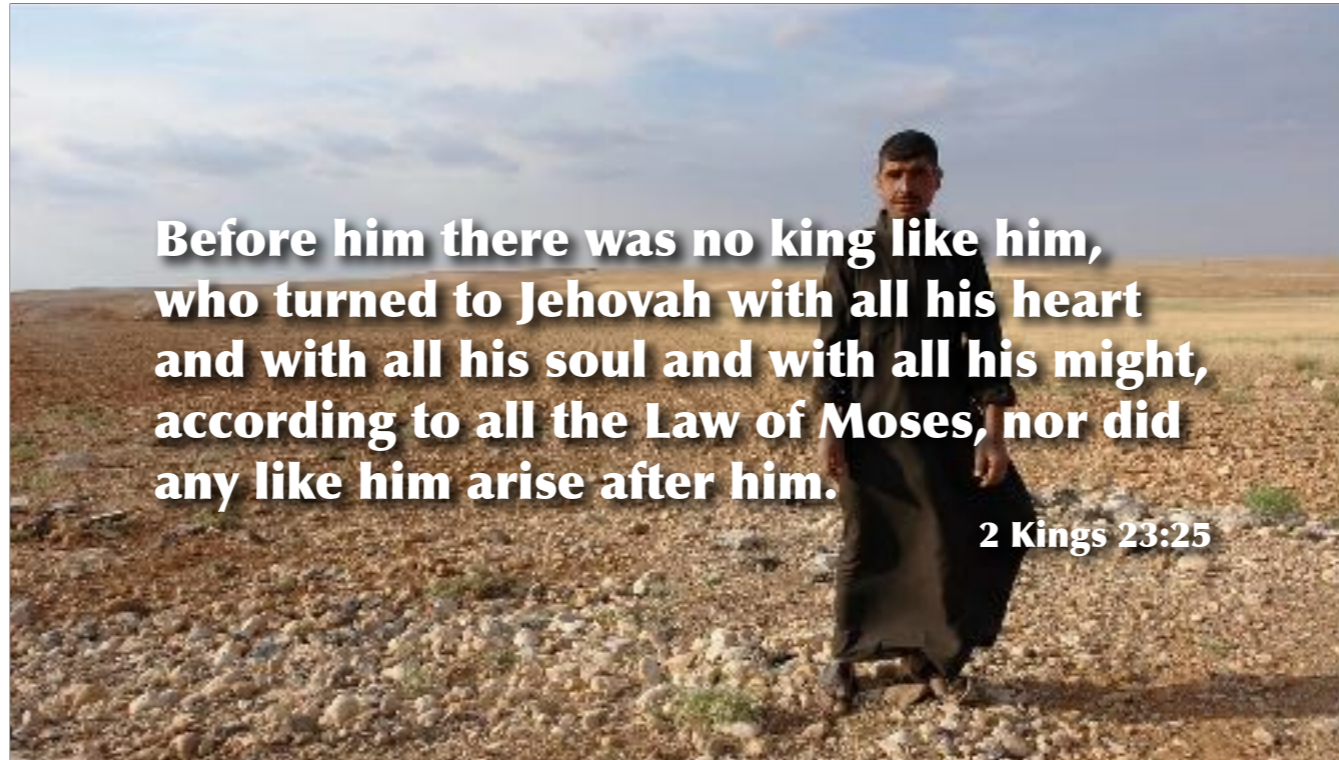




No King Like Him

2 Kings 22-23; 2 Chronicles 34-35

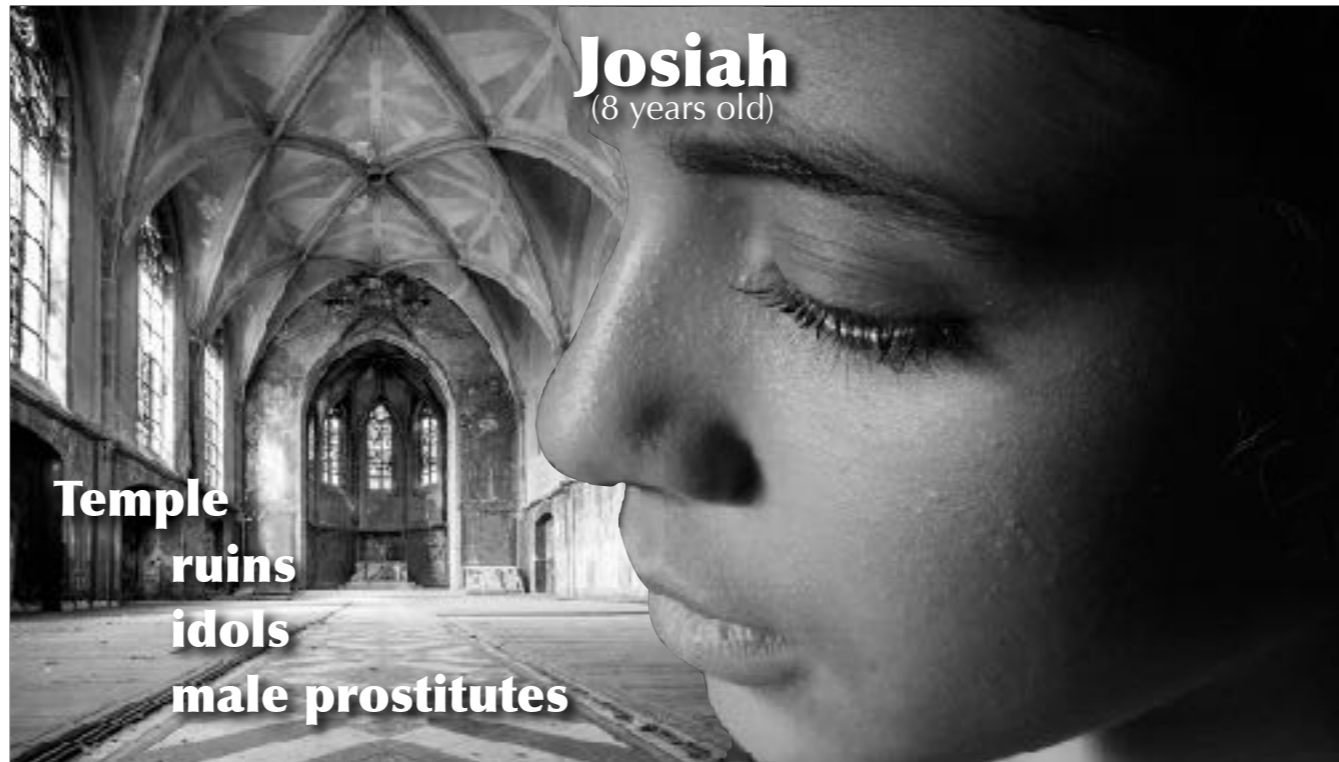


- 2 Kings 23:25 Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him.
- Who is this referring to?

