

**JOSIAH A MAN WHO STOOD IN THE GAP
FOR HIS NATION
1-15-16**

Throughout history there has always been a remnant of people that have caused God's judgment to be abated:

1. Methuselah 969 years he lived, 1651 years after fall he died. Many believe he died the year of the flood. God did not bring the flood until he died. Interesting that many of the ultra liberals are wishing some of us older people will die off so they can have their way. That is exactly what is going to happen. All the country bumpkins (as the new generation thinks of all those who hold old fashion moral standards) need to go away and die off. They will get their wish when the Lord takes His people out of this world and ushers in the time of tribulation as written in the book of Daniel and in the book of Revelation. When that day comes, for 3.5 years the world will be able to do everything they want, and then for the last 3.5 years of that tribulation period, all hell is going to break loose on planet earth.
2. Noah's Ark, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Jesus said as it were in the days of Noah so shall it be in the coming of the son of man. The world on that day will be swept away in the wrath of God!
3. Lot, Genesis 19:22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither.
4. We could mention Moses, & others.

This morning I want to talk to you about a man who held back God's judgment on his nation. He was one of the best Kings ever to rule in Israel. His name was Josiah.

In him we see an example of a man that stood in the gap for a wicked people. God stayed His judgment on the nation because of him.

Each of us need to be like Josiah and be the kind of people to hold back the judgment of God on our nation and society.

JOSIAH WAS AN EXAMPLE OF A MAN WHO STOOD IN THE GAP FOR HIS NATION

We read about Josiah in II Kings 21:25 - II Kings 22:1-2 Josiah.

Josiah is mentioned as the Son of Manasseh the son of Amon!

What a crazy lineage, two of the worst Kings.

Oh, that God would raise up some Josiah's to our nation.

Josiah's Father was Amon. The Bible says he was wicked.

Concerning Amon the Bible records:

II Kings 21:20 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh did.

II Kings 21:21 And he walked in all the way that his father walked in, and served the idols that his father served, and worshipped them:

II Kings 21:22 And he forsook the LORD God of his fathers, and walked not in the way of the LORD.

II Kings 21:23 And the servants of Amon conspired against him, and slew the king in his own house.

II Kings 21:24 And the people of the land slew all them that had conspired against king Amon; and the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his stead.

I. Josiah was the son & Grandson of the worst, yet he himself was the best!

Many of us are the children of the generation that was of the worse that America has ever produced:

The 50's 60's 70's and each year it gets worse!

II Kings 23:21-25 Josiah was the best!

There was never a generation in the history of our nation that was more rebellious.

This was a generation that rejected the Bible. With Madelin Murray O'hare.

This was a generation that ushered in the sex revolution which led to the sexual perversions we see today.

This was the generation that has destroyed the institution of marriage.

This was the generation that is bankrupting our nation.

Josiah's grandfather was Manasseh, the worst King Israel ever had, and his son was no better.. his name was Amon. He was so bad, so pitiful the Bible doesn't even say much about him.

So even as bad as our generation is, there is hope. God may be raising up some Josiah's in these end times. Maybe some of us could be a Josiah to our nation.

II. If we are going to be the Josiahs of our Generation we must dig up the way God intended for us to live!

Study of history from a biblical perspective will lead us to do what Josiah did!

We must first set ourselves to the study of the word of God.

Next we must interpret the history of our nation from this divine perspective!

II Kings 22:8 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.

II Kings 22:9 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.

II Kings 22:10 And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiyah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king.

II Kings 22:11 And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.

II Kings 22:12 And the king commanded Hilkiyah 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,

II Kings 22:13 Go ye, inquire 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.

II Kings 22:14 So Hilkiyah 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.

II Kings 22:15 And she said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell the man that sent you to me,

II Kings 22:16 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:

II Kings 22:17 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.

II Kings 22:18 But to the king of Judah which sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, As touching the words which thou hast heard;

II Kings 22:19 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.

II Kings 22:20 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.

Notice what he did. If we do the same, we will get the same results.

He found the book and read it!

1. We need to read the BOOK! We have produced a biblically illiterate generation!

We need to be preachers of the book! Read, it memorize it, obey it, love it, teach it.

How often I thought to myself, if only I had prayed more about a matter, God could have led me to avert a problem before it ever happened.

God knows everything, He knows the beginning and the end of every matter.

How many times God has allowed me to avert a problem only because of a little time spent in prayer?

You will notice David never went into battle without inquiring of the Lord.

So too, every day we do spiritual battle with this world.

