

# Josiah the King

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## Great Zeal for Pure Religion

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Josiah Began His Mighty Revival in His 12<sup>th</sup> Year;  
Jeremiah Began His Ministry in Josiah's 13<sup>th</sup> Year.

For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young,  
he began to seek after the God of David his father:  
and in the twelfth year he began to purge  
Judah and Jerusalem from the high places,  
and the groves, and the carved images,  
and the molten images.

II Chronicles 34:3

The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah,  
of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin:  
To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of  
Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah,  
in the thirteenth year of his reign.

Jeremiah 1:1-2

## **Do You Have Ages or Dates of Glory?**

When did you begin to seek after David's God?

When did you have purges in your life of sin?

Will it be easy to write your epitaph of zeal?

Has the word of the LORD controlled you?

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## Great Zeal for Pure Religion

His Spirit and Actions Should Convict Every Man;  
God Ranked Him the Highest for Religious Revival.

And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD,  
and walked in all the way of David his father,  
and turned not aside to the  
right hand or to the left.

II Kings 22:2



## **What Causes You to Turn Aside?**

Do you do what is right before God? Period?

Do you live your life like David lived his life?

Or do you lose conviction and turn aside?

What turns you? Job? Fun? TV? Body?

Men do not get turned ... they turn!

And like unto him was there no king before him,  
that turned to the LORD with all his heart,  
and with all his soul,  
and with all his might,  
according to all the law of Moses;  
neither after him arose there any like him.

II Kings 23:25

**What a Text! What a Man! What a Goal!**

## **How Can You Be God's #1?**

Go after the LORD with all your heart.  
And do it with all your soul and might.  
And do it all according to the Bible only.  
And do it more than anyone else you know.

**What a Text! What a Man! What a Goal!**

## Remember Jeremiah's Ministry

Josiah	18 years	
Jehoahaz	0 years	Son
Jehoiakim	11 years	Son
Jehoiachin	0 years	
Zedekiah	<u>11 years</u>	Son
<b>Jeremiah</b>	<b>40 years</b>	

## Short Timeline of Josiah

	<u>Age</u>	<u>Reign</u>
Began to Reign	<b>8</b>	<b>0<sup>th</sup></b>
Began to Seek Lord	<b>16</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>
Began Destroying	<b>20</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>
Greatest Passover	<b>26</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>
Died Fighting Necho	<b>39</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>

## Josiah ... an Island of Godliness

Grandfather

**Manasseh (55) ... Worst!**

Father

**Amon (2) ... Bad like Dad!**

*He stood up for God against family both before and after.*

Son

**Jehoahaz (0) ... Bad like Dads!**

Son

**Jehoiakim (11) ...Bad like Dads!**

Son

**Zedekiah (11) ... Like Jehoiakim!**



## **Who Will End Generational Sins?**

Someone must stop foolish, sinful living.  
Josiah hated lives of father and grandfather.  
And Josiah did it without the Bible, or all of it.  
You live before God. End the pain. Choose glory!

## **Do Not Blame Your Fathers for You.**

This is the Jews' wicked sour grapes proverb. Josiah's two fathers were Judah's worst kings. He sought the LORD against examples or genes. Every man shall bear his own burden for any sins.

## **Good Fathers Often Have Bad Sons.**

Josiah was very passionate for pure religion. But his sons were not for maybe three reasons? Was Josiah a neglectful father by many projects? Were his sons merely examples of total depravity? Polygamy was not ideal. He had at least two wives.

**How about a little secret about Josiah?**

Jeroboam was a construction superintendent for Solomon's building projects ... but ended up taking ten tribes away from Rehoboam.

And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour:  
and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious,  
he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.

I Kings 11:28

## **Is a great work ethic proof of much?**

No, it is only proof of a good work ethic!  
Reprobate atheists may often work hard!  
Solomon thought Jeroboam one of the best.  
But Jeroboam was wicked and vile with privileges.