Kings of Judah

Saul	Rehoboam	Jotham
David	Abijam	Ahaz
Solomon	Asa	Hezekiah
	Jehoshaphat	Manasseh
	Jehoram	Amon
	Ahaziah	Josiah
	Athaliah	Jehoahaz
	Joash	Jehoiakim
	Amaziah	Jehoiachin
	Azariah (Uzziah)	Zedekiah

- Kings of Judah
- Really on four who were good:
 - David
 - Asa
 - Jehoshaphat
 - Hezekiah
 - **Josiah**



- When Josiah became king, things were very bad in Israel
- The temple was in ruins and filled with idols ... different ones:
 - baals and asherahs
 - Sun, moon, constellations, and stars (host)
- Even had some male prostitutes used in “worship” (?)



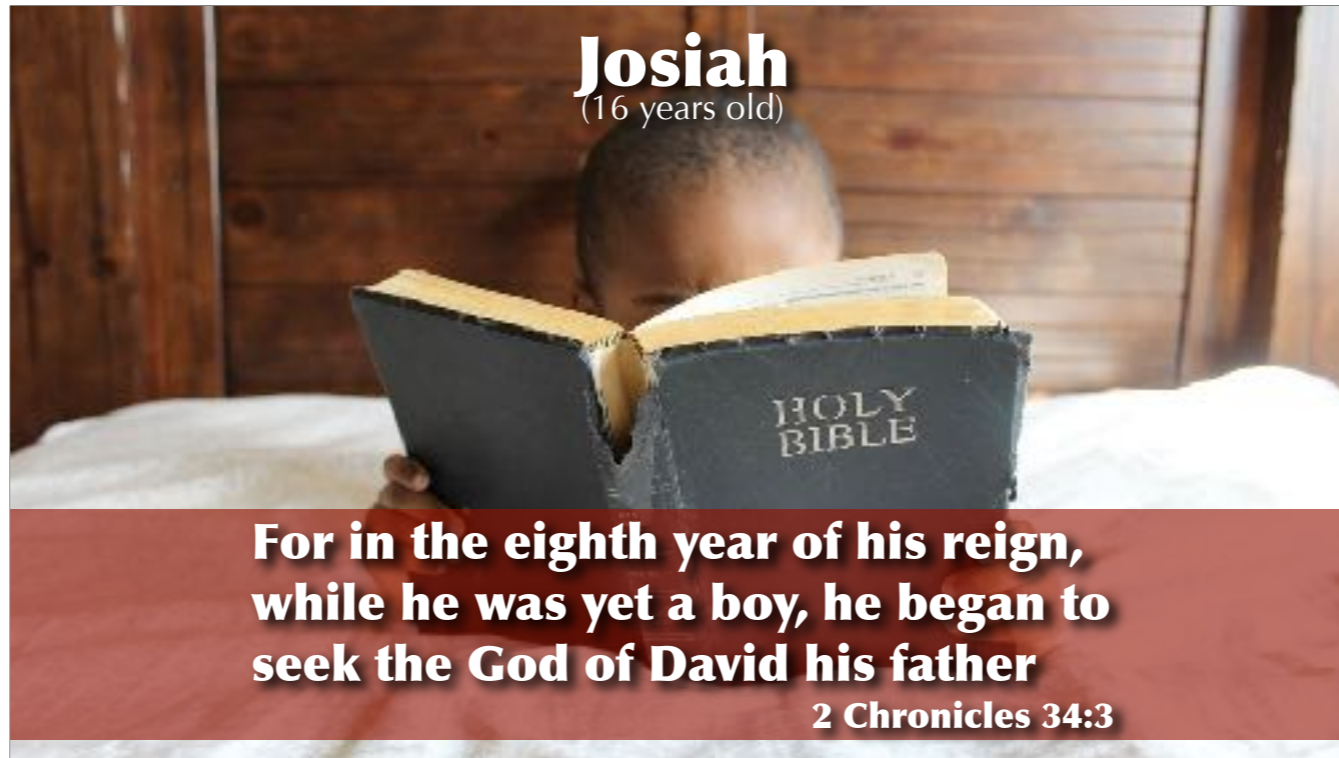
- There were idols from the former kings
 - Solomon (near temple)
 - Jeroboam (in Bethel, Israel)
 - Kings of Israel used high places in Samaria
 - Ahaz (in throne room; house of king)
 - Manasseh (temple)



- Mediums (talk to dead)
- Necromancers (dead)
- Household gods and idols



- This is not what Jehovah wanted for his people and his kingdom, but what can an 8 year old do?

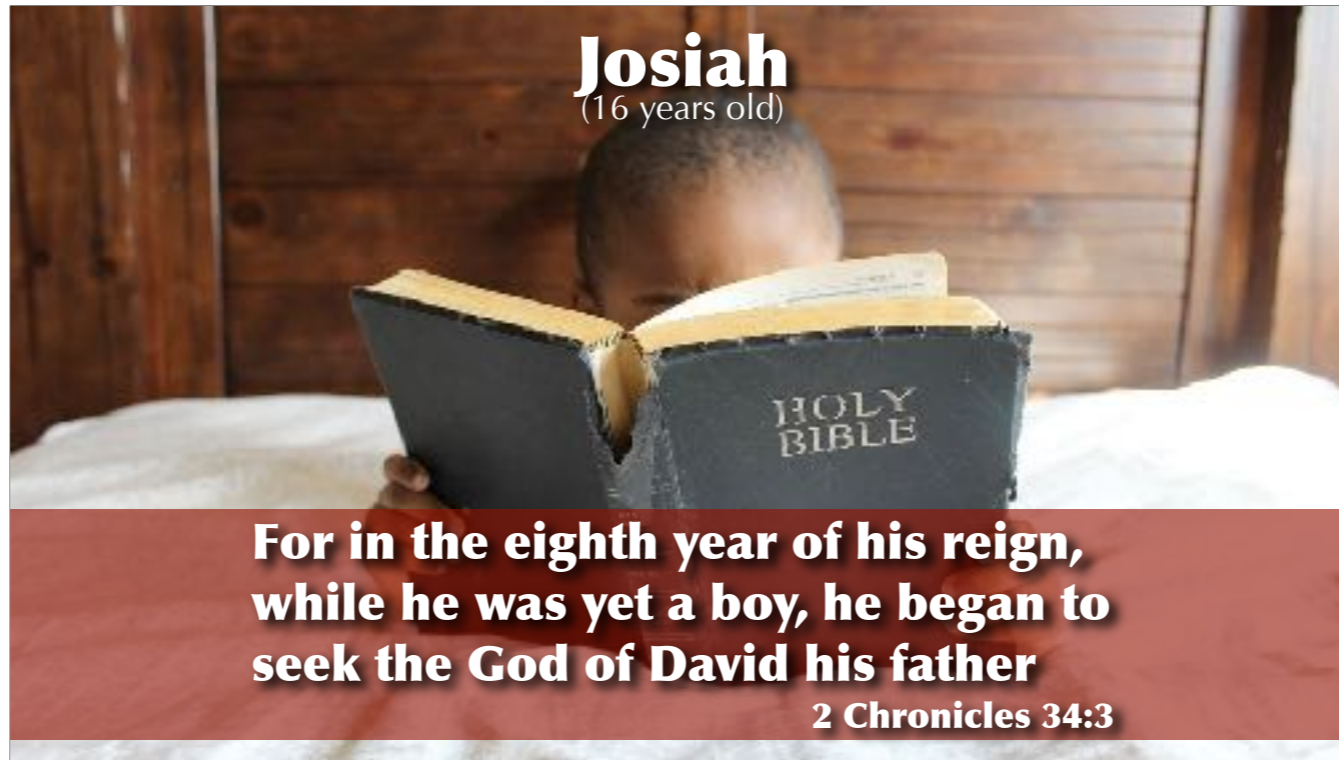


Josiah
(16 years old)

