chron 34:3-7 NIV "... In his twelfth year (20 yrs old) he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles and idols. 4 Under his direction the altars of the Baals were torn down; he cut to pieces the incense altars that were above them, and smashed the Asherah poles and the idols. These he broke to pieces and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. (note: I told you he didn't play... he was a savage) 5 He burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and so he purged Judah and Jerusalem. 6 In the towns of Manasseh, Ephraim and Simeon, as far as Naphtali, and in the ruins around them, 7 he tore down the altars and the Asherah poles and crushed the idols to powder and cut to pieces all the incense altars throughout Israel. Then he went back to Jerusalem.

2 Kings 23:1-4 Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. 2 He went up to the temple of the Lord with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets—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. 3 The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord—to follow the Lord and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant. 4 The king ordered Hilkiah the high priest, the priests next in rank and the doorkeepers to remove from the temple of the Lord all the articles made for Baal and Asherah and all the starry hosts. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron Valley and took the ashes to Bethel. v.7 NLT He also tore down the living quarters of the male and female shrine prostitutes that were inside the Temple of the Lord, where the women wove coverings for the Asherah pole v. 10 Then the king defiled the altar of Topheth in the valley of Ben-Hinnom, so no one could ever again use it to sacrifice a son or daughter in the fire as an offering to Molech.