

1-15-17 Evening
JOSIAH'S A GOOD KING THAT MADE A BAD MISTAKE

This morning we talked about Josiah and how he was able to stand in the gap for his people. God promised not to bring judgment to the nation Israel in his life.

Now a great mystery in the Bible is his early death. How could such a great king die such a premature death?

He was eight when he took the throne and reigned 31 years. He should have had the longest reign of all the kings. But he was taken suddenly.

Tonight we are going to conclude the message where we left off Sunday Morning.

I. Consider some of the great things Josiah did that made him a Good King:

1. HE DESECRATED ALL THE FALSE PROPHETS AND ALTARS..

II Chronicles 34:5 And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.

II Chronicles 34:6 And so did he in the cities of Manasseh, and Ephraim, and Simeon, even unto Naphtali, with their mattocks round about.

II Chronicles 34:7 And when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.

He desecrated the altars and graves of the false prophets, by cremating their bones and spreading their ashes like dung on the ground.

This is the way people throughout the ages showed disdain for people, living or dead, who they despised.

They would cremate their remains and spread their ashes.

2. HE KEPT A GREAT PASSOVER LEAVING A GREA LEGACY:

II Kings 23:21 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.

II Kings 23:22 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;

II Kings 23:23 But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this passover was holden to the LORD in Jerusalem.

II Kings 23:24 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.

II Kings 23:25 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.

II Kings 23:26 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.

II Kings 23:27 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.

II Kings 23:28 Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

As far as we know there are only two times and two Kings that celebrated the Passover nationally.

We have, one time, mentioned here with Josiah, and the other time was in the days of Hezekiah.

So from Solomon to Zedekiah which was a time lasting over 400 years, in fact more like 450 years, only two times is it mentioned that they kept the Passover. Never once did they keep the sabbatical year or the year of Jubilee.

Solomon kept the feast of tabernacles at the dedication of the temple. But even in the days of Solomon there was not a mention of a national celebration of the Passover, or many of the other feasts.

The Book of Chronicles gives this commentary concerning this passover that Josiah kept:

II Chronicles 35:18 And there was no passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did all the kings of Israel keep such a passover as Josiah kept, and the priests, and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel that were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

YET AFTER ALL THIS WE READ ABOUT THE SUDDEN AND TRAGIC DEATH OF JOSIAH.

II. CONSIDER HIS WRONG CHOICE WHICH LED TO HIS PREMATURE DEATH

II Chronicles 35:20 After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Charchemish by Euphrates: and Josiah went out against him.

II Chronicles 35:21 But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? I come not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have war: for God commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from meddling with God, who is with me, that he destroy thee not.

II Chronicles 35:22 Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.

II Chronicles 35:23 And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away; for I am sore wounded.

II Chronicles 35:24 His servants therefore took him out of that chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had; and they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died, and was buried in one of the sepulchres of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

1. NOTICE THIS STATEMENT:

He hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God.

Josiah did not heed the warning that God gave him.

2. So often we make assumptions that could be fatal.

Good people can make fatal decisions that would lead to their harm.
Yet in all this God was not caught off guard.

The Lord said he would not bring judgment until Josiah was taken out of the way. Often a sudden death is in God's mercy more than a natural death.

The prophecy was:

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.

Josiah never saw the destruction of his people, and even though he died this tragic death he died in peace.

In our minds it was premature. Yet in God's program it was necessary to remove him to bring the judgment he predicted.

II. HOW CAN WE LEARN TO BE PROTECTED FROM WRONG CHOICES AND THE ERROR OF DECEPTION WHICH WOULD LEAD TO OUR HURT?

Order your life in harmony with God's absolutes and boundaries:

1. LEARN TO RESPECT YOUR BOUNDARIES GIVEN TO YOU BY GOD

Josiah failed to see that God was speaking through Pharaoh Necho.
The Bible says:

II Chronicles 35:22 Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.

