

Life in the Kingdom

REVIVAL IN THE LAND

TEXT: 2 Kings 21-23

INTRODUCTION: Hezekiah attempted reform, but the people were not with him. When he died, his son Manasseh became king. Sadly, Manasseh's heart was like the people, not like his father's.

2 Kings 21:1-7, 16 ¹ Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hephzibah. ² And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. ³ For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; he raised up altars for Baal, and made a wooden image, as Ahab king of Israel had done; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. ⁴ He also built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem I will put My name." ⁵ And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. ⁶ Also he made his son pass through the fire, practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke *Him* to anger. ⁷ He even set a carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of which the LORD had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever;

¹⁶ Moreover Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another, besides his sin by which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the LORD.

Manasseh was followed by his son Amon, and it was like father, like son.

2 Kings 21:21-22 ²¹ So he walked in all the ways that his father had walked; and he served the idols that his father had served, and worshiped them. ²² He forsook the LORD God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the LORD.

Then God blew a fresh wind over the cesspool of Judah. The eight year old son of Amon ascended to the throne of a wicked nation. His name was Josiah. The best we can tell, here was a young man who even at an early age had a heart for God.

2 Kings 22:1-2 ¹ Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath. ² And he did *what was* right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

I. REVIVAL ALWAYS BEGINS IN THE LIFE OF ONE PERSON WHO HAS A REAL HEART FOR GOD.

Hezekiah, Josiah, Charles Wesley, D H Moody, Charles Spurgeon, Billy Graham

II. REVIVAL ALWAYS CENTERS AROUND THE WORD OF GOD.

Tell story of 2 Kings 22:3-10

2 Kings 22:11 Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes.

Josiah realized what trouble Judah was in because they had so grievously, blatantly, and repeatedly broken the law of God. He sent to inquire of the prophetess Huldah. Huldah said that surely God would do to Judah as He had promised, but because King Josiah's heart was tender to the Lord, it would not happen in his lifetime.

III. REAL REVIVAL ARRIVES WHEN THE WORD IS PUT INTO ACTION.

- A. King Josiah himself read the book of the covenant to the people in front of the temple.
- B. King Josiah led the people in renewing their covenant with God.

2 Kings 23:3 Then the king stood by a pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes, with all *his* heart and all *his* soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people took a stand for the covenant.

- C. The king led the people in putting God's commands into practice.

2 Kings 23:4-8 ⁴ And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, the priests of the second order, and the doorkeepers, to bring out of the temple of the LORD all the articles that were made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven; and he burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried their ashes to Bethel. ⁵ Then he removed the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Judah and in the places all around Jerusalem, and those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, to the moon, to the constellations, and to all the host of heaven. ⁶ And he brought out the wooden image from the house of the LORD, to the Brook Kidron outside Jerusalem, burned it at the Brook Kidron and ground *it* to ashes, and threw its ashes on the graves of the common people. ⁷ Then he tore down the *ritual* booths of the perverted persons that *were* in the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the wooden image. ⁸ And he brought all the priests

from the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba; also he broke down the high places at the gates which *were* at the entrance of the Gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which *were* to the left of the city gate.

2 Kings 23:10-15 ¹⁰ And he defiled Topheth, which *is* in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech. ¹¹ Then he removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance to the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathan-Melech, the officer who *was* in the court; and he burned the chariots of the sun with fire. ¹² The altars that *were* on the roof, the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, the king broke down and pulverized there, and threw their dust into the Brook Kidron. ¹³ Then the king defiled the high places that *were* east of Jerusalem, which *were* on the south of the Mount of Corruption, which Solomon king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the people of Ammon. ¹⁴ And he broke in pieces the *sacred* pillars and cut down the wooden images, and filled their places with the bones of men. ¹⁵ Moreover the altar that *was* at Bethel, *and* the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he broke down; and he burned the high place *and* crushed *it* to powder, and burned the wooden image.

2 Kings 23:21-22 ²¹ Then the king commanded all the people, saying, "Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as *it is* written in this Book of the Covenant." ²² Such a Passover surely had never been held since the days of the judges who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah.

2 Kings 23:24-25 ²⁴ Moreover Josiah put away those who consulted mediums and spiritists, the household gods and idols, all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the house of the LORD. ²⁵ Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did *any* arise like him.

CONCLUSION: God send us a leader like Josiah, and give us the faith and courage to seek you with all of our heart as he did.