Jeroboam was a construction superintendent for Solomon's building projects ... but ended up taking ten tribes away from Rehoboam.



He formed his own religion of two golden calves at Bethel and Dan to keep the ten tribes from any need for Jerusalem.

Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold,  
and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem:  
behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up  
out of the land of Egypt.

And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.

I Kings 11:28-29

So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel  
the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month  
which he had devised of his own heart;  
and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel:  
and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

I Kings 12:33

And, behold, there came a man of God  
out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel:  
and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.  
And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD,  
and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD;  
Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David,  
Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests  
of the high places that burn incense upon thee,  
and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

I Kings 13:1-2

God foretold Josiah by name 343 years before he became king, and Josiah did exactly those things as recorded in Kings and Chronicles.

Jeroboam as the king of ten tribes did not like this news, so he tried to touch the prophet.

And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out.

And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying,

Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.

The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.

I Kings 13:3-5

**How about a little secret about Josiah!**



## Short Timeline of Josiah

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## **At 16 ... He Sought the LORD**

Like in other acts, Josiah turned from earth toward heaven passionately, otherwise he would not have found God or conviction.

For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young,  
he began to seek after the God of David his father:  
and in the twelfth year he began to purge  
Judah and Jerusalem from the high places,  
and the groves, and the carved images,  
and the molten images.

II Chronicles 34:3

And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD,  
and walked in all the way of David his father,  
and turned not aside to the  
right hand or to the left.

II Kings 22:2

## **All Exploits for God Start at Home**

Forget others' motives! Burn your beams!  
God's blessing and power is for good hearts.  
His violent purging would have been hypocrisy.  
His conviction to see it through was by his heart.

And such as do wickedly against the covenant  
shall he corrupt by flatteries:  
but the people that do know their God  
shall be strong, and do exploits.

Daniel 11:32

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro  
throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong  
in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.

Herein thou hast done foolishly:  
therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

II Chronicles 16:9

## **Young Men, What Are You Doing?**

There is much more to life than fun and games. What are you striving to be the best at and win? You do not have to wait until you are older at all. Change today to make knowing God the top goal.



## **Fathers, Are You Training Your Sons?**

Do you have a son near 8? Train him upward.  
Do you have a son near 16? Remind him upward.  
Do not settle for school, work, chores, saving, etc.  
A boy is God's gift to you to make a man as Josiah.

## **At 20 ... He Destroyed Sin Everywhere**

The degree and extent of his purging efforts in Judah and Israel and surrounding areas is unprecedented in the history of kings. Asa left some high places, but not this king!

For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young,  
he began to seek after the God of David his father:  
and in the twelfth year he began to purge  
Judah and Jerusalem from the high places,  
and the groves, and the carved images,  
and the molten images.

II Chronicles 34:3

## **At 26 ... He Restored God's Temple**

He put men in charge of repairing the temple and told them how to fund the project and to assign the workers to get the job done!

And it came to pass in the eighteenth year of king Josiah,  
that the king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, the son of  
Meshullam, the scribe, to the house of the LORD, saying,  
Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may sum the silver  
which is brought into the house of the LORD, which  
the keepers of the door have gathered of the people:  
And let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the work,  
that have the oversight of the house of the LORD ...  
to repair the breaches of the house ...  
to repair the house.

II Kings 22:3-6

## **A Perfect Church Should Be Key to You.**

Josiah was 26 and loved God's house like David.  
Our local church is the temple of GOD Jehovah.  
He chose congregational worship and our form.  
He providentially chose every living stone in it.

Howbeit there was no  
reckoning made with them of the money  
that was delivered into their hand,  
because they dealt faithfully.

II Kings 22:7

## **Be So Faithful that All Fully Trust You!**

Some, even here tonight, cause us to question. We cannot be sure of some one week to another. Faithfulness at work is good. With God it is better. Consistency is nothing if not usually sold-out zeal.



