

Josiah

Introduction

1. Josiah was considered by most as the best king that Judah ever had during the time of the divided kingdom.

A. Josiah lived and ruled the southern kingdom from approximately 640 - 609 B.C.

2. The following is said of Josiah:

2 Chronicles 34:1-3 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he **reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem**. And he **did what was right in the sight of the LORD**, and walked in the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. For in the eighth year of his reign, **while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David**; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images.

3. We can learn valuable lessons today from this man who was devoted to serving God – many years ago.

Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

4. Some people do not live very long, but they make a great impact upon the world.

A. Jesus just lived to be 33 years old.

B. Josiah lived to be only 39 years old.

5. This morning we will learn some truths about Josiah and relate these truths to our life today.

We Do Not Have to Act Like Our Family Members

1. **Josiah's grandfather and father were evil men.**

2 Kings 21:9-11 – Manasseh

2 Chronicles 33:21-23 – Amon

- A. **This proves to all men that just because our ancestors did not do what was pleasing to God, that we too must follow their paths.**

Young People Do a Lot in Service to God

1. **Josiah became king when he was only 8 years old.**

2. **He began seeking the Lord at the age of 16.**

2 Chronicles 34:3 For in the **eighth year of his reign**, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the **twelfth year** he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images.

- A. **This same verse tells us that at the age of 20 he started to purge Judah of the idols that were in the land.**

3. **Solomon stated:**

Ecclesiastes 12:1

4. **The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy and said:**

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but **be an example to the believers** in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

5. **Young people can do many things for the cause of Christ. Simple things such as inviting friends to church, handing out tracts, and even learning to conduct Bible studies.**

God Had Confidence in Josiah Even Before He Was Born

1. **God, who knows all things, knew that Josiah was going to be an obedient king.**
1 Kings 13:1-2
 - A. **The fulfillment of these words came true several years later.**
2 Kings 23:15-16
2. **It would be good if God could have that much confidence in each and every one of us.**
 - A. **God knows whether this world will be better because you and I came this way.**

Josiah Loved the Word of God

1. **The word of God tells us of the love that he had.**
2 Kings 23:24

2 Chronicles 34:19 Thus it happened, when the king heard the words of the Law, that he tore his clothes.

- A. **He himself read the words of God to the people.**
2 Kings 23:2-3

Josiah was determined to restore true religion

1. **When Josiah read the law of the Lord he knew that he must put into action that which God expected to take place. He did so without wavering — he was a dedicated and loyal servant of God.**
2 Chronicles 34:19-21
2 Chronicles 35:1-3

Sometimes Bad Things Do Happen to Good People

- 1. Although he was a good man, he still made a bad choice. Sometimes we bring bad things upon ourselves.
2 Chronicles 35:20-23**

Our Children Will Not Always Follow in Our Footsteps

- 1. We have seen that king Josiah loved God and His Word.

A. The sons of Josiah did not follow his love of God, but rather lived and acted like their ancestors!
Jeremiah 36:28-30
2 Kings 23:31-32; 23:36-37; 24:8-9**

Conclusion

We can learn several things from the life of good king Josiah:

- 1. We must realize that no life is lived correctly without God.**
- 2. All of us must seek God while we are young.**
- 3. We must make a difference for good in this world.**
- 4. We must stand opposed to religious error.**
- 5. We must restore the truth of God's Holy Word.**
- 6. Restoration is an on-going process – and it can end rapidly.**
- 7. Our children might not appreciate where we have stood.**
- 8. We are to please God in all aspects of our life.**
- 9. We should be bothered when error is running rampant.**