Can we afford to not spend time in prayer and not spend time in Bible meditation!

Recently my wife and I have started the new year with a new diet new plan to try to get healthy. My wife told me that there is a health app on my phone, so I started using it. Then I noticed it had an area to record "MINDFULNESS" Then it gives some recommendations - all the recommendations are for meditation, eastern mysticism. There was a day when there would be Bible readings in the Newspaper. This was how people were encouraged to meditate and start their day. Today we have Horoscopes and resort to Yoga and Buddha etc.

When King David was stressed the Bible says he encouraged Himself in the Lord his God!

1 Samuel 30:6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

If we meditate, let us meditate on the Word of God.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

2. We need to interpret history in light of this book!

Josiah said, I don't want to be like my father and Grandfather! Manasseh & Amon!

The Bible is the worlds greatest History book, but the authorities of our day reject it.

The old saying is absolutely correct, "THOSE WHO DO NOT LEARN FROM HISTORY ARE DOOMED TO REPEAT IT." The Bible is a book of Sacred History! It is the only book in the world that accurately shows you how God interacts with mankind in the everyday affairs of men.

Josiah realized that all who went before him and rejected the Lord and His word failed. Every King that followed the Word of God was blessed of the Lord.

So it is today

Psalms 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

In 1765 John Adams said a native American that cannot read or write is as rare as an earthquake, or comet!

What has happened to us? We spend more money than any other nation in the world to educate our Children and could we say this same thing in 2017?

When Josiah found a copy of the Word of God he read it.

He believed it.

He acted on it.

The World is rewriting history to take God out!

Yet there is nothing new in this. It happened in the day of Josiah.
What made Josiah different was his desire to follow the Word of God.
And follow it as his sole guide of practice, and faith.

We have lost touch with the History of our nation which was grounded in the Bible and Christian Faith.

A WHILE BACK A PROMINENT US NEWS SERVICE GAVE A RANDOM HISTORY QUIZ TO PEOPLE:

The first question was: Who was the first president of the US?

The Answer given by one person was: John Hanson.

Of course it was George Washington: Who once Said:

"If I could have entertained the slightest apprehension that the Constitution framed by the Convention, where I had the honor to preside, might possibly endanger the religious rights of any ecclesiastical society, certainly I would never have placed my signature on it."

I wonder if he could see what we have become today if he would have signed this proclamation. In the name of that constitution we have turned our country into Sodom and Gomorrah and turned and outlawed the voice of the conservative ecclesiastical society against it!

Today we must hide the religious views of our forefathers which were based on the Bible.

Consider that Harvard was established as a school to train puritan preachers.
Quote from a pamphlet distributed to prospective students:

"Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life, Joh. 17:3, and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom as the only foundation of all sound knowledge learning..."

And seeing the Lord only giveth wisdom, Let every one seriously set himself by prayer in secret to seek it of him. Prov. 2,3.

Every one shall exercise himself in reading the Scriptures twice a day, that he shall be ready to give such an account of his proficiency therein

EVEN OUR BIBLE COLLEGES DON'T REQUIRE THIS!

OH, WE NEED A JOSIAH!

John Jay, the first Supreme Court Justice once said

It is the duty as well as the privilege and interest of

a Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers

Religion is the basis and foundation of government before any man can be considered a member of civil society, he must be considered a subject of the governor of the universe

Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other..

Here is a quote from William Penn

Penn told the Russian Czar Peter the Great - I wonder what Rick Warren told Obama?

If thou wouldst rule well, thou must rule for God, and to do that, thou must be ruled by Him." Those who will not be governed by God will be ruled by tyrants!

III. As Long As A Righteous People Stand In the the Gap God's Judgment Will Be Abated on a Nation!

II Kings 22:16 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:

II Kings 22:18 But to the king of Judah which sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, As touching the words which thou hast heard;

II Kings 22:19 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.

II Kings 22:20 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.

We see many of the Old Timers who have been faithful to the Lord being gathered to the Lord in peace! The Methuselah's are dying.. The wicked generation are getting their wish.

There is a growing disdain for the generation are people born between 1945 - 1965

Here are some quotes of people wishing for these old timers to die off:

The good news is that the baby boomer generation is quickly getting older. Ten thousand boomers are retiring each day. We can't ship them all off to an island, unfortunately.

Many of our economic problems will be solved as baby boomers die off. I also think that social issues in the country will move in a positive direction. (Meaning Homophobia, Xenophobia, Environmental concerns etc..)

