

## UPON THE GRAVES OF THE CHILDREN

### 2 KINGS 22:2 – 23:27

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~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God has one final report after this one from the book of second Kings and we will conclude what has been a long and difficult commentary from a highly neglected section of Scripture. We are learning truths men do not teach to the next generation any longer in the “church.” We have spent quite a bit of time in the two double books of Samuel and Kings. Before we consider the final double historical book of Chronicles, I am going to take us on a detour in the New Testament, in Paul’s epistle to the Romans; and that will be a very, very long examination, to be sure. After Romans, we will return and complete the historical section of the Scriptures with first and second Chronicles.

In this report, we continue the account of the final good king in the southern kingdom of Judah – Josiah. There will be four more kings to follow before the captivity, but they are all bad kings. As we have seen, the northern kingdom of Israel was taken into captivity during the reign of King Hezekiah; and they will never appear on the world stage again in the Word of God. Of course, we saw the reign of Hezekiah’s son, Manasseh – and they don’t get any worse than him. Amon succeeded his father Manasseh, and – so, it goes..

It was during the reign of Josiah that Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah and Zephaniah prophesied in Judah. Each were marvelously used to bring revival in Judah during their days. It is prudent to highlight the manner in which Josiah reined over the people, and call attention to the things that brought revival. We considered key points in our previous report, but we need an extensive and complete lesson on revival in this report. My firm conviction is that the *ONLY* possible hope we have for an American future – or of the world at large, for that matter – is true and genuine revival. In America, it will either be revival or revolution; there’s no third choice in this dark hour that has arrived today.

2 KINGS 22:2 – 23:27

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On the secular plane, everyone is aware corruption permeates government at every level from the local mayor's office to the Oval Office. Immorality and lawlessness are the norm on the streets. Sex, drugs, alcohol and filthy, perverted speech and song permeate the airwaves and microwaves of radio, television and all manner of communications. Pornography, scandal, riots – and the calling of good evil and evil good – has left us a prodigal in the far country. Political anarchy has ensued.

On the religious level, the church is in *almost* total apostasy. Liberalism controls organized religion with an iron fist throughout the world today. Even the so-called modern evangelist displays a brazen denial of the Word of God – all while touting that others do not know the Lord! As we considered in our previous report, the Word of God has been totally lost in the church – just as it was in the days of Manasseh. The atheist teaches from the pulpit today; and that's exactly what had happened in Judah at the time in which we are studying. They simply didn't believe God.

There are several critical truths to understanding when determining what revival is and the conditions under which it can come about. The first is that revival is a personal and individual experience with the Word of God. Revival *NEVER* begins as a church service, congregation dinner, concert or any type of mass movement. That's just not what it is. It never has been; and it never will be any of those things. It is an individual return to the commands of Christ and the precepts of truth. Every period of revival the world has ever experienced has begun with exceptional Godly individuals. No. Other. Way. So, that said, let's pick back up in the life of Josiah....

## **XXII**

***2 And Josiah did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.***

~ It is clear in the Word of God that revival had to begin with the individual; in this case, Josiah – *NOT* the people around him. I hear these treacherous preachers on television and radio from all walks of life – and it takes an oddball or an outright weirdo to want to be on television, to be sure – but

everyone seems to have a plan and program to get *YOU* and *ME* straightened out and to motivate *US* to do something. They never speak of what they do – because that would be nothing – to get themselves right with God.

As I listen to modern preachers, I always think a revival could help *THEM!* If they could get themselves right Scripturally with the Lord, they might be able to give this lost and dying world a lesson and help someone. Revival just happens to be very personal, friends. King Josiah – the man at the top of national leadership of God’s chosen people – had to get his personal life straight before revival was ever a consideration for his nation. The politician who calls the other politician incompetent and a fraudulent law breaker is revealing his own life and heart. You might want to write that down! They never seem too concerned with getting themselves right with God. If that happened, it would be so strange I truly believe the nation would be frightened into a panic. Either way, that’s the revival we need: through a man in leadership who confesses his heart is as wrong as it can be....

***3 And it came to pass in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, the scribe, to the house of the LORD, saying,***

***4 Go up to Hilkiyah the high priest, that he may sum the silver which is brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers of the door have gathered of the people:***

***5 And let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD: and let them give it to the doers of the work which is in the house of the LORD, to repair the breaches of the house,***

***6 Unto carpenters, and builders, and masons, and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house.***

~ The second thing Josiah did was repair the temple. At this time, the temple was in disrepair and had become a warehouse for the odds and

ends of a long dead Jewish religion. Our modern church is much like the temple in the days in which we are studying, too. The church is in *DIRE* need of repair. I'm not talking about the buildings, because the buildings are state of the art wonders of architecture. There is a church down the road from my poor little neighborhood that cost more than fifty million dollars to build. The people flock there, but the Word of God is bastardized in that building, my friends. On Sunday night, Wednesday night and Thursday night the place is abandoned; because they aren't interested in a Bible study program. That magnificently maintained building needs some major repairs and renovations inside.