**For in the eighth year of his reign,
while he was yet a boy, he began to
seek the God of David his father**

2 Chronicles 34:3

- Seeking God
- 2 Chronicles 34:2-3 (ESV) 2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father; and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. 3 For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father, and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, and the carved and the metal images.

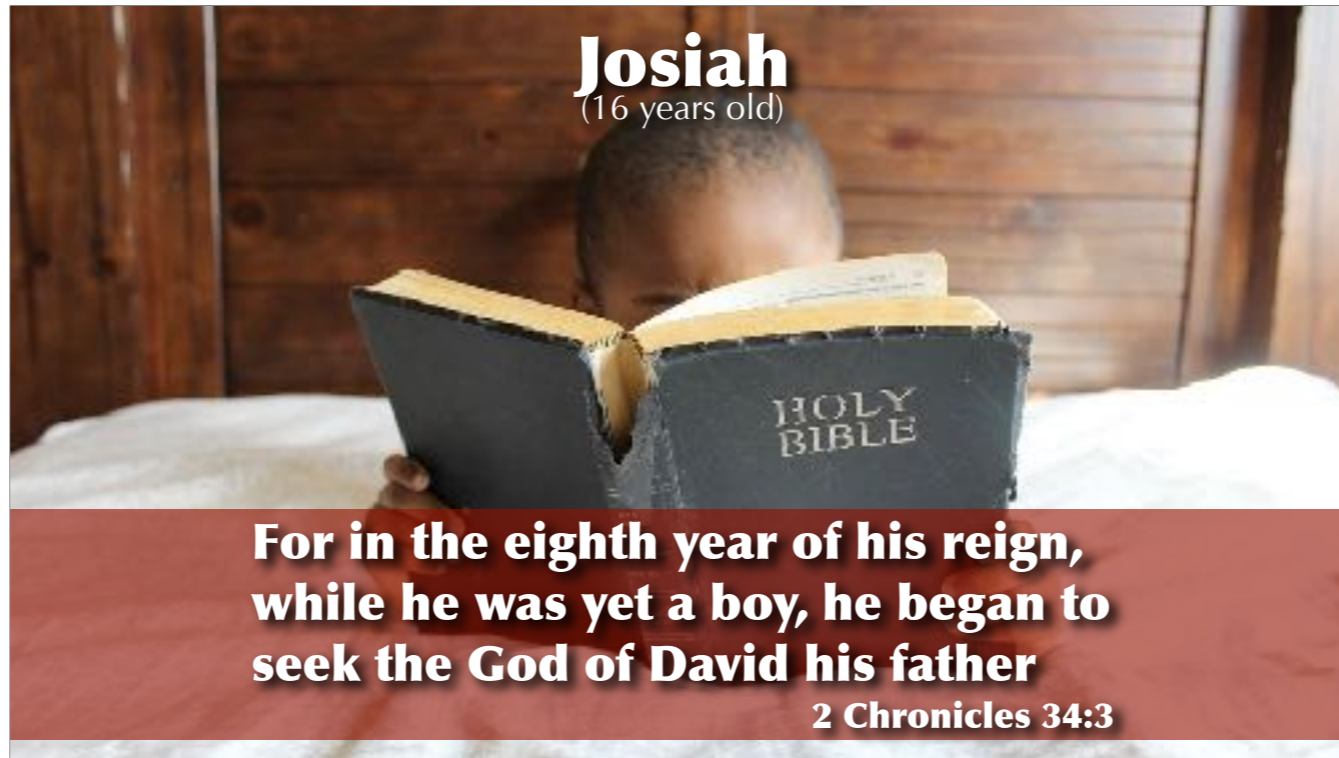


Josiah
(16 years old)

**For in the eighth year of his reign,
while he was yet a boy, he began to
seek the God of David his father**

2 Chronicles 34:3

- This is much more difficult than it sounds.
 - They didn't have the book of the law.
 - Traditions of his parents and grandparents was rooted in idolatry
- Saw what was happening among his people.

