

WE need a king like no other. Jesus is the *better* Josiah.
Jesus is the Word of God made visible – revealed.

Responsive Hearts
2 Kings 22-23
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The eight-year-old king

Are you looking to someone else's faith?
Do you have a hearing, responsive heart? Do you want one?

Psalm 119:11; Psalm 86:11

Love the Gospel, Live the Gospel, Advance the Gospel

- Try to retell the story. What stands out to you?
- How does 2 Kings 22 and 23 describe Josiah's "responsive heart"? What do we learn about "repentance"?
- Why is so much attention given to Josiah's response?
- What "book or reading" of God's Word has ever moved you to repentance?
- Was Josiah merely "doing the right thing" or did he have a real love and conviction for God?
- What do we learn from Josiah's humble leadership in 2 Kings 23:1-3?
- Why do you think Josiah continues with his reforms knowing that God is still going to bring judgment?
- An Idol can be anything that takes God's place – even "good" things that become the ultimate thing to us. Is there anything God is calling you to give up or remove? Are you willing to do whatever it takes? What *will* it take?
- Josiah's faith was legit but the nation's was hollow. They followed their leader but their hearts were not in it. How do we keep from going down the same path? Is your faith "your own"? How can you tell?
- How is Jesus the "better Josiah"?

1. God's Word is found! (2 Kings 22:3-10)

When we forget God's Law (His Word), we "lose it."

Josiah is in the midst of bringing reformation (renovation) to the nation of Judah.

Then we read verse 8!

"Book of the Law" or "The Book of the Covenant" =
The book of Deuteronomy or possibly the entire Pentateuch /
Torah (first five books of the Old Testament)

2. God's Word finds a responsive (hearing) heart (2 Kings 22:11-20)

Verse 11 says "*he heard the words*"

Are you able to hear the Words of *this* book?

Do you take them personally?

Do you see it as something *from* God *to* you and *for* you?

2 Kings 22:18-20 is filled with amazing grace towards Josiah

Verse 19 "*Because your heart was responsive...*"

- **Isaiah 66:2**

3. The greatest reform ever, *but it's not enough* (24:1-23)

The one who held all authority points his people to the One who holds ALL authority.

- **2 Kings 23:1-3** and **2 Kings 23:21-22** serve as bookends to the list of reforms in **verses 4-20**.
- **2 Chronicles 34-35** gives us the "correct" chronology
- **1 Kings 13:2** – Josiah's = Yahweh supports / will strengthen

The "brick wall" of **2 Kings 23:26-27**

The most extensive reforms, the most resolved king, the greatest Passover, and it's *not enough!*

This story is for "*all the Lord's people who remain faithful with no relief in sight!*"