The conservative church is torn in shreds by strife and bigotry. Our churches do not have the Holy Spirit in them – I don't care how much you claim to have the Spirit of God – it is exactly as Jesus said, "... *your house is left unto you desolate!*" The church today is *NOT* witnessing for Him. They should be but, actually, you'll frighten the church if you try to talk to them about witnessing for Christ! The last things we need are any more pious platitudes, the saccharin faux sweetness, or the backslapping and hand shaking that goes on in the name of service to God. The knife and fork clubs that exist everywhere do a better job of fellowship than the church does....

***7 Howbeit there was no reckoning made with them of the money that was delivered into their hand, because they dealt faithfully.***

***8 And Hilkiyah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.***

~ The third and most critical aspect of revival is the Word of God! These people, at the time in which we are studying, had lost the Bible and they lost it in their own church! The Word of God is the only thing we have as a weapon in this modern world, friends. Only the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than the two-edged sword. There is no short cut, easy method or quick route to revival. Learning the Bible takes time. The flood tide of books about Christian experience makes me want to throw up, quite frankly. I have reviewed many of those books and I am here to tell you: they are as dead as a door nail! The problem is they present some man

or woman's method, instead of teaching the Word of God! Nobody seems to be saying, "... let's return back to the Bible!" I see many people say that we need to read so and so's book about Christianity this or that; no, friends, we don't! Modern books about the Bible are only re-presenting proven failures of methods. The church isn't reaching a lost and dying world today. Most people spend far less than half an hour each week in the Word of God. We need to get back to sound doctrine being taught properly, correctly and completely and, forget what mankind's books about the Bible say. We don't need the book of the month, but we do need the Book of ages! As we read on, we discover the king rent his clothes when he figured all of this out – and that was *REAL* repentance....

***9 And Shaphan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and said, Thy servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of them that do the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD.***

***10 And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king.***

***11 And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.***

***12 And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying,***

***13 Go ye, enquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us.***

***14 So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asahiah, went unto Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college) and they communed with her.***

**15 And she said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell the man that sent you to me,**

**16 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read:**

**17 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 kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched.**

**18 But to the king of Judah which sent you to enquire of the LORD, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, As touching the words which thou hast heard;**

**19 Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD.**

**20 Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again.**

## **XXIII**

**1 And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.**

**2 And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.**

***3 And the king stood by a pillar, 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 their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.***

~ These people made a decision to not only read and learn the Word of God – but they affirmed a vow to live it! Those are the steps we need to take if we desire revival. Most modern evangelists don't honestly care about revival – they only care about people giving them money to carry out a sensational program with an agenda. See, there *MUST* be a conviction of sin that *ONLY* the Word of God can bring to the heart of man for revival to follow! Once the Word of God does bring that conviction, there must be something done about it. Repentance means to make things right, friends; it means to turn around and go the opposite direction. If you're on the wrong path, you need to repent and get yourself on the right path. Josiah was a very brave man, and he had a tremendous influence on the people because of his *ACTIONS* – not his words.

*2 Chronicles 34:33 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 ~*

Josiah put action behind his prayer. A priority was placed on repentance. As we read on, we see some other things Josiah did. He put away idolatry. He burned the groves. Josiah even took the ashes out of the land. The people couldn't even look to the ashes to remind them of their sins! By doing all of this, he put away *IMMORALITY*, friends.

Further, he put the sodomites out of the land. Today, the church is beginning to accept homosexuals; which is completely unnatural. God says in Romans He gave up a people completely for this specific sin! If we do not think God will give up America or *ANY* nation that accepts homosexuality, then we are even more stupid than I had estimated! Continuing to smile and embrace the disgusting sexual tendencies of debauched men and

women whose minds and hearts are eaten alive with uncontrollable perversions and abnormal lusts will be the undoing of any civilization in the world that accepts it! We have history to learn from. We need the courage to condemn it and to put those who engage in it *O-U-T!* It's wrong and it is wrong on any and all levels.

Now, to be clear, I don't care if perverts meet and carry flags that call me intolerant and cruel; intolerant? – you better bet your life I'm intolerant of homosexuality! They make up their minds that it is acceptable behavior when it is *NOT* acceptable. The judgment of God is larger than our little minds! I don't care if you have a thousand doctorate degrees in every field that a doctorate degree is available in; our little minds are just not capable of naturally determining right and wrong. The Word of God is the authority on good and evil; and the Word of God condemns homosexuality as flagrant evil. It has brought down the wrath of God in the past, and it will do so in the future, too – you can just write all that down, friends. God hasn't changed His mind on this; and He isn't going to. This was a tremendously brave and courageous act by King Josiah.

