

Josiah's Great Renewal -- II Chron. 34:1-7

• Introduction

- Text: II Chron. 34:1-7
 - Life of Josiah: II Kings 22-23; II Chron. 34-35
 - Accomplished amazing things for God:
 - At age 8 became King of Judah
 - Grandson of Manasseh
 - Son of Amon
 - Became king in a time of political, moral and spiritual deterioration.
- Josiah, in great contrast to his father and grandfather, restores stability, becomes a great spiritual leader, seeks to turn the nation back to the way of God. Leads a great spiritual renewal in Judah.
- Lesson: 1) a look at what he did, 2) lessons that will help us in the matter of spiritual renewal, better serving the Lord.

• Five Keys To Josiah's Great Renewal :

• **He returned to the right path.** (II Chron. 34:2)

- His father and grandfather had gone down the wrong path...idolatry, etc.
- Josiah, early on, chooses the path of God.
- He did so in the 8th year of his reign – 16 years old.
 - A lesson for young people.
 - Five Keys To Josiah's Great Renewal
- Would have been a great challenge:
 - 60 years of idolatry.
 - The committing of accompanying sins. (II Chron. 33:6)
- Would not have been easy, popular, but as a young person, he is determined to do what is right.

• **He purges the land of idols.** (II Chron. 34:3-7)

- Seeking the Lord, turning back to the right path would require this.
- He began this in the 12th year of his reign.
- He went throughout Judah and Israel, breaking, cutting down, grinding to dust, burning the bones of the priests, cleansing Judah and Jerusalem.

• **He Restored The House of God – The Temple.** (II Chron. 34:8ff; esp. 10)

- During all those years of idolatry, the house of God had fallen into disrepair.
- During the course of this work, the book of the Law of the Lord is found.
 - Shows how terrible their spiritual decay was.
 - This book played an important part in Josiah's renewal in two ways:

• **He Followed The Book of God:**

- II Chron. 34:21,29
 - This book played an important part in Josiah's renewal in two ways:
 - In it he could see the true condition of the nation before God. (II Chron. 34:19-21) The nation is condemned, because it was not doing what was written in the book.
 - It would guide Josiah in this renewal as he followed the book.
 - He read the book to all the people. (II Chron. 34:30-31)

• **He Renewed The Covenant With God.** (II Chron. 34:31-33.

- The nation agreed to do all the words of God's law.
- They followed God all the days of Josiah. (II Chron. 34:33)
- II Kings 23:25 → 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.

- **Keys To Spiritual Renewal In Our Own Lives**
 - Returning to the right path. (Matt. 7:13-14)
 - Get rid of any idols. (Heb. 12:1-2; Col. 3:5)
 - Restore your spiritual house. (Col. 4:2; Heb. 10:23-25)
 - Follow the book of God. (Rom. 12:1-2; Js. 1:22-25)
 - Renew resolve, commitment to God. (Lk. 15:18)