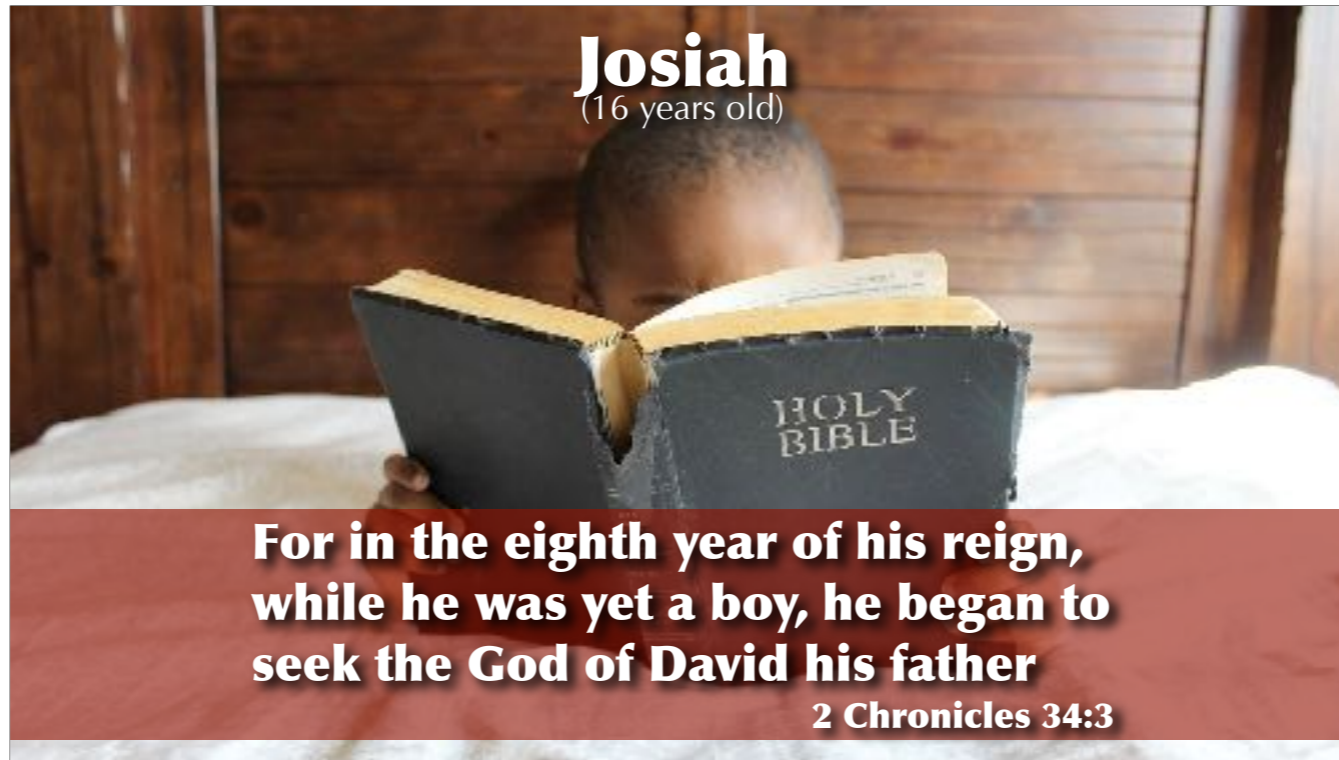


Josiah
(16 years old)

**For in the eighth year of his reign,
while he was yet a boy, he began to
seek the God of David his father**

2 Chronicles 34:3

- Sought something better
 - We don't know why
 - Maybe someone godly in his life: mom, uncle



Josiah
(16 years old)

**For in the eighth year of his reign,
while he was yet a boy, he began to
seek the God of David his father**

2 Chronicles 34:3

- Even when you are young, you can choose righteousness
 - See world clearly, see church clearly
 - Seek God
 - Don't stop seeking because you are different than those around you.



- Purge and Cleanse
- 2 Chronicles 34:3: in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, and the carved and the metal images.



- In 2 Kings 22:4
 - Started with the temple: vessels, priests, idols, prostitutes (destroyed houses),
 - baal priests in Judah, high places
 - defiled valley where they sacrificed children to Molech
 - past kings idols, and high places
 - In Samaria
 - Mediums, necromancers, household idols



- Josiah is methodical and persistent and thorough.
 - Didn't stop until he'd done something that no other king had done. (6 years!)
 - 2 Chronicles 34:8: Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, **when he had cleansed the land and the house**, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.



- Did he face opposition?
 - about 300 yrs since Solomon: idols are historic? art?
- Did he face ridicule?
- Focus was on seeking God, and getting all people to seek God.



- What evil idols do we need to tear down
 - in my own heart? in this church?
 - maybe it would take a young person with fresh eyes to see
 - identify the idols, and get rid of them completely from eyes, mind, heart
 - do hard things!



- Rebuilding the Temple

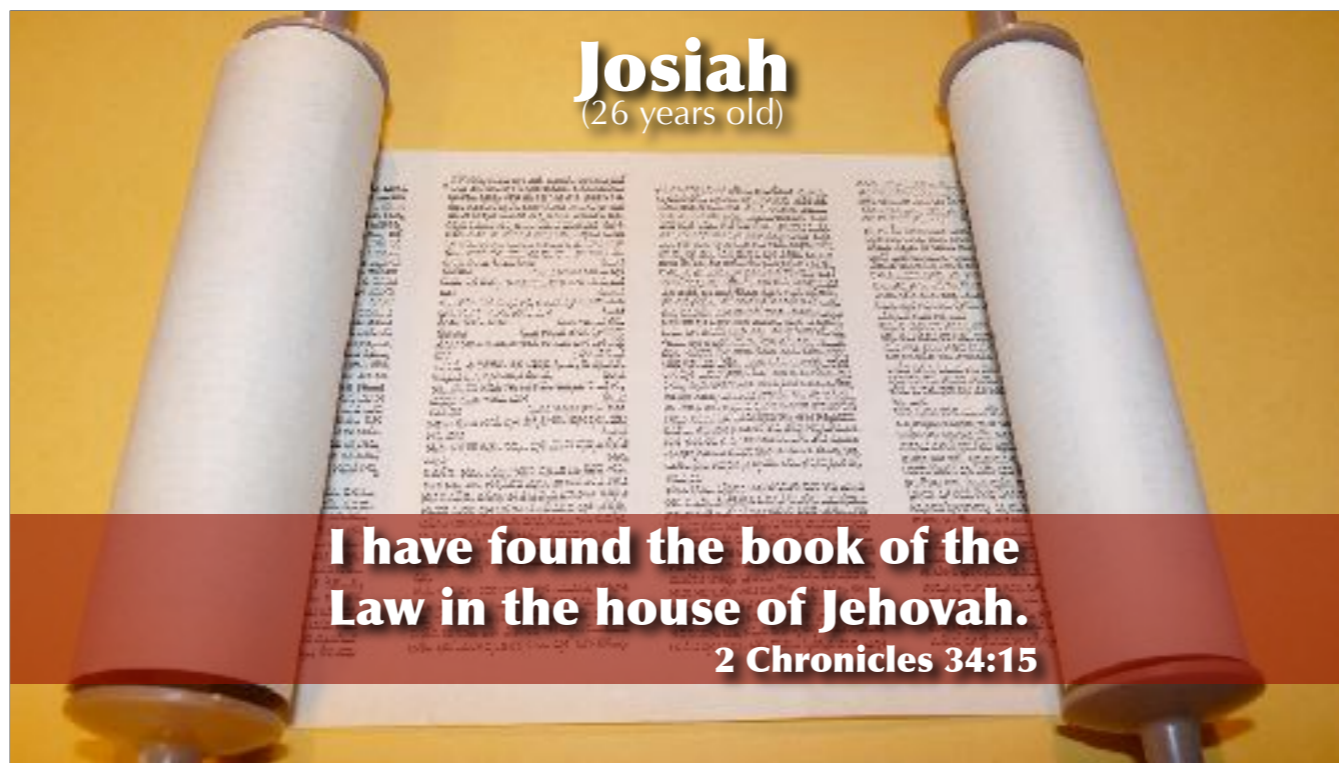
- 2 Chronicles 34:8: Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, **when he had cleansed the land and the house**, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.



- Note clear order: purge and cleanse first, then rebuild
- Money that had been brought to house of God (because of idolatry???)
 - He found a way to fund the project
- Workers
 - He found those who could do the work.
- Trust
 - 2 Kings 22:7 But no accounting shall be asked from them for the money that is delivered into their hand, for they deal honestly.”