I hear a lot of talk about 'loving each other' and even about loving Jesus; well, if your life isn't changed by the Bible, and if it doesn't make you clean and honest while lifting up your understanding, then you don't love Jesus; and there has been *NO* revival – in fact, if that is the case, then the Word of God is meaningless to you. I don't know whether you are a child of God or not – maybe you're a child of God that has gotten down in the pigpen – but acting in that manner makes you look like a pig to me. Many people are calling themselves Christians, but all they ever do is run around squealing and rolling in their own dung. They look like pigs, act like pigs, live like pigs, sound like pigs, and smell like pigs – all the while trying to convince me they are a Christians – well, my only reasonable conclusion is they are pigs! Judgmental? – *TOO BAD* – for you! I have news for you; the Lord Jesus told me not to cast my pearls before the pigs, so I have to make a judgment call to determine who they are. See how that works? ~

***4 And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove,***



***and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel.***

***5 And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.***

***6 And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people.***

***7 And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove.***

***8 And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba, and brake down the high places of the gates that were in the entering in of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on a man's left hand at the gate of the city.***

***9 Nevertheless the priests of the high places came not up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, but they did eat of the unleavened bread among their brethren.***

***10 And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech.***

***11 And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathanmelech the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire.***

***12 And the altars that were on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, did the king beat down, and brake them down from thence, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron.***

***13 And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile.***

***14 And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men.***

***15 Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove.***

***16 And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.***

***17 Then he said, What title is that that I see? And the men of the city told him, It is the sepulchre of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Bethel.***

***18 And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.***

***19 And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the LORD to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Bethel.***

***20 And he slew all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars, and burned men's bones upon them, and returned to Jerusalem.***

***21 And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the Passover unto the LORD your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant.***

***22 Surely there was not holden such a Passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah;***

***23 But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, wherein this Passover was holden to the LORD in Jerusalem.***

***24 Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.***

***25 And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.***

***26 Notwithstanding the LORD turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked him withal.***

***27 And the LORD said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.***

~ At least our safari ends this report on a positive note as King Josiah reinstated the Passover observance! The Jews had completely forsaken the Passover at this time. As we know, the Passover speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is our Passover; and He is the sacrifice for us, as Paul says. Today, we're trying desperately to have religion without Christ in the

church. The deity of Christ is ridiculed and omitted in seminary after seminary and in pulpit after pulpit throughout the world at this very moment. The value of Christ's death is absolutely rejected and spurned. The efficacy of the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is theorized as evil and as the problem of all problems in this world – even by many who wear their collar in the back. Let me say it again in case you missed it: the *ONLY* thing that can save this world tonight is a true and genuine revival.

I do believe it could happen because there is the sound of the goings in the tops of the mulberry trees today that indicates an abundance of rain. A flood tide came beginning in the sixteenth century; which was led by the great reformers such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, and John Knox. In the fourteenth century came reformers, before the reformation! In the seventeenth century, the world saw another great spiritual movement as the Puritans arrived. Those were dark days, though! In the eighteenth century, there was more darkness and deism; and along came Wesley and Whitfield to stand against it. In the nineteenth century, a mighty turning to God in Oxford emerged as a result along with a great missionary movement. Then came the revivals led by Finny and Moody.

In the previous two centuries, there has not been any sweeping and earth-shaking revival. It – just – hasn't – happened. I suppose a few local outbreaks of revival may have been realized; such as the Welch and the Irish revivals led by Dr. William Nicholson; but they have not been anything more than localized. The twentieth century drew to a close and the harvest time passed – the summer ended while everyone took a nap. People are not getting saved in the church today – believe it or don't believe it – the church is *NOT* reaching this lost and dying world. How long, oh, Lord, how long? Watchmen, what of the night?

The Great Depression didn't turn men to God so long ago. WWI, WWII, Korea, Viet Nam, losing Iraq, losing Afghanistan, terrorism, economic fraud, disease and senseless destruction have resulted in the spilling of blood as never before seen in this world, but has not turned men back to God. Those things haven't taught us anything. There has been no revival. We haven't had peace in several hundred years; but people seem to think their protests are going to solve something. Oh, how stupid we are. We need to recognize

and acknowledge our coldness and indifference. When is the last time *YOU* confessed your stone-cold heart to the Lord Jesus Christ? Have you told Christ today that you love Him? Have you *EVER* told Him that? ~