

(16) Josiah

BIBLICAL RECORD:

- 2 Kings 21:26 - 23:30
- 2 Chronicles 34:1 – 35:27
- 1st reference: 1 Kings 13:2
- Last reference: Zephaniah 1:1
- Mentioned 52 times in the Bible

POSITION:

- 16th King in the Southern Kingdom of Judah

REIGN:

- 31 years
- 640-609 B.C.

CHARACTER:

- Among the Best

DEATH:

- **2 Kings 23:29-30** – “. . . And Pharaoh Necho killed him at Megiddo when he confronted him. Then his servants moved his body in a chariot from Megiddo, brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own tomb . . .”

FAMILY:

- Father was Amon
- Mother was Jedidah
- Wives were Hamutal & Zedidah
- Son was Jehoahaz/Joahaz

RULER(s) IN THE NORTHERN KINGDOM:

- The Northern Kingdom had ended some 82 years before he became king in Judah. It ended in 722 B.C. during the 6th year in the 28 year reign of Hezekiah

PROPHET(s):

- Jeremiah
- Zephaniah
- Nahum to Nineveh
- Habakkuk

OBSERVATIONS:

- 20 Bible references made to him
- Josiah was the godly son of an ungodly father (Amon) and the godly father of an ungodly son (Jehoiahaz)
- The words of Shakespeare in King Lear can be applied to King Josiah: “Every inch a king.”
- Some 67 years after Hezekiah’s death, his great grandson (Josiah), made another attempt to bring the nation back to God, but his effort was fruitless in the long run.

- With the 1st deportation from Judea to Babylon having taken place in 605 B.C. and with Daniel having been 16 at the time he was taken in that deportation, that would mean he was born during the 19th year of King Josiah's (31), around 621 B.C.
- Josiah would be the last good king in Judah.

FACTS:

- Josiah was 8 years old when he became king.
- Approximately 39 years old when he died.
- Authorized the repair of the Temple. 2 Kings 23:3-6
 - Those in charge of repairing the Temple were honest men. 2 Kings 22:7
 - Hilkiyah, the high priest, said: "I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the Lord." 2 Kings 22:8
 - Shaphan, the secretary, took the book to the king and read from it in his presence. 2 Kings 22:10-11
 - Josiah's response: "He tore ("rent") his clothes." 2 Kings 22:11
 - 2 Kings 22:13: . . . "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."
- Sent four 5 men to the prophetess Huldah, wife of Shallum, son of Tikvah. She was the keeper of the wardrobe (vestments of the priests or the royal robe room) 2 Kings 22:14
 1. Hilkiyah, the high priest
 2. Ahikam
 3. Acbor
 4. Shaphan, the secretary (scribe)
 5. Asaiah
- Josiah renewed the covenant, and the people pledged themselves to the covenant. 2 Kings 23:1-3
- Josiah had Hilkiyah the high priest, the priests next in rank, and the doorkeepers to remove from the Temple all the articles made for Baal and Asherah and all the starry hosts. They took them outside Jerusalem and burned them. They took the ashes to Bethel. 2 Kings 23:4
- Josiah removed the evil objects. 2 Kings 23:5-15
 - Removed the pagan priests. 2 Kings 23:5
 - Removed the Asherah pole from the Temple and burned it in the Kidron Valley. 2 Kings 23:6
 - Tore down the quarters of the male prostitutes. 2 Kings 23:7
 - Desecrated the high places. 2 Kings 23:8
 - Desecrated Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom so no one could sacrifice his son or daughter in the fire to Molech. 2 Kings 23:10
 - Pulled down the altars the kings of Judah had erected on the roof as well as the altars Manasseh had built in the two courts. 2 Kings 23:13
 - Desecrated the high places east of Jerusalem on the south of the hill of corruption where Solomon, some three plus centuries earlier had made for the gods of many of

his wives. 2 Kings 23:13 The altars had been there longer than the United States has been a country.

1. Ashtoreth – The vile goddess of the Sidonians.
 2. Chemosh – The vile god of Moab
 3. Molech – The detestable god of the people of Ammon
- “Even the altar at Bethel the high place made by Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin-even the altar and high place he demolished. He burned the high place and ground it to powder and burned the Asherah pole also.” 2 Kings 23:15
 - At Bethel he had the bones in the tombs on the hillside burned on the altar to defile it in accordance with the word of the Lord as foretold by the man of God who foretold of these events (2 Kings 23:16). Remember the prophecy of the man of God as recorded in 1 Kings 13:3 – “That same day the man of God gave a sign: ‘This is the sign the Lord has declared: This altar will be split apart and the ashes on it will be poured out.’”
 - He continuing his reform work in the towns of Manasseh, Ephraim, Simeon, and as far north as the towns of Naphtali, “and in the ruins around them” 2 Chronicles 34:6
- The king’s order: 2 Kings 23:21-23 – “The king gave this order to all the people: ‘Celebrate the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this 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.”
 - Josiah provided for all the lay people, 30,000 sheep and goats for the Passover offerings. 2 Chronicles 35:7
 - The Passover was celebrated in the 18th year of Josiah’s reign. 2 Chronicles 25:19 That would be about one year before Daniel would be born.
 - This Passover celebration took place approximately 100 years after the Northern Kingdom had been taken into Assyrian captivity.
- Josiah had the Levites put the Ark of the Covenant back into the Temple of the Lord. 2 Chronicles 35:3-4
 - Great compliment to Josiah. 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 God would do: 2 Kings 23:26-27 – “ Nevertheless, the LORD did not turn away from the heat of his fierce anger, which burned against Judah because of all that Manasseh had done to provoke him to anger. So the LORD said, ‘I will remove Judah also from my presence as I removed Israel, and I will reject Jerusalem, the city I chose, and this temple, about which I said, ‘There shall my Name be.’”
 - The death of King Josiah. 2 Kings 23:29-30 – “While Josiah was king, Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt went up to the Euphrates River to help the king of Assyria. King Josiah marched out to meet him in battle, but Neco faced him and killed him at Megiddo. Josiah's servants

brought his body in a chariot from Megiddo to Jerusalem and buried him in his own tomb. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz son of Josiah and anointed him and made him king in place of his father.”

LESSONS FROM HIS LIFE & REIGN:

- All people need to turn to God the way King Josiah did . . . with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength . . .” **2 Kings 23:25**
- **2 Chronicles 34:3** – “In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David . . .” He would have been 16 at the time.
- To many people today, the Bible remains lost.
 - Lost in our homes
 - Lost in our pulpits
 - Lost to our youth
 - Lost in emotionalism
 - Lost in denominationalism
 - Lost in Islam
 - Lost in atheism
 - Lost in humanism
 - Lost in communism
 - Lost in our Legislative branch
 - Lost in our executive branch
 - Lost in our Judicial branch
- The Bible needs to be found today in:
 - The home
 - The pulpit
 - Every life . . . Every heart . . .

KEY PASSAGE(s):

- **2 Kings 22:8** - “I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the Lord.”
- **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.”