

2 Chronicles 34

King James Version (KJV)

34 Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. (Josiah = founded of Yah; this is approx. 531 BC; Josiah was the last righteous king of Judah; prophesied 360 years before his birth, during the days of Jeroboam) see 2Kings-22-23, 1Kings-13:2

²And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left. (He walked the straight line concerning worship of God. He didn't stray into idolatry or perversion)

³For 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. (A prophet named Zephaniah <1st year of his reign>, and later the prophet Jeremiah <13th year of his reign> guided Josiah's spiritual development)

⁴And they brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence; and the images, that were on high above them, he cut down; and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust of them, and strowed it upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them. (He defiled the graves of the idol worshipping priests)

Leviticus-26:27-30 (If you walk contrary to God, He will destroy your high places <your idols>)

⁵And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. (He burned the bones of the priests of Baal, upon the altars of Baal; the prophecy in 1Kings-13:2)

⁶And so did he in the cities of Manasseh, and Ephraim, and Simeon, even unto Naphtali, with their mattocks round about. (mattocks = a sharp instrument or a ruinous drought) (The drought in the land during the reigns of Manasseh and Amon was for hearing the Word of God)

(By now, the 10 tribes are gone into captivity to the Assyrians. They took the leaders, the educated, etc <200,000 people> and left the

peasants to fend for themselves. Josiah re-awakened their love of God and led them away from Idolatry)

⁷And when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem. (He did that to ensure that they would never be used again)

⁸Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land, and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God. (By now, the temple is almost 400 years old)

⁹And when they came to Hilkiah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Levites that kept the doors had gathered of the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, and of all the remnant of Israel, and of all Judah and Benjamin; and they returned to Jerusalem. (The money was needed to pay for the restoration of the temple. It had fallen into disrepair over the years due to neglect and idolatry)

¹⁰And they put it in the hand of the workmen that had the oversight of the house of the LORD, and they gave it to the workmen that wrought in the house of the LORD, to repair and amend the house: (Just as they did in the days of Joash)

¹¹Even to the artificers and builders gave they it, to buy hewn stone, and timber for couplings, and to floor the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed. (artificers = fabricators or craftsmen in wood, stone and metals)

¹²And the men did the work faithfully: and the overseers of them were Jahath and Obadiah, the Levites, of the sons of Merari; and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to set it forward; and other of the Levites, all that could skill of instruments of musick. (All these had oversight of the work. They didn't play music while others were rebuilding)

¹³Also they were over the bearers of burdens, and were overseers of all that wrought the work in any manner of service: and of the Levites there were scribes, and officers, and porters.

¹⁴ And when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found a book of the law of the LORD given by Moses. (They found the original Pentateuch - the Torah <Greek language> - the 5 books of Moses)

¹⁵ And Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiah delivered the book to Shaphan. 2Kings-22:8 (They didn't even know what it was. They had drifted so far away from God's Word over the years that even the priests didn't know about the Book)

¹⁶ And Shaphan carried the book to the king, and brought the king word back again, saying, All that was committed to thy servants, they do it. (He reported on the progress at the temple and also gave the Book to the king)

¹⁷ And they have gathered together the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers, and to the hand of the workmen.

¹⁸ Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath given me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king.

¹⁹ And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes. (An act of astonishment or mourning; he realized how bad things had become over the years, concerning the worship of God)

²⁰ And the king commanded Hilkiah, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Abdon the son of Micah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king's, saying, (Hilkiah is mentioned in Jeremiah-26:24. He saved Jeremiah's life)

²¹ Go, enquire of the LORD for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this book. (Josiah realized that the people's idolatry had provoked the Lord's wrath upon the country)

²² And Hilkiah, and they that the king had appointed, went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college:) and they spake to her to that effect. (Huldah, a prophetess,

was also the head teacher of the college where scholars and prophets studied)

(Miriam <Moses' sister> and Deborah <a Judge> were also prophetesses. Even in a land of chauvinism <see Paul>, God uses both men and women to carry out His Word. He will do so again in the end days. Paul was a Bible teacher; not a prophet. His statements concerning women <shutting up in church> were his opinion; not God's Word. Ignorant preachers conflate the two)

²³ And she answered them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell ye the man that sent you to me,

(Huldah's prophecy to Judah and to King Josiah)

²⁴ Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah: (evil = calamity) See Deuteronomy-28, Leviticus-26

²⁵ Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be poured out upon this place, and shall not be quenched. (The people had forsaken God for years;

Also see Mathew-26:39 (concerning the wrath of God; the seven vials to be poured out upon the people in the end days. Jesus asked God that the cup of wrath be spared from the people. God reiterated His intention to pour the cup of wrath upon the sinners of the end days)

²⁶ And as for the king of Judah, who sent you to enquire of the LORD, so shall ye say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel concerning the words which thou hast heard;

(This message is for the king alone)

²⁷ Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD. (God hears those who love Him and follow His law. HE hears even just one person in a nation of heathen people)

²⁸ Behold, I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place, and upon the inhabitants of the same. So they brought the king word again. (evil= calamity – bad translation) (grave in peace – can mean – die of old age, or it can mean slain in battle – a quick death. Josiah will be slain in battle)

(The people always reverted to idolatry and perversion after a good king died. The calamity that will fall on them is deserved. They will have corrupt king after Josiah, and then they will be taken captive by the Babylonians. Judah will cease being a free nation, until 1048 AD, when Israel is re-established. The prophecy of the fig tree< when it sends out a new chute> triggered the last generation – the generation of the fig tree)

²⁹ Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. (He wanted to save his people. Josiah was a good king. He thought that if he warned the people, they would straighten out and seek God. They didn't)

³⁰ And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the LORD. 2Kings-23:2 (He gathered all the people of authority in the government and the temple, and as many of the common people as possible. He read them the Words of the Torah, completely. They had never learned God's Word, because of the evil kings that came before Josiah)

³¹ And the king stood in his place, 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 his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book. (This was the platform that Solomon used to address the people at the dedication of the temple) (Knowing God's Word is not enough; doing it in our everyday life is what counts) James-1:22

³² And he caused all that were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand to it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers. (They renewed their covenant with God)

³³ And Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that pertained to the children of Israel, and made all that were present in Israel to serve, even to serve the LORD their God. And all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.
(Including the few who still remained in the northern 10 tribes; Josiah even removed the golden calf that Jeroboam had placed in Beth-El)

(A righteous leader leads a righteous people. A corrupt leader leads the people to sin and corruption)