GOOD KING JOSIAH
PART II
2 Kings 23:4-30

MAIN THOUGHT JOSIAH (640-609 BC), the last good king of Judah, CLEANSED the land, REPAIRED the temple, REDISCOVERED the scriptures, COMMITTED to God, REFORMED the land, CELEBRATED Passover, and SACRIFICED his life.

| AGE 26 | He repaired the temple, found the Scriptures, celebrated Passover. |
| AGE 39 | He died in battle against Pharaoh Neco of Egypt (609 BC). |

HE REFORMED THE LAND (4-20; 2 Chron. 34:33).
- Josiah became overwhelmed by the INSIGHTS he gained through the reading of the Word of God (Psa. 1:1-2; 119:1, 9, 105-106, 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16).
- At age 26, He made even more reforms in the land with even more new INSIGHTS from the word of God (Phil. 1:9).
- THE TEMPLE (4-7, 12-14) – He removed all that pertained to Baal, Asherah, and astrology and burned it all; he ended male shrine prostitutes.
- Josiah desecrated and demolished all surrounding high places.
- GEBA TO BEERSHEBA (8-9) – He removed the Levitical priests who had sacrificed incense on high places throughout Judea.
- BEN HINNOM (10-11) – This was the valley south of Jerusalem outside the Dung Gate (Neh. 2:13) which was appropriately the city dump. Here was the place of child sacrifices (Jer. 32:35). Translated gehenna (Gk) = hell in NT. The dump burned year around (Isa. 30:33).
- BETHEL (15-20) – he destroyed the shrine of Jeroboam by burning it, grinding the stones to powder, burning the bones of those who worshiped it. It had been prophesied (930 BC) by “the man of God” (1 Kings 13:1-2).

HE CELEBRATED PASSOVER (21-23; 2 Chron. 35:1-19).
- Not since the days of Samuel had Passover been celebrated in Jerusalem (Deut. 16:5-6) to this extent with all 12 tribes (2 Chron. 35:18).
- Josiah sacrificed almost twice that of Hezekiah – more than 37,000 sheep and goats plus 3,000 bulls (2 Chron. 35:7).
- The Ark of the Covenant was returned to the Holy of Holies (2 Chron. 35:3). Perhaps it had been placed in safe keeping during Manasseh’s evil reign.

HE SACRIFICED HIS LIFE (29-30; 2 Chron. 34:20-27).
- Babylon defeated Assyria (612 BC). Pharaoh Neco marched to the aid of Assyria (609 BC) traveling through Judah. Josiah, who was allied with Babylon, led his army to oppose the Pharoah at Megiddo.
- Pharaoh tried to warn him “at God’s command” (2 Chron. 35:22).
- Josiah, disguised (Ahab – 1 Kings 22:30), was fatally wounded.
- He was buried in Jerusalem. Jeremiah composed laments for Josiah that became famous (2 Chron. 35:25).