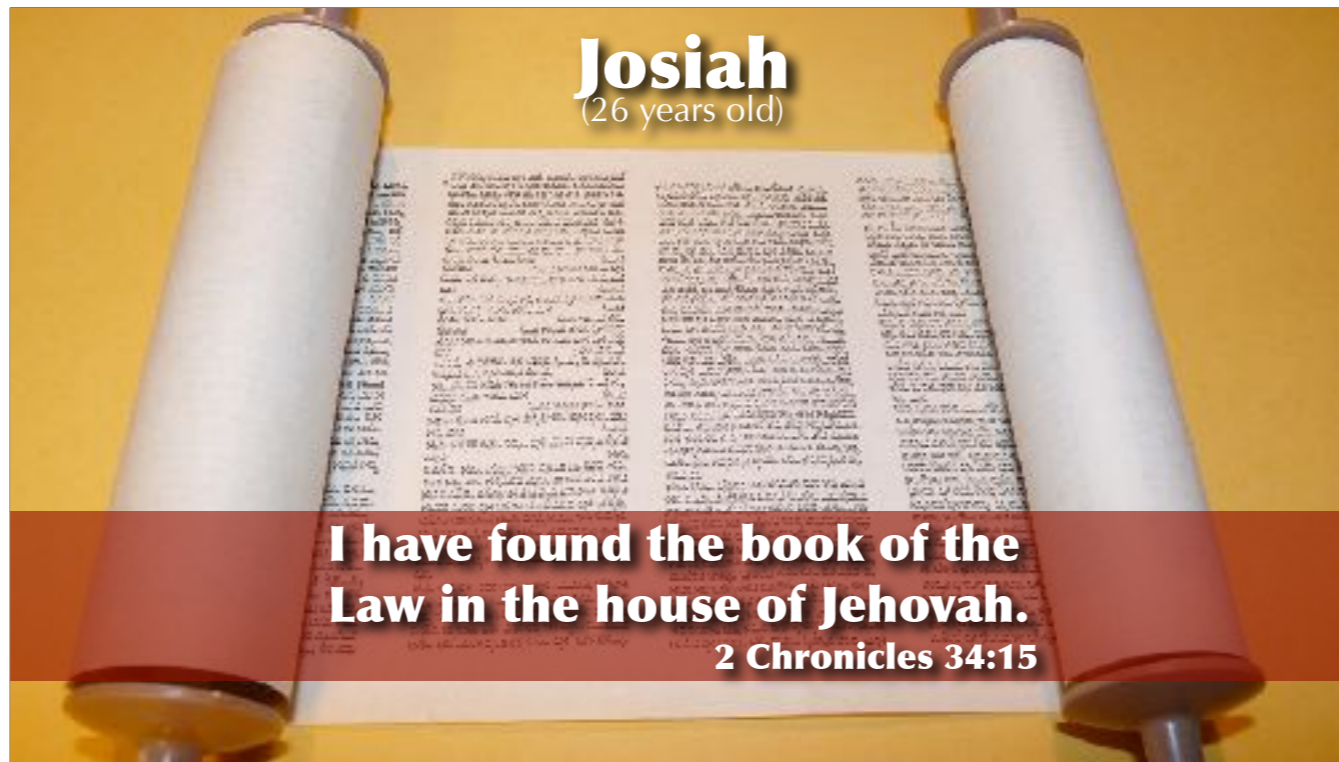
- When removing evil, we must rebuild/restore what is good.
 - count the cost
 - get help for yourself and others
 - trust others.



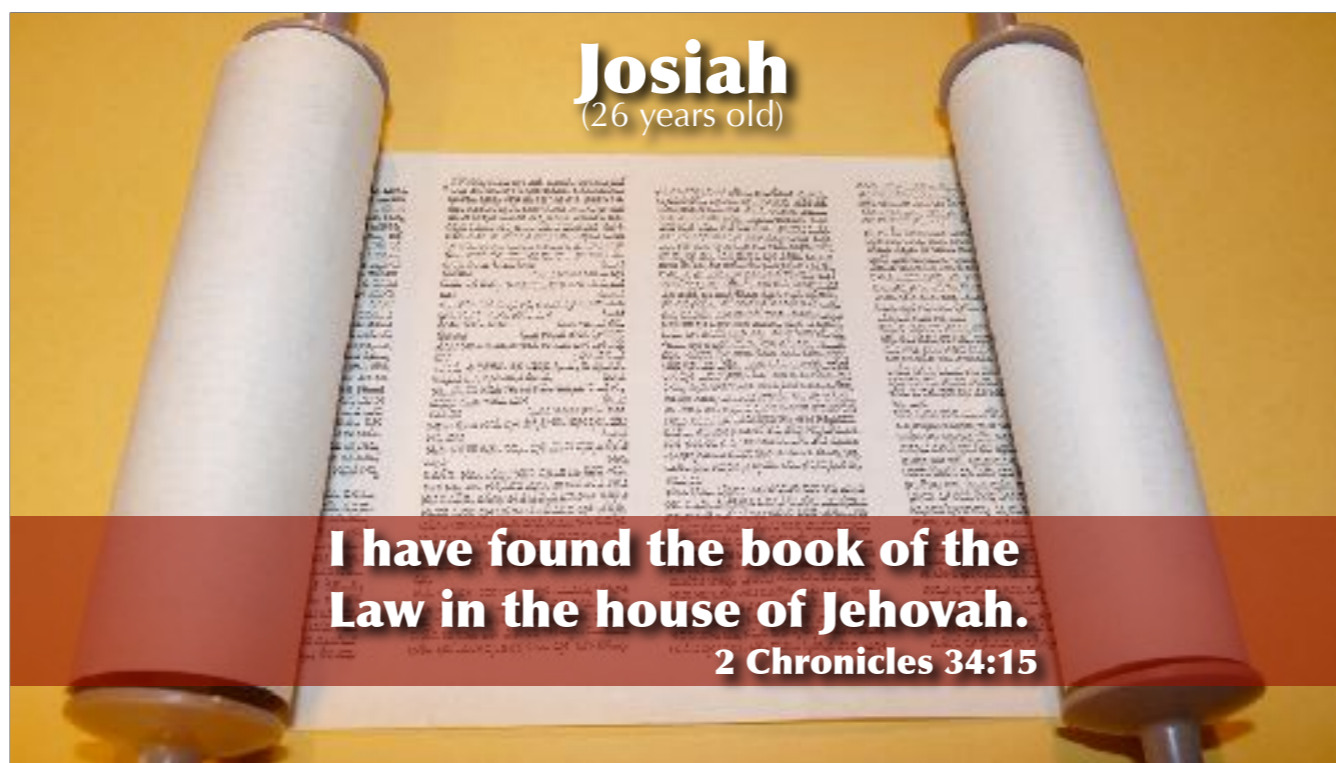
Josiah
(26 years old)