## **At 26 ... He Found the Word of God**

Why not earlier? God was looking for his degree of commitment and zeal, not just to hate idolatry and sin, but to love worship.

And Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe,  
I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD.

And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.

II Kings 22:8

## **God Reveals Truth for Zealous Exploits!**

First, at 16, Josiah sought the LORD God of David.  
Second, at 20, he ripped false religion from Judah.  
Third, at 26, he began repairing Jehovah's temple.  
John was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day on Patmos.

## **At 26 ... He Trembled at God's Word**

Hearing the word of God read affected him, for it was not mere church noise but rather the words of the living God and His wrath.

And it came to pass,  
when the king had heard  
the words of the book of the law,  
that he rent his clothes.

II Kings 22:11

## **Do You Love Preaching and Apply It?**

There are two reasons to come to church Sunday. First, you crave God's beauty and to inquire His will. Second, you are to help all the others do the same. You must crave conviction, pray for it, listen for it.

## **At 26 ... He Looked for a Preacher**

He could understand the basic gist of the book of Deuteronomy that was read to him, but he wanted to know as much as possible.

Go ye, enquire of the LORD for me,  
and for the people, and for all Judah,  
concerning the words of this book that is found:  
for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us,  
because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this  
book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us.

II Kings 22:13



## **Do You Listen Intently, Study, and Review?**

Your preacher is not an accident but God's choice. He picked him personally for you for this very time. We call this His perfectly-wise providence for you. His comments and sermon content are for you.

## **At 26 ... He Heard Kind Comfort**

God loved his humble spirit and sent a word from Huldah that it was too late for Judah but he would die in peace before the judgment.

Because thine heart was tender,  
and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD,  
when thou heardest what I spake against this place,  
and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should  
become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes,  
and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD.

II Kings 22:19

Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers,  
and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace;  
and thine eyes shall not see all the evil  
which I will bring upon this place.  
And they brought the king word again.

II Kings 22:20

## **Does God Delight in You Like Josiah?**

If you alter your life like Josiah did to be far better than his fathers before him or anyone else, then God will reveal truth, grant peace, and show love.

## **At 26 ... He Enforced God's Word**

He read the word of God to the nation and made them stand to a covenant that they would together serve Jehovah perfectly.

And the king went up into the house of the LORD,  
and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people,  
both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the  
book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.  
And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the  
LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments  
and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all  
their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were  
written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

II Kings 23:2-3

## **Are All Under Your Authority Obedient?**

God made you a man, as we emphasized tonight. Thus, you are responsible for all those under you. You can do more than pray. Be Josiah or Phinehas. He will hold you accountable to enforce the truth.



## **At 26 ... He Destroyed Even More**

Though he had already made the greatest reformation in the history of Judah, the covenant convicted him to do more.

And he put down the idolatrous priests,  
whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense  
in the high places in the cities of Judah ... them also that burned  
incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the  
planets, and to all the host of heaven....

And he brake down the houses of the sodomites,  
that were by the house of the LORD, where the  
women wove hangings for the grove.

II Kings 23:5-7

And as Josiah turned himself,  
he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount,  
and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres,  
and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it,  
according to the word of the LORD which  
the man of God proclaimed,  
who proclaimed these words.

II Kings 23:15-16

## **Are You as Holy and Strict as He Expects?**

God is holy; He expects you to be holy like Him.  
You will regret compromise before you get to die.  
You will regret it even more after you meet Him.  
If the Bible is but half true, it demands all of you.

## **At 26 ... He Ramped Up Worship**

He ordered the Passover Feast to be kept by all the people, and he executed and enhanced it in ways that made it the best in Judah ever.

And the king commanded all the people, saying,  
Keep the passover unto the LORD your God,  
as it is written in the book of this covenant.  
Surely there was not holden such a Passover  
from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all  
the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah;  
But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this  
passover was holden to the LORD in Jerusalem.

