

# King Josiah of Judah

2 Kings 22:—23:30



## bible verse

COMMITTING TO MEMORY

# Ms

main street

May 8, 2011

## Proverbs 20:11

Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.



## story lesson

BIBLE STORY

Unlike his wicked father, Manasseh, young Josiah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. He became king when he was eight years old and he ruled in Jerusalem for thirty-one years.

During the eighteenth year of his reign, King Josiah began repair work on the temple of the Lord for it was in disrepair. While they were working on the temple they came across the *Book of the Law*. It was read in the presence of the king, and the king tore his robes when he heard the words. Josiah realized when he heard the words how much the people had disobeyed and angered the Lord. The king commanded:

"Go and inquire of the Lord for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the Lord's anger that burns against us because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us" (2 Kings 22:13).

A prophetess was consulted and she relayed the repeated message of the Lord to the people of Israel. "I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people, according to everything written in the book the king of Judah has read. Because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods and provoked me to anger by all the idols their



hands have made" (2 Kings 22:16-17). However, due to the responsiveness and the humbleness of the young King Josiah, the Lord said that he would relent during his lifetime.



So King Josiah renews the covenant of the Lord with the people of Judah. They read aloud the words of the *Book of the Covenant*. "Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant" (2 Kings 23:3). Then the elders and priests destroyed the high places and the altars to Baal and the pagan priests and the male prostitute shrines and the shrines at the gates to the city. All of the altars the kings before him had erected, King Josiah tore down.

Then Josiah commanded all the people to celebrate the Passover as it is written in the *Book of the Covenant*. "Not since the days of the judges who led Israel, nor throughout the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah, had any such Passover been observed. But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, this Passover was celebrated to the Lord in Jerusalem" (2 Kings 23:22-23).

King Josiah continued to cleanse the land from all the detestable things that had cemented themselves into the culture during the many previous years of apostasy. The king did this to fulfill all the laws that were written in the *Book of the Covenant*. "Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the *Law of Moses*" (2 Kings 23:25 emphasis added).

Nevertheless, the Scriptures say, the Lord did not relent from his fierce anger concerning Jerusalem—it was only paused during the lifetime of Josiah. Judgment upon Judah was coming...

It is interesting when they found the long-lost book it was the *Book of the Law*. Yet, after they read it and discovered the many years of disobedience to the covenant of the Lord, they later referred to it as the *Book of the Covenant*. The language went from pure law, to personal promise.





## life application

MAKING IT REAL

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### Knowledge

Sometimes we do not know stuff. Either we were ignorant or we were just never told, but we did not know. That is understandable. The thing is, when you do eventually know, then you are responsible for the knowing. The Lord does not hold us accountable for what we do not know, only what we know. The more knowledge you have the deeper your relationship with the Lord is, and the more responsible you are for what you know. *With great power, comes great responsibility.*

### Wholehearted Devotion

Young King Josiah was fully devoted to the Lord. He did not hold back. He was centered and committed to righting the wrongs that the people had done to the covenant of the Lord. His passion, determination, and leadership came out in abundance. Like the king, we should commit our lives wholeheartedly to the Lord, holding nothing back.



## questions

REMEMBERING

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- 1. Who became king of Judah when he was 8 years old?** Josiah
- 2. What building did King Josiah repair because it was in bad shape?**  
The Temple
- 3. What did they find when they were repairing the Temple?**  
The Book of the Law
- 4. What special holiday did King Josiah have all the people of Israel observe?**  
The Passover
- 5. Because King Josiah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, what did the Lord promise not to do that He really needed to do?** Pronounce Judgment



## coloring sheet

ON THE NEXT PAGE

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**King Josiah of Judah**