

### 1) Josiah, king of Judah: some background.

Josiah is one of the last kings in Judah, the last good king who brought stability. He started his reign when he was still a boy after his father Amon was murdered by his servants.

The Northern kingdom has already vanished into exile. The clock is ticking before Judah goes to captivity.

**2Kings 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.

### 2) What did he do that he was singled out in the biblical narrative in this way?

He started seeking God when he was still a teenager **2 Chr 34:5**

He began cleaning up the spiritual mess in Judah, by destroying any form of idol worship. **2 Chro 34: 3-7.**

He began the repair work of the abandoned temple. **2 Chr 34: 8-13**

The repair of the temple led to the discovery of a book, the book of the law **2 Kings 22:8...**

Most scholars agree that it is Deuteronomy that was found. People had forgotten the law and no one was aware that such thing existed.

### 3) How important was this finding of the Bible?

Now Deuteronomy is a significant book for the people of Israel. It gives a farewell speech of Moses where he led Israel to renew Covenant with God.

**Deut 32: 46-47** he said to them, "Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law. **47** For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."

The Bible was supposed to be the compass of everybody in Israel, but they lost it. When the book was found and it was read to Josiah, he realised how dangerous it is to ignore God, so he humbled himself in repentance invite all Judah to hear the word. There was a notional repentance day that led to a revival in Judah.

Josiah brought back Passover, this significant celebration that marques the identify of Israel, which they have forgotten, restored worship and brought back people to God

**2 Kings 23:21-23** And the king commanded all the people, "Keep the Passover to the Lord your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant." **22** For no such Passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel, or during all the days of the kings of Israel or of the kings of Judah. **23** But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was kept to the Lord in Jerusalem.

Nico, the king of Egypt who was going against Assyria but intended to pass through Judah killed Josiah as Josiah went to prevent him from crossing his territory.

#### 4) What can be learned from the amazing achievement of Josiah?

He did not let obstacles stop him from doing the right things. Let see some of the obstacles:

- His age
- Horrible family heritage
- No role model to mentor him
- Miserable spiritual condition in his country

#### 5) Challenges and application

What inner obstacles are you having to face? Ask God to show you ways to overcome them.

Is a word of God somewhere in your heart buried under the worries or business of life? Make a decision to unearth that word and let it inspire you and renew your commitment to God.