II Kings 23:21-23

## **How Passionate Are You for Public Worship?**

God created you for Him, His pleasure, His praise. Your private thoughts or worship are not enough. He chose church worship. Maximize this with me! We intentionally do things others do not for Him! Do not be consistent or complacent. Be fervent!

## **At 39 ... He Died a Glorious Man**

He died at a young age, but he did more in his life than most any ten men you can think of.  
God gave Josiah his exceptional epitaph.



And like unto him was there no king before him,  
that turned to the LORD with all his heart,  
and with all his soul, and with all his might,  
according to all the law of Moses;  
neither after him arose there any like him.

II Kings 23:25

## **Is Your Life Deserving of God's Praise?**

Josiah made himself better than all Judah's kings. He did it by turning. What should you turn from? He did so by turning. What should you turn to? In private and public, let us also be exceptional. What does God, wife, children, church deserve?

## Summary of a Few Josiah Lessons

1. Do you have ages or dates of glory for God?
2. What causes you to turn aside from God?
3. How can you be God's #1 man like Josiah?
4. Who will end generational sins in their family?
5. Do not blame your father for your sinful folly.
6. Good fathers may have bad sons like Josiah.
7. Is a great work ethic proof of much in truth?
8. All exploits for God start at home – your heart.
9. Young men, what are you doing with your life?
10. Father, are you training your sons to be Josiahs?
11. A perfect church should be important to you.
12. Be so faithful that all fully trust you anywhere.
13. God reveals truth for zealous exploits of men.
14. Do you love Bible preaching and apply it?
15. Do you listen intently, study, and review it?
16. Does God delight in you like He did Josiah?
17. Are all under your authority obedient to God?
18. Are you as holy and strict as our God expects you?
19. How passionate are you for God's public worship?
20. Is your life deserving of God's praise like Josiah?

## At 39 ... Why Did He Die Young?

Because God took him out of this world to avoid the horrible judgment coming on Judah that included a son in Egypt, a son in Babylon, and a son with sons killed and eyes taken out. He died in peace bleeding out from an arrow.

## At 39 ... Why Did He Fight Necho?

Because God allowed him a little misguided zeal that was the means of his death in peace. He is not condemned in the Bible for fighting Necho, who accurately told him the situation like Nebuzaradan would later tell Jeremiah.

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## Great Zeal for Pure Religion

[Read about Josiah](#)

**II Kings 22 - 23**

**II Chron 34 - 35**

# For Further Study

- **Kingly Conduct** ... (PPT; 2015) ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2015/kingly-conduct/>
- **King Hezekiah** ... (sermons; 2010) ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2010/hezekiah-lessons/>
- **Character of Joseph** ... (PPT; 2017) ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2017/joseph-the-prince/>
- **Character of Joseph** ... (sermons; 2007) ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2007/character-of-joseph/>
- **Character of David** ... (PPT; 2022) ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2022/david-the-king/>
- **Character of David** ... (sermons; 2017) ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2017/david/>
- **David or Saul** ... (PPT; 2014) ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2014/david-or-saul/>
- **David or Joab** ... (sermon; 2006) ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2006/david-or-joab/>
- **Great Christians** ... (PPT; 2012) ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2012/character-traits-of-great-christians/>

# For Further Study

- Mighty Man's Life
- Great Men in Public
- Traits of Great Men
- David's Mighty Men
- Great Women and Men
- Godly Traits of Great Men ("C" Study)
- Greatness By a Great Cause
- Role of the Man
- Patriarchy – Where Are the Men?
- A Man's Heart
- Elihu for Young Men
- Greatness in the Sight of God
- A Good Name
- Christ-Like Men
- Grow Up!
- Men Growing Up
- Growing Up in Christ
- Heart of David
- Three Choices for Living
- Pastoral Combine
- Duty, Honor, Sacrifice
- Is There Not a Cause?
- Spiritual Champions
- Keeping Your Heart
- All Men Are Not Equal
- Things Your Wife Deserves
- Psychopaths
- Mighty Men of Valor