2. LEARN TO RESPECT THE ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY OF THE WORD OF GOD:

Hedge your life with the Word of God. The Scripture is our sole authority!

Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

This Josiah did, except we do not read that he made enquiry to the Lord concerning going after Pharaoh Necho. If he did, I am sure the prophet would have told him not to meddle with him. And even though he did not make enquiry, Necho, knowing that Josiah loved the Lord, warned him that he was out of the will of God for fighting against him.

3. LEARN TO RESPECT THE ABSOLUTE BOUNDARIES SET UP FOR YOU BY YOUR HUMAN AUTHORITIES

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Romans 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

Romans 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

He beareth not the sword in vain.

The government has power over you, so respect their power.

Many times people have gotten hurt for disrespecting their human authority.

4. LEARN TO RESPECT AND UNDERSTAND THE BOUNDARIES OF NATURAL LAW ESTABLISHED BY GOD HIMSELF.

Read the book of proverbs:

Laws of physical nature.	Reaping, sowing, etc..
Laws of natural economics.	
Laws of human nature.	

If I would jump off a roof.	
If I would strain my body.	Food, health, etc..

5. LEARN TO RESPECT AND LIVE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF DOING GOD'S ABSOLUTE WORK HE CALLED YOU TO DO:

BE BUSY DOING THINGS THAT GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO DO:
SOME THINGS IN LIFE THAT ARE OF NONE OF OUR BUSINESS WE NEED TO AVOID.

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.

More people would be protected from getting into trouble just by spending time doing what they are supposed to do.

No doubt Josiah got meddling with something that was none of his business. Sometimes we get hurt because we take a dog by the ears so to speak.

III. INVITATION AND APPLICATION:

Why will you not listen and get hurt:

II Chronicles 35:21 But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? I come not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have war: for God commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from meddling with God, who is with me, that he destroy thee not.

II Chronicles 35:22 Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.

II Chronicles 35:23 And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away; for I am sore wounded.

I was driving to a job, when my son Joe was just little boy and he asked me a question of the electric fences around the fields that contained horses and cattle.

He asked me "how can that little strand of wire keep those horses in?"
I said they learn to respect that wire after being shocked a few times.

God has placed an electric fence around our lives for our protection.

Word of God.

Our human authorities.

Laws of nature.

Then there is God's call for the work He has for you.

Sometimes our busy schedule is a protection, from God.

We complain about it but it may just be what God is giving us to protect us.

Every now and then God will ride us outside of the electric fence.

When the owner of the horse has tamed that horse and trained that horse there comes a time he puts the saddle on that horse and it rides outside of the electric fence.

He put his saddle on Joshua and called him to fight the Canaanites and Joshua defied the laws of nature and the sun stood still for him.

He put his saddle on Moses and rode him out of Egypt and when Pharaoh and his mighty army came after him they drowned in the red sea but not Moses.

He put his saddle on Gideon and told him to fight the Midianites and defied the law of numbers and defeated them.

But everyone that tries to stray outside of the electric fence unsaddled gets hurt.

This is what happened to Josiah. He thought God was with him when God wasn't. He had enjoyed the blessing of God in his life so much that he forgot that blessing was because he was being led by God and not because of himself.

This is how good people get zapped. They forget when you try to get outside of your boundaries God will shock you.

Learn to live in the safety of the boundaries set up in your life by God. God set those boundaries in the life of Adam and Eve. They wanted to stray and they got hurt. We are still suffering the shock of their wrong choice.

It is time to learn. You would think people would learn. We are more stubborn than horses.

When we get shocked we never put it together that maybe we are suffering because we stayed from God.

Protection and safety is only found when we are inside God's fence and under His protection. When we wander from that we are in danger of getting hurt.

The problem with this life is we only go around once.

We can learn by our own mistakes or we can learn from the mistakes of others.

I Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

This is sacred History written and recorded for our learning.