"I am pleased to announce that it won't be much longer now," Census Bureau deputy director Arthur Clausewitz said at a press conference. "According to our statistics, by

2009, we should see the Baby Boomers start to die off in large numbers. Heart attacks, strokes, cancer, kidney failure-you name it, the Boomers are going to be dropping from it."

Clausewitz said the Great Boomer Die-Off should hit full stride in approximately 2015, when the oldest members of the Baby Boom generation-born during the last days of World War II-turn 70.

Never has there been such a rage against an older generation. And a few that have repented of the sins of their youth like Manasseh did cannot stem the tide of the damage that was done. Manasseh got saved by the skin of his teeth but he could not stay the judgment to come.

Yet there is hope. It only took one Josiah to stay the judgment!

We must be the Noah's and Josiah's of our nation. When Josiah died there was a Jeremiah!

We have crossed the line of no return: Judgment must come:

All that can happen is to delay it!

One thing stands in the way, we stand in the gap!
Let's continue to stand!

But there will come a time when what the Lord said to Ezekiel will be true, and what the Lord said to Josiah came to pass also.

II Kings 22:16 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:

II Kings 22:17 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.

IV. YET WHILE JOSIAH WAS ALIVE THERE WAS A SHORT REPRIEVE:

II Kings 23:2 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.

II Kings 23:3 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.

II Kings 23:4 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 Beth-el.

II Kings 23:5 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.

II Kings 23:6 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.

II Kings 23:7 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.

II Kings 23:8 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 Beer-sheba, 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.

II Kings 23:9 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.

II Kings 23:10 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.

In fact as he was executing judgment against all the idolatrous ways of Israel he fulfilled a prophecy that was spoken against Jeroboam in I Kings..

I Kings 13:1 And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Beth-el: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

I Kings 13:2 And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

Here is when that was fulfilled:

II Kings 23:16 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.

II Kings 23:17 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 Beth-el.

II Kings 23:18 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.

John Gill writes about this in his commentary:

....thus saith the Lord, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; who was not born until three hundred years after this, according to the Jewish writers {a}: but it is generally reckoned to be more, even three hundred and fifty or three hundred and sixty years; this is a clear proof of the prescience, predetermination, and providence of God with respect to future events, contingent ones, such as depend upon the will of men; for what more so than giving a name to a child?

This is one of the great proofs of the supernatural nature of Scripture. Also God named Cyrus 200 years before he was born. (Isaiah 44:28)

How marvelous and supernatural is Scripture. Can you even fathom how it is that God knew and brought to pass this great prediction in the Bible?

And what is marvelous is that we are seeing before our very eyes God bringing to pass the end time fulfillment of Scripture that we see today in our nation.

The Bible predicts with such verses as these and many more:

II Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

II Timothy 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

II Timothy 3:13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

II Timothy 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Time will not permit to read all that Josiah did, but he was one of the few Kings who tried to observe the feast days!

***Ezekiel 14:13 Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it:
Ezekiel 14:14 Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD.***

IV. When The Godly Remnant Is Suddenly Taken From This World Then Judgment Will Come!

Remember that the Lord promised Josiah that he would not see the Judgment to come. It always baffled me in reading the end of Josiah how he died prematurely how it was that this prophecy was fulfilled. The only explanation is that God does not see as we see.

Here is what the Lord said to Josiah:

II Kings 22:20 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.

The next judgment will be against the world not just the our country..

We hear talk of a New World Order: Christians all across the world stand in the gap for not only our country but judgment this time against the whole world!

Josiah's death could be a picture of the rapture.

-or-

It could be an illustration of how the devil will try to destroy God's Josiah's in the latter days:

Wrong decision, wrong time:

We must bathe everything in prayer, there is no room for self will:

Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

When we get out on our own and we become prime targets for the Devil:

If you think about it, every preacher has a contract out on him by Satan!

We must bathe all matters in prayer and make sure our orders come from the headquarters.

Josiah died prematurely, how sad.

It is a reminder that the day of judgment will come swiftly against our nation and our world.

The world will rejoice when the Josiah's of this world are removed but little do they know that in the end times it will be to the destruction of everything.

Speaking of the end times Paul writes:

II Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

II Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

II Thessalonians 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

II Thessalonians 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

II Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

II Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

II Thessalonians 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

II Thessalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

II Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

II Thessalonians 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Notice this text:

II Thessalonians 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

II Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

This is the Holy Spirit that indwells His people, who are the Josiah's of our generation.

When Christ comes back and removes every believer from the world, then this ungodly crowd will have full liberty to do all they want to do. He that letteth will let until he be taken out of the way.