

JOSIAH'S STAND FOR TRUTH

Quote:

“And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to Yahweh 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.”

2 Kings 23:25

Bible Marking - Introduction of Josiah - 2 Kings 22:1-2

2 Kings 22:1 - **“Josiah”** - means ‘Yahweh healeth’. Yahweh desired to heal the nation’s backsliding through the work of Josiah, but they would not be healed (Jer 3:10). He was king by divine decree (1 Kg 13:2) and by popular choice (2 Kg 21:24).

“his mother’s name was Jedidah” - means ‘Beloved of Yah’ - the female form of David.

“the daughter of Adaiah” - means - ‘Yahweh had adorned’

“of Boscath” - means ‘stony ground’. Josiah was a type of the Lord Jesus Christ who appeared out of ‘dry ground’ (Isa 53:2).

2 Kings 22:2 - see Psa 119:9. He was assisted by a number of faithful elders: Hilkiah the High Priest (2 Kg 22:8), Shaphan the scribe (father of 3 faithful sons Jer 26:24; 29:3; 36:10), Achbor (father of Elnathan- Jer 36:12,25), Asahiah (2 Kg 22:12), Maaseiah etc (2 Chron 34:8). He was also encouraged by the prophets Jeremiah (Jer 1:2) and Zephaniah (Zeph 1:1) and the prophetess Huldah (2 Chron 34:22).

Mark above or
below 2 Kg 22

Four Divine Assessments

1. 2 Kg 22:2 - “did that which was right in the sight of Yahweh...turned not aside...”
2. 2 Kg 23:25 - there was no king like Josiah who turned unto Yahweh with ALL his heart, and with ALL his soul and with ALL his might according to ALL the law of Moses (see Mk 12:30) (This is said of no other person in scripture).
3. 2 Chron 35:26 - Josiah’s “goodness” is emphasised. Heb ‘chesed’ means ‘lovingkindness’ - a divine attribute (Exod 34:6-7).
4. Jer 22:15-16 - Lived a simple life, and did “justice and righteousness” (NASB, NIV, Roth, RSV).

Bible Marking - Josiah’s Reformation - 2 Kings 23:1-24

2 Kings 23:2 - **“he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant”** - In verses 3-24 Josiah applied and performed the requirements of the Law

2 Kings 23:4 - Israel were required to do this when they came into the land (Deut 7:25-26; 12:3) but failed to do so (Jud 2:2-3).

2 Kings 23:5 - **“idolatrous priests”** - Heb “chemarim” = black frocked priests see margin (Hos 10:5; Zeph 1:4).

2 Kings 23:7 - **“brake down the house of the Sodomites”** - see margin - Deut 23:17.

2 Kings 23:10 - See Deut 18:10.

2 Kings 23:11 - see Deut 17:3.

2 Kings 23:13-14 - see Deut 16:21-22.

2 Kings 23:24 - see Deut 18:11.

2 Kings 23:25 - **“like unto him was there no king”** - cp 2 Kg 18:5. Hezekiah “trusted” in Yahweh like no other king. Josiah “turned to Yahweh with ALL his heart...” like no other king. **“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”** - see Mk 12:29-30 - Josiah understood the effect that the Law should have on a person.

Colour the reforms of Josiah (2 Kings 23:4-24)

1. **Colour the items of idolatry that Josiah destroyed (red):**

- v4 - “vessels that were made for Baal, and for all the host of heaven”
- v5 - “idolatrous priests”
- v6 - “grove from the house of Yahweh”
- v7 - “houses of the sodomites”
- v8 - “high places where the priests burnt incense”, “high places of the gates”
- v10 - “Topheth which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom”
- v11 - “horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun”
- v12 - “altars that were on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz”, “altars which Manasseh had made”
- v13 - “high places which were before Jerusalem”
- v14 - “images”, “groves”
- v15 - “altar that was at Bethel and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat who made Israel to sin had made”
- v19 - “all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria”
- v20 - “priests of the high places”
- v24 - “workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations”.

2. **Colour in what Josiah did (orange):**

- v4 - “burned them without Jerusalem”, “carried the ashes of them unto Bethel”
- v5 - “put down”
- v6 - “brought out”, “burned”, “stamped it small to powder and cast the powder upon the graves”
- v7 - “brake down”
- v8 - “defiled”, “brake down”
- v10 - “defiled”, v11 - “took away”, “burned”
- v12 - “beat down, and brake them down from thence and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron”
- v13 - “defile”
- v14 - “brake in pieces”, cut down”, “filled their places with the bones of men”
- v15 - “brake down”, “burned”, “stamped it small to powder”, “burned”
- v16 - “took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar and polluted it”
- v19 - “took away and did to them according to the acts that he had done in Bethel”
- v20 - “slew”, “burned mens bones upon them”
- v24 - “put away”.