**I have found the book of the
Law in the house of Jehovah.**
2 Chronicles 34:15

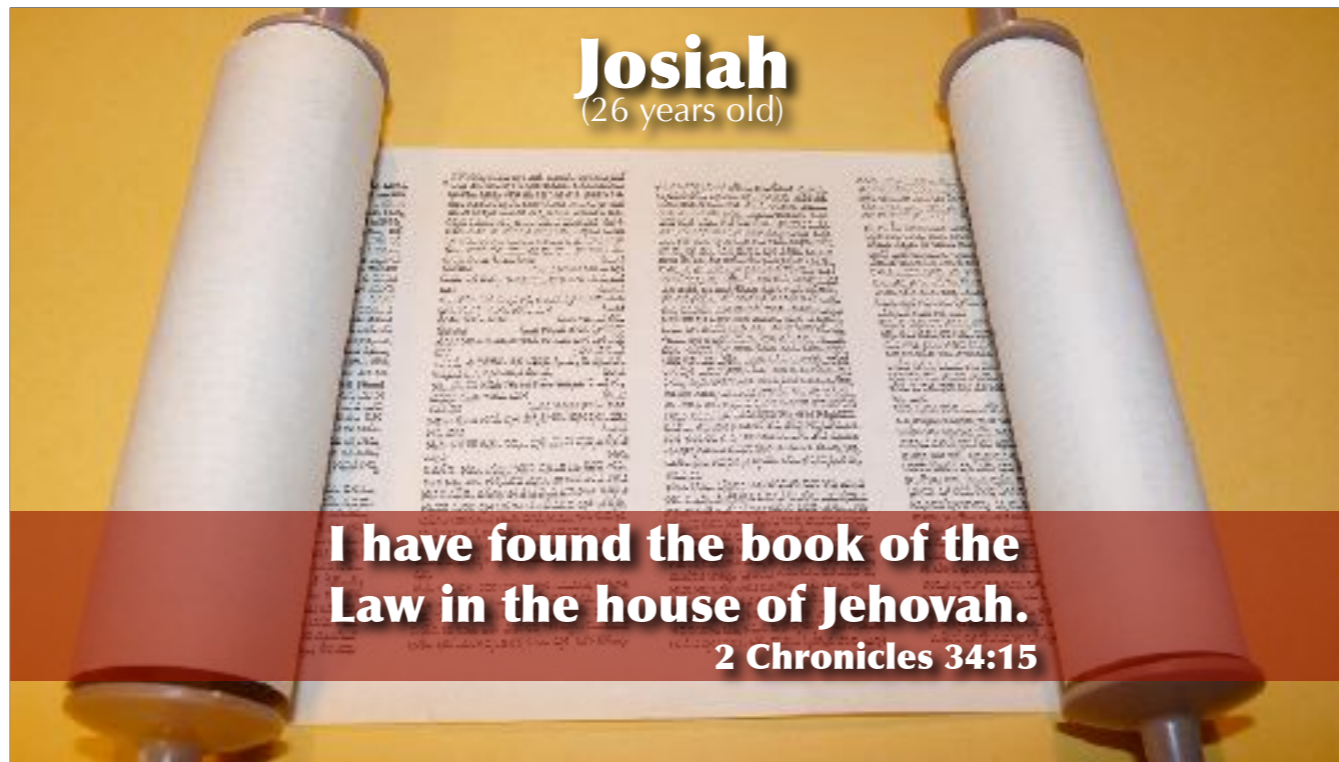
- Hearing the Word
- 2 Chronicles 34:15: Then Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the secretary, “I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD.” And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan.



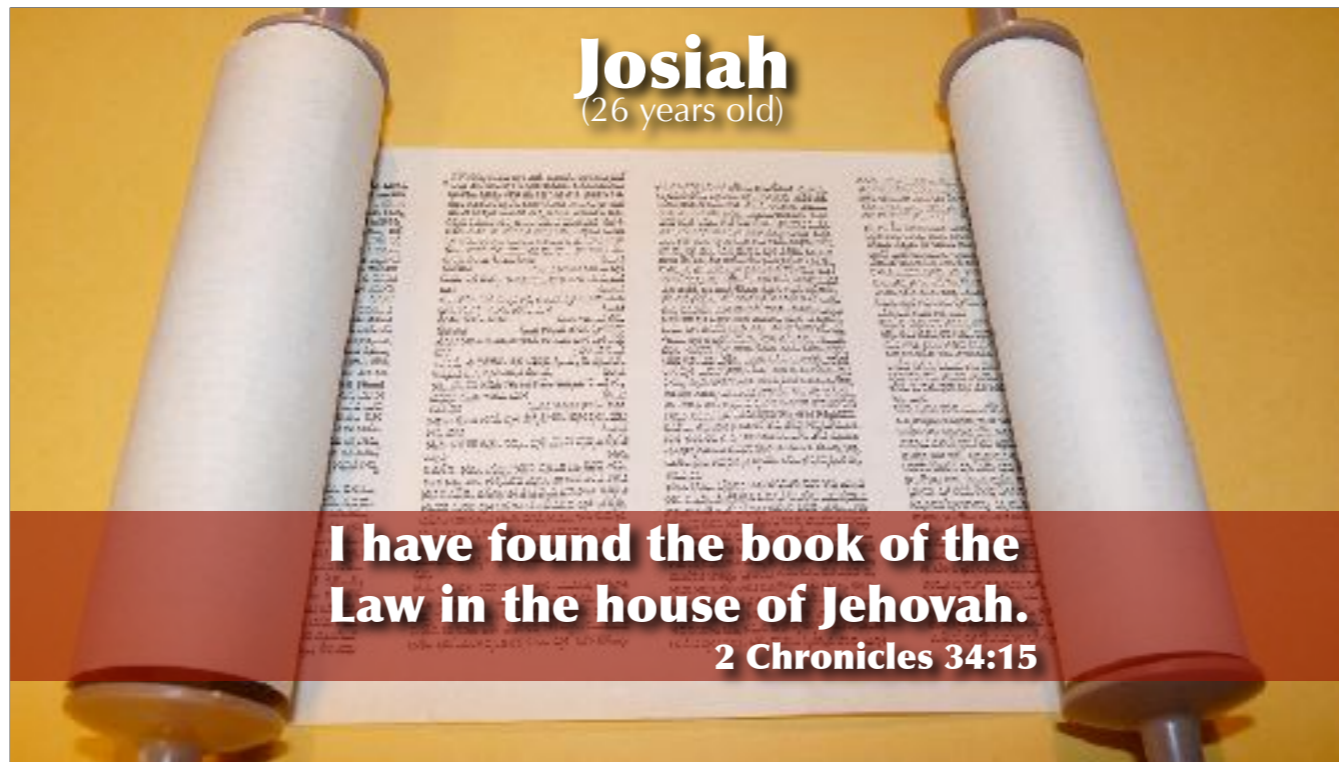
- 2 Chronicles 34:18-19: Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.” And Shaphan read from it before the king. 19 And when the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his clothes.
 - prophecies of disaster on Judah for their idolatry; facing God’s wrath
 - checked with prophethess
 - disaster is coming



