

Fact Sheet for “Josiah” 2 Chronicles 34-35

Pastor Bob Singer
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Parallel passage: 2 Kings 22:1-23:30

Josiah is not one of the best known kings of Israel. David and Solomon hold that distinction. But Josiah should be. God had high praise for him. Also, in the biblical record of Josiah’s reign there is a very specific prophecy that was fulfilled. So, let’s get into the story.

Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-3

Think about it. Josiah was a mere 16 years old when he began to seek the Lord. He was only 20 years old when he began to root out idol worship from Judah and Jerusalem. During the reign of Hezekiah, his great-grandfather, Sennacherib of Assyria had conquered the northern 10 tribes and dispersed them throughout Assyria. Josiah now went into the territory once occupied by the northern 10 tribes and destroyed places where Baal and Asherah were worshipped.

Read 2 Chronicles 34:8

As the repair work progressed Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord given through Moses, and it was read before Josiah.

Read 2 Chronicles 34:19-21

So Hilkiah and the others went to Huldah the prophetess.

Read 2 Chronicles 34:23-28

What does this say to you about your own life? It is in God’s character to bless those who seek after Him and who apply His Word. Trust this! Hezekiah, Josiah’s grandfather, set down his guard when the Lord gave him 15 more years of life. During that time Manasseh was born. But Josiah did not. Then Josiah gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. He went to the house of the Lord and read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant.

Read 2 Chronicles 34:31

Josiah then made the people, both in Judah and in the territory that belonged to the northern 10 tribes, to serve the Lord. Listen as to how invasive idol worship had become.

Read 2 Kings 23:4-14

Then there was the fulfillment of a very specific prophecy given over 500 years earlier. Back then, while Solomon was still king, a prophet of the Lord came to Jeroboam with the message that he would reign over 10 of the 12 tribes. Once that had occurred Jeroboam was afraid that the people he ruled would return to the house of David while he himself would be killed.

Read 2 Kings 12:28

Jeroboam set one up in Bethel and the other in Dan.

Read 1 Kings 13:1-3

The words “torn down” in the ESV of verse 3, and later in verse 5, translate one word meaning “torn”. Think about it. Over 500 years before this prophecy would be fulfilled God named Josiah and told what he would do. Here are the fulfillments of this prophecy, on immediate, one in 500 years.

The immediate...

Read 1 Kings 13:4-6

The one over 500 years later with Josiah (The words “pulled down” in verse 15 translate a different word than in 1 Kings 13:3, 5.)...

Read 2 Kings 23:15-20

Then Josiah observed the Passover in a big way.

Read 2 Chronicles 35:18-19

And Josiah had this legacy from God...

Read 2 Kings 23:25

Still, God’s judgment would soon come on Judah.

Read 2 Kings 23:26-27

After this Josiah was wounded in battle at Megiddo and later died in Jerusalem. Jeremiah composed a lament for Josiah, and many would speak of Josiah in their laments.

Josiah is one of those great biblical role models for us. He reminds us to seek the Lord with all our heart, soul, and might. God’s response to Josiah’s devotion was to bless him with a peaceful life. This response from God is part of His character. Trust it!

Then there is that amazing prophecy, that is just one of many that sets the Bible apart from every book ever written. Only the Bible is God’s Word. There is no other book that has ever been written that can hold a candle to it. Read it... trust it... apply it.

And the Bible presents only Jesus Christ as the way to God (John 14:6).