

THE WORD OF GOD WITH POWER

TEXT:

2 Chronicles 34:30-31:

30 And the king went up into the House of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their ears all the Words of the Book of the covenant that was found in the House of the LORD.

31 And the king stood in his place, 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 his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the Words of the Covenant which are written in this Book.



This King was Josiah.

BACKGROUND:

Josiah inherited the throne at an early age. When his grandfather, Manasseh, died then Josiah's father, Amon, reigned — but only for two years. Amon was assassinated. Both Manasseh and Amon had disregarded the Ways of the Lord. True religion had gone “under-ground”. No prophet spoke out.



2 Chronicles 34:3: For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.

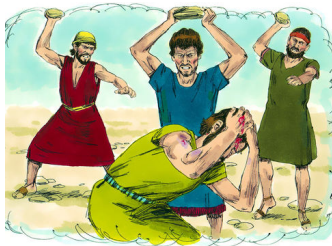
By the time he was 18, he had purged the land.

2 Chronicles 34:8: Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land, and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the House of the LORD his God.

I. ISRAEL FORGOT THEY WERE COVENANT PEOPLE

A. Manasseh had introduced the worship of other gods.

- 1. In Judah, there was the worship of nature.**
- 2. In Judah, there was involvement with Canaanite Practices of “sacred prostitution”.**
- 3. Manasseh had mixed many cults into one — a sort of early ecumenicity!**
- 4. He had set up images.**
- 5. Child sacrifice was practiced.**
- 6. Large segments of the population were exploited.**
- 7. Family life disintegrated.**



8. Those who resisted Manasseh’s imposed religion were killed.

9. The Covenant of God was neglected; then unheeded; then finally lost.

B. The Kingdom Josiah inherited.

- 1. Lost to the Word of God in the Temple.**

2. **Lost to the Word in the minds and hearts of most individuals.**
3. **Decadence in spiritual and moral values.**

II. GOD USED A TEENAGE KING

- A. This young man had a revulsion against the false religion practiced in his country.
1. **A man-made religion does not satisfy the soul.**
 2. **“Observed times, enchantments, witchcraft, familiar spirits and wizards” did not provide adequate guidance.**
- B. Josiah learned of the true religion of Jehovah.
1. **Perhaps from a godly mother, Jedidah, the daughter of Adiah.**
 2. **Perhaps through a faithful Israelite who had escaped Manassah’s purge.**

III. THE WORD OF GOD

- A. Workers repairing the temple found the copy of the Law.
1. They took it to Josiah.
 2. He accepted its authority without hesitation.
 3. He proclaimed it to the people.
 4. The King, and the people, humbled themselves before God. Hear King Josiah’s words:



2 Chronicles 34:21: Go, enquire of the LORD for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the Words of the Book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD

that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the Word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this Book.

- B. The Word of God became the law of the land.

The people gave themselves to its study, and to the application of its instruction.

APPLICATION:

- I. God is using youth today to call our nation back to the Word of God.

Many are turning away from prevailing man-made ideologies.

- A. Materialism “turns them off”. Some deliberately turn to slum-type living to illustrate that “comfortable living” is not an adequate life aim.



- B. They want more than organization and ritual in a religion. They are looking for inner power — not just a “friendly fellowship”.
- C. Health, education and welfare aren’t enough. The younger generation is crying for “soul food”.

- II. A host of young people are yearning for God, turning to God – finding for themselves the Book that has been lost in too many of the Churches.

- A. News media plays up the rebellion of an extremely small number of radicals who are bent on destruction.
- B. Where was the publicity for spiritual revival that came to Asbury College and spread across the country from campus to campus?
- C. Where is the public notice of high school and college students who witness each week to the reality of Jesus Christ?



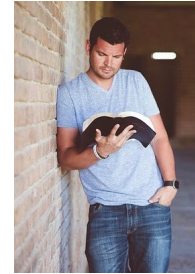
D. Those who work with these lay-witness ministries of youth tell us this generation is ready for a rediscovery of the whole Word of God!

III. From pulpits across our country must come a clear - "Thus saith the Lord".

Proverbs 14:34: Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

THUS SAITH THE LORD:

2 Chronicles 7:14: If My people, which are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.



Our national sin is apparent. We have fallen away from the Word of God, and the fall is evidenced in:

The "new morality"...

the drug abuse...

the crime rates...

the exploitation of underprivileged persons ...

the discontent amid plenty...

the epidemic of fear.



Who will be our ***Josiah***?

Who will eagerly read the Word of God to others?

Who will make a covenant before the Lord to keep His Commandments?

Akron Shalom Bible Learning Center

www.AkronShalomMinistries.org