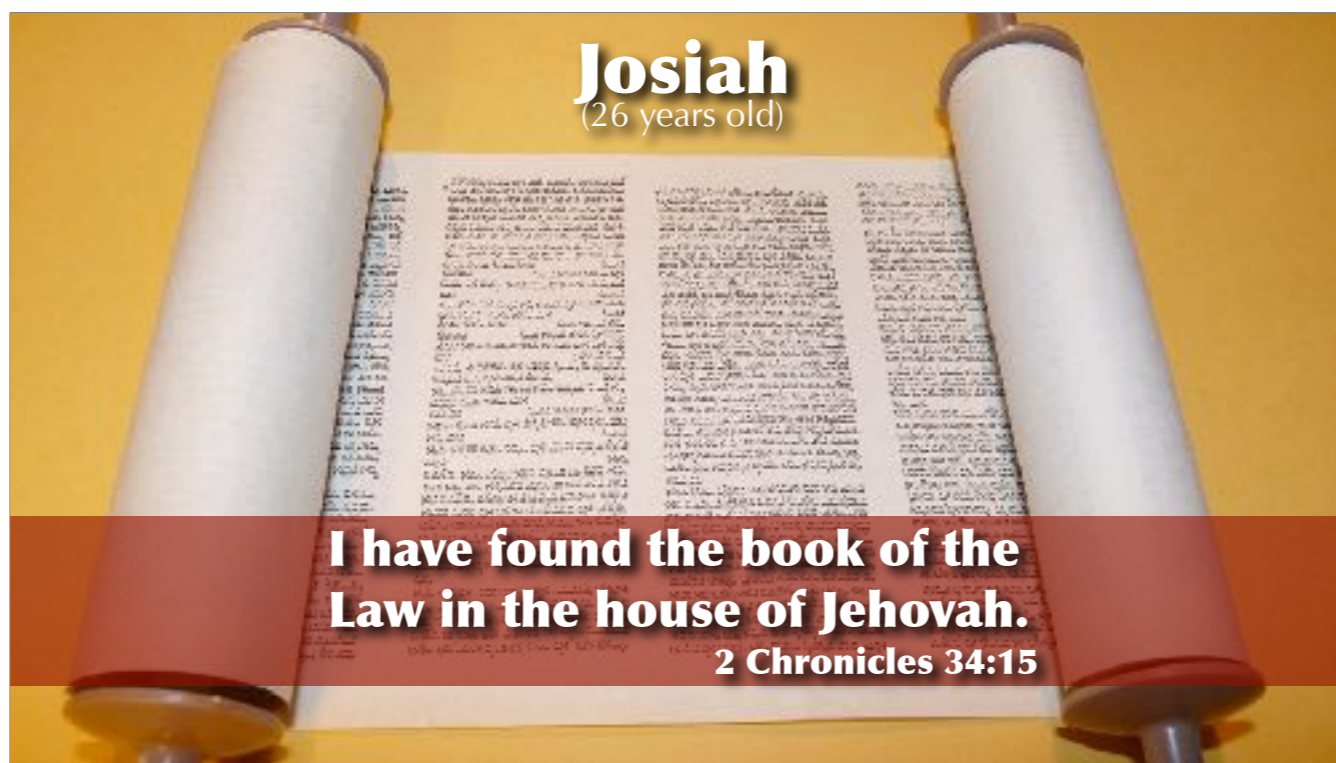
- 2 Chronicles 34:27: because your heart was **tender** and you **humbled** yourself before God when you **heard** his words against this place and its inhabitants, and you have humbled yourself before me and have **trn** your clothes and **wept** before me, I also have heard you, declares the LORD.
- Too often those who are zealous are zealous in the wrong ways
 - They are stubborn and hard-hearted and rarely hear the truth when presented to them.
 - Thus, they fail to be humble and repent when it is needed.



- Being zealous for God means being ready to really listen to his word.
 - Find discipline, rebuke, correction for our current lives and actions
 - Don't just seek passages that justify, make it easy to rationalize and continue in sin.



- Share the reading! (2Chr. 34:29-30)
 - Gathered elders, men, priests, levites, all the people great and small
 - Read
 - Made covenant: walk in statutes with all heart, soul; perform the words
 - Made all join.



- We need to share the reading of God's word.
 - 1 Timothy 4:13: Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.
 - Share in how God's word changes us; determination to be obedient.
- Listen, consider, change, obey, share. Read more.



- Celebrate the Passover
- 2 Chronicles 35:1-2 (ESV) 1 Josiah kept a Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem. And they slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the first month. 2 He appointed the priests to their offices and encouraged them in the service of the house of the LORD.



- 2 Chronicles 35:18: No Passover like it had been kept in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet.
 - None of the kings of Israel had kept such a Passover as was kept by Josiah,
 - and the priests and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.



- Helping the People to Celebrate: 2 Chronicles 35:7-9
 - Then Josiah contributed to the lay people,
 - as Passover offerings for all who were present,
 - lambs and young goats from the flock to the number of 30,000, and 3,000 bulls;
 - these were from the king's possessions.



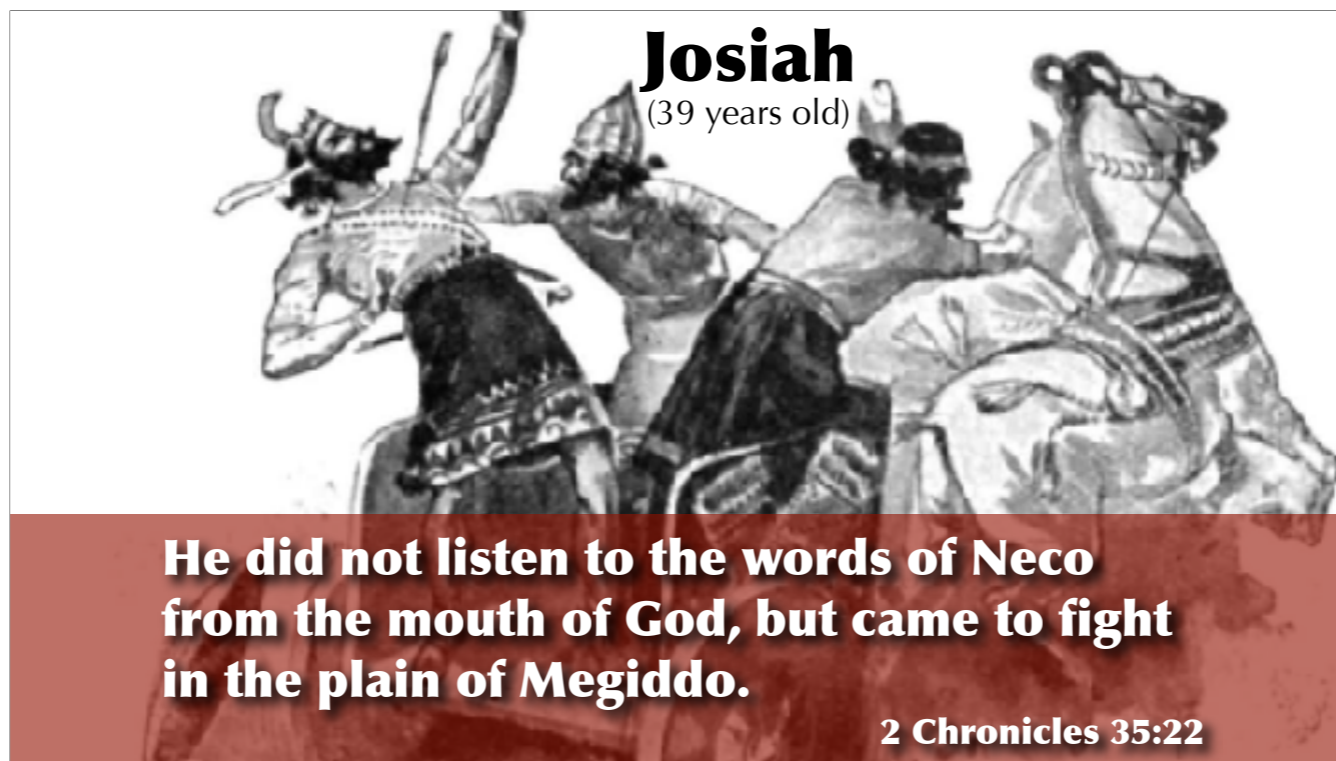
- 8 And his officials contributed willingly to the people, to the priests, and to the Levites.
- Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, the chief officers of the house of God, gave to the priests for the Passover offerings 2,600 Passover lambs and 300 bulls.
- 9 Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethanel his brothers, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, the chiefs of the Levites, gave to the Levites for the Passover offerings 5,000 lambs and young goats and 500 bulls.



