CONTENDING FOR THE WAY ITS SUPPOSED TO BE 2 CHRONICLES 34-35 | ERIC SIMPSON | MARCH 19, 2023

"Revival in his [Jonathan Edwards] understanding is not a special season of extraordinary religious excitement as in many forms of later American revivalism. Rather, it is an outpouring of the Holy Spirit which restores the people of God to normal spiritual life after seasons of radical decline." – Richard Lovelace

2 Kings 23:25

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.

What set Josiah apart?

Radical repentance

2 Chronicles 34:2-3

2 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left. 3 In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David.

He was committed to ripping sin out by the roots.

2 Chronicles 34:3-4

...In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images. 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, the idols and the images.

"...But where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more" - Romans 5:20

"What one generation tolerates; the next generation will embrace." - John Wesley

How do you know you're in the middle of a moral revolution?

- "1. What was universally condemned is now celebrated.
- 2. What was universally celebrated is now condemned.
- 3. Those who refuse to celebrate are condemned." Theo Hopson (Cambridge professor)

Recovering what has been neglected

Recovering worship and the Word.

2 Chronicles 34:18-19

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.

"If we just lived what Jesus taught, we'd have the world we ache for." - Jon Tyson



Restoring redemptive practices

2 Chronicles 35:16-18

16 So at that time the entire service of the Lord was carried out for the celebration of the Passover and the offering of burnt offerings on the altar of the Lord, as King Josiah had ordered. 17 The Israelites who were present celebrated the Passover at that time and observed the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days. 18 The Passover had not been observed like this in Israel since the days of the prophet Samuel; and none of the kings of Israel had ever celebrated such a Passover as did Josiah...

April 8, 1966



June 21, 1971

