

THE GOD THAT MOVES MOUNTAINS.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TODAY AND FOREVER.

“THE LIFE AND FAITH OF JOSIAH”

JUNE 11, 2023

**To request a copy of each message, please email:
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ANCHOR BIBLE REFERENCES

➤ Hebrews 13: 5-8

➤ ⁵ God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

➤ ⁶ So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can mortal man do to me?”

➤ ⁷ Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.
Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

➤ ⁸ **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

Our Mandate Remains: “The House of Prayer for all Nations,
Extending God’s Love to all the Nations.”

We are sowers (not eaters) but the sower reaps in multiple folds.



The Leaders, consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Luke 5:37-38

"No one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will spill, and the wineskins will be ruined."

"Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins."

(This year, we must have a fresh vision of our Christian life)

As we consider the life of the leaders and their faith, let us apply the lessons and, thus, create new wineskins and expand our spiritual container to enable God to move the mountains He has planned to move for us from 2023.

2 KINGS 22-23 and 2 CHRONICLES 34-35

The Leader, JOSIAH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

➤ According to 2 Kings 22 and 2 Chronicles 33,

¹Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. ²He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

➤ **Not Too Young to Walk with God (even without being an ordained Priest or Minister)**

2 Chronicles 33:3

³In the eighth year of his reign (now Josiah is 16), while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David.

➤ In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles and idols. ⁴Under his direction the altars of the Baals were torn down; he cut to pieces the incense altars that were above them, and smashed the Asherah poles and the idols. He purged Judah and Jerusalem.

The Leader, JOSIAH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

- ⁸ In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, he began to purify the land and the temple; he sent Shaphan and others, to repair the temple of the LORD his God. ¹² The workers labored faithfully.
- ¹⁴ While they were bringing out the money that had been taken into the temple of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD that had been given through Moses. ¹⁵ Hilkiah said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the LORD." He gave it to Shaphan.
- **Brethren, though they were not looking for this book, finding it became a great turning point in Josiah's journey.**
- **In Isaiah 65:1, God said** "'I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.'
- **In Jeremiah 33:3** God said, "I will show you great and mighty things you do not know."

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➤ As Mathew Henry commentary puts it,

It seems, this book of the law was lost or missing. Perhaps it was carelessly mislaid and neglected, or thrown by into a corner by those that knew not the value of it, or it was maliciously concealed by some of the idolatrous kings, or their agents, who were restrained by the providence of God or their own consciences from destroying it, but hoped it would never be found; or, as some think, it was carefully laid up by some of its friends, lest it should fall into the hands of its enemies.

Whoever were the instruments of its preservation, we thank God graciously for digging it up and for that happy providence by which Hilkiyah found this book at this time, found it when *he sought it not*

➤ **In Isa. 45:3**, God said “I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name

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- 2 Chron 33:¹⁶ Then Shaphan took the book to the king and reported to him:
¹⁸ “Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.” And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king.
- **As Christians, working with God, we must be attentive to God voice, His revelations and His direction.**
- ¹⁹ When the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his robes. ²⁰ He gave these orders to Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Abdon son of Micah,^[a] Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king’s attendant: ²¹ “Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for the remnant in Israel and Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the LORD’s anger that is poured out on us because those who have gone before us have not kept the word of the LORD; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written in this book.”
- ²² Hilkiah and those the king had sent with him^[b] went to speak to the prophet Huldah, ²³ She said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Tell the man who sent you to me, ²⁴ ‘This is what the LORD says:

The Leader, JOSIAH, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

- I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people—all the curses written in the book that has been read in the presence of the king of Judah. ²⁵ Because they have forsaken me and ...
- **BUT ²⁷ because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before God when you heard what he spoke against this place and its people, and because you humbled yourself before me and tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the LORD. ²⁸ Now I will gather you to your ancestors, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place and on those who live here.**
- ²⁹⁻³³ The king renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD—to follow the LORD and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in this book. Josiah removed all the detestable idols from all the territory belonging to the Israelites, and he had all who were present in Israel serve the LORD their God. **As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the LORD, the God of their ancestors.**

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ADDITIONAL LESSONS FROM THE LEADER JOSIAH

➤ **Hypocrisy – the mixed basket is dangerous**

God's temple filled with many idols (dangerous to run a Christian family filled with many idols) – *claiming to have higher standards or more noble beliefs than is the case.*

God opened Josiah's eyes to see where they were erected or hidden and he pulled them down.

2 king 23 ¹⁷ The king asked, "What is that tombstone I see?"

The people of the city said, "It marks the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and pronounced against the altar of Bethel the very things you have done to it."

¹⁸ "Leave it alone," he said. "Don't let anyone disturb his bones." So they spared his bones and those of the prophet who had come from Samaria.

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➤ **Enthroned God wherever you have control:**

2 King 23: 19

¹⁹ Just as Josiah had done at Bethel, Josiah removed all the shrines at the high places that the kings of Israel had built in the towns of Samaria and that had aroused the LORD's anger. ²⁰ Josiah slaughtered all the priests of those high places on the altars and burned human bones on them. Then he went back to Jerusalem.

➤ **Thank God for what He does and Honour Him**

2 King 23: 21

²¹ 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." ²² Neither in the days of the judges who led Israel nor in the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah had any such Passover been observed. ²³ But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, this Passover was celebrated to the LORD in Jerusalem.

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- Destroy not just the sins but every resemblance of sin

2 King 23: 24-25

²⁴ Furthermore, Josiah got rid of the mediums and spiritists, the household gods, the idols and all the other detestable things seen in Judah and Jerusalem. ... 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.**

In Matthew 22:36-38, the disciples asked Jesus, ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment is the greatest in the Law?” ³⁷Jesus declared, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 “don’t be gullible. Check out everything, and keep only what’s good. Throw out anything tainted with evil. Keep away from everything that even looks like sin.”

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➔ Be careful, every sin has a consequence

Numbers 14:18 “The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in loving devotion, forgiving iniquity and transgression. **Yet** He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished; He will visit the iniquity of the fathers upon their children to the third and fourth generation.

2 King 23: 26 says, though Josiah did all he could to sway off God’s punishment,

²⁶ 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 arouse his anger. ²⁷ 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, which I said, ‘My Name shall be there

Brethren, this was not Josiah’s sin; yet God was not letting the people go unpunished.

In 2 King 21 & 2 Chron. 33, Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. He committed detestable sins, filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and had spilled innocent blood by sacrificing his son in the fire and also by practicing idolatry. God forgave him when he repented, but there were still the consequences from that sin and the people were punished.

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➔ Be careful about what roles you accept (the roles, jobs or positions, etc.)
Proverbs 14:12 says “There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.”

The sin in Judah was there before Josiah accepted the job. He did all he could to clean it BUT he could not. God granted him peace but still had to visit.

2 kings 23, ²⁹ While Josiah was king, Pharaoh Necho 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 Necho faced him and killed him at Megiddo. (His sons, Jehoahaz and Eliakim (Jehoiakim) replaced him in succession.)

2 Kings 24, During Jehoiakim’s reign,, ² The LORD sent Babylonian, Aramean, Moabite and Ammonite raiders against him to destroy Judah. ...

³ Surely these things happened to Judah according to the LORD’s command, in order to remove them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh.

Brethren, wherever we have the option to say NO, let’s first diligently seek God’s approval before we accept anything.

GOD BLESS YOU!