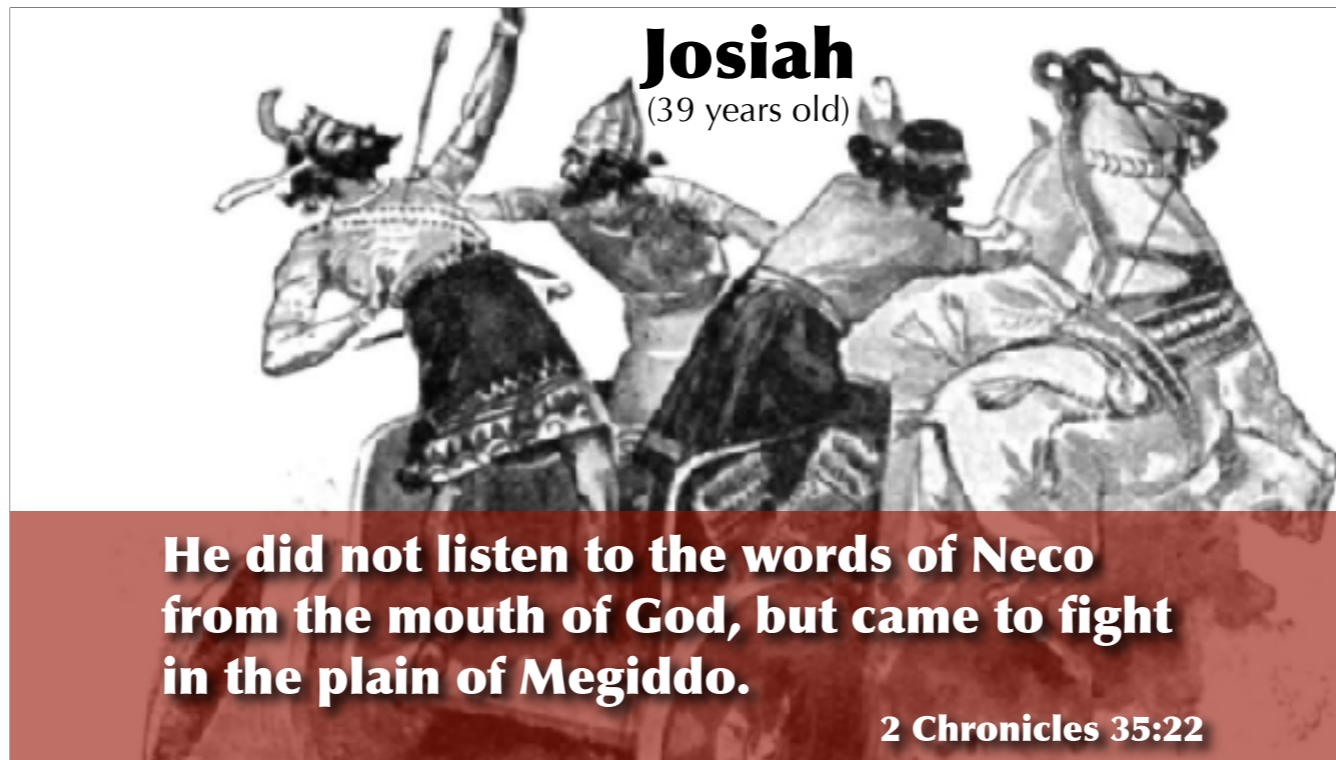
- Josiah not only kept the law, but helped the people to celebrate
 - He shared generously so that all could celebrate.
 - He got others to contribute too.




- Important
 - Remember Jehovah and their freedom from slavery
 - Understand why they should honor Him, turn away from false idols
 - Celebrate



- Confronting the Pharaoh (oops)
- 2 Chronicles 35:22: Nevertheless, Josiah did not turn away from him, but disguised himself in order to fight with him. He did not listen to the words of Neco from the mouth of God, but came to fight in the plain of Megiddo.



- Why did Josiah fail to hear and obey the words of God in this case?
 - Did he question the source?
 - Why believe Neco was servant of God?
 - Did he think he was still defending Israel from evil?
 - Preventing a return to the corruption of the Egyptians, their idolatry?
 - Whatever the reason, his zeal was misplaced at this time.



Josiah
(39 years old)

**He did not listen to the words of Neco
from the mouth of God, but came to fight
in the plain of Megiddo.**

2 Chronicles 35:22

- Warning: always listen for the truth, whatever the source, however unexpected
 - Confirm with the word.



- Lessons from Josiah
 - Youth are vital to our growth and correction
 - We need your eyes.
 - You are not too young!
 - Set your heart to Seek God ... even if alone.
 - Older: we need to listen.



- Spend time in God's Word
 - Humble yourself
 - Listen to the truth
 - Commit yourself to doing God's will



- Do hard things: cleanse and rebuild
 - Engage others to help you
- Celebrate and remember
 - Help others to find the joy of serving God with all our hearts and minds.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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No King Like Him

2 Kings 22-23; 2 Chronicles 34-35

Synopsis: Important lessons are seen in the actions of Josiah. When young, we need to seek God and spend time in his word. We need to help God's people cleanse the kingdom and rebuild it so that it follows Jehovah wholly. And we must help others to celebrate the joys of serving Jehovah.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”