

=KINGS OF THE BIBLE=
Lesson 10
Josiah, One of the Great Kings

AIM: to teach my pupils the story of King Josiah.

POINT OF CONTACT: Since the reign of Josiah is so closely connected with the Word of God, it might be of interest to relive a part of Josiah's story. The Word of God had been lost through the years, and in the repairing of the temple, it was rediscovered. Actually, Hilkiah, the priest, found the Word of God as the temple was being cleansed. For a point of contact, you might take a Bible and hide it in the classroom area. You might even award some little prize to the one who finds the Bible. It might even be possible to purchase an inexpensive Testament or Bible and give it to the person who finds it.

INTRODUCTION: There were only three really good kings of Judah. Many think that Josiah was the best king of all. He became king at the age of eight. He had a great adviser whose name was Hilkiah. Immediately he took steps to repair the temple. He stopped idolatry. He took the idols and vessels of Baal and ground them to dust. He burned others to ashes. He broke down the shrines to Molech, a heathen god. He even went to Bethel and dug up the bones of priests and burned them on the altar. He had the living idolatrous priests put to death. He did away with the fortune-tellers, prostitution, and sodomy. A great revival came under Josiah. The great reason for this is that he built his reign upon the Word of God. Let us notice something about Josiah and the Word of God.

I. WHAT HE DID WITH THE WORD.

1. The foundation of his reign was on the Word of God. Read II Chronicles 34:14. The foundation of a life, of a home, of a business, of education, of our pleasure, and of every phase of our life should be upon the Word of God.
2. He heard the Word of God. See II Chronicles 34:18, 19. The King had the scribe come and read the Word of God to him. In other words, he heard the Word of God. This is why he had such great faith. Romans 10:17 reminds us that "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." To be the kind of Christian we ought to be, we must hear the Word of God read and preached.
3. He sent out the Word of God. Notice II Chronicles 34:21. He not only heard it himself, but he made it possible for others to hear the Word of God.
4. He read the Word of God. We read about this in II Chronicles 34:30. Certainly every Christian should have regular times when he reads the Word of God.
5. He kept the Word of God. See II Chronicles 34:31. In other words, he not only heard it read and read it himself, but he did what it says. This is the secret to the whole thing. Reading the Word of God is fine, hearing it read is fine, but doing what it says is the most important thing! A good rule for life would be: If the Bible says it, I will believe it and do it. In Josiah's kingdom he stopped what the Word of God forbids and started what the Word of God suggests.
6. He led in rediscovering the Word of God. The Word of God was discovered under his reign. He was the kind of king that brought his people back to the Bible. Would God we had such a leader in America today!

II. WHAT THE WORD DID FOR HIM.

1. The Word of God changed him. In II Chronicles 34:19 we learn that he tore his clothes. This means he was repenting and changing his life. The Word of God will certainly change a Christian.
2. The Word of God tendered him. Read especially the first part of II Chronicles 34:27. Notice the tender heart that he received because of the Word of God.
3. The Word of God humbled him. Read II Chronicles 34:27 again.
4. The Word of God burdened him. II Chronicles 34:37 tells us that he did weep.
5. There are many other things the Word of God does for a person. Let us notice them:
 - 1) It gives us salvation. See Romans 10:17.
 - 2) It gives us assurance. See John 5:24.
 - 3) It gives us spiritual food. I Peter 2:2 teaches us this fact.
 - 4) It gives us daily victory over sin. Notice Psalm 119:9, 11.
 - 5) It gives us answered prayer. Read John 15:7.

- 6) It shows us God's will. In Psalm 119:105, notice the words, “lamp unto my feet.” This means it shows us God's will for today. The words, “a light unto my path,” means it points out in the future and shows us the will of God for tomorrow.
- 7) It make us soul winners. Read Psalm 126:5, 6. The seed here is the Word of God.
- 8) It gives us joy and peace. In Psalm 119:165, notice the words, “nothing shall offend them.” People are not easily offended when they dwell in the Word of God. This means it keeps us from having our feelings hurt.
- 9) The Word of God sets us on fire. See Jeremiah 20:9.

III. GENERAL THINGS ABOUT JOSIAH.

1. He took the counsel of a godly man, Hilkiah. Josiah was just a youngster. Though he was the king, he realized he needed advice. He sought this advice and followed it. This is the secret to the success of any person.
2. He took steps to repair the temple. Notice, every time people had revival in the Bible, they got right with the house of God.
3. He became angered at false religion. Bear in mind, he did not become angry at people but at false religion. What a tremendous thing it was to take the idols and vessels and grind them to powder and dust and to burn others to ashes; to tear down the shrines; and even to dig up the bones of the priests and burn them on the altar; and then to do away with fortune-tellers, prostitution, and sodomy; and also to have the living idolatrous priests put to death! You will notice here that he hated false religion because it brought dishonor and reproach upon the name of God.
4. He died in honor. Here is one of the few kings who died in honor. His life had been a dedicated one, and his death was an honorable one.