

I. Josiah Became King at 8 Years of Age

- A. No mention is made of who influenced him
- B. His whole reign is a time of peace
 - 1. In the beginning Assyria is occupied and does disrupt the region
 - 2. Towards the end of Josiah's reign Assyria falls
 - 3. Babylon does not come into the region until after Josiah's death
- C. During the early part of the reign, Judah is filled with idolatrous practices

II. At 16 Years of Age Josiah Begins to Seek the Lord

III. At 20 Years of Age Josiah Personally Directs a Project to Begin to Cleanse the Land

- A. 2 Kings 23:4-20 gives a summation of the reforms he carried out both before and after the cleansing of the temple
- B. The reforms were also extended to the areas where the Northern Kingdom once existed

IV. At 26 Josiah Directed the Cleansing and Repair of the Temple

- A. During the work a copy of the law was found
 - 1. At least Deuteronomy
 - 2. Probably the whole Pentateuch
- B. Josiah's response to the law
 - 1. Hilkiah thought Josiah would want to hear it
 - 2. When the message is read only Josiah seems to have responded
 - a. The king tore his garments
 - b. No one else seems equally moved

3. Josiah seeks prophetic help to know what the curses meant to Judah of that day
 - a. Response
 - (1) Judah cannot avoid the curses written in the law because of their sin
 - (2) Because Josiah humbled himself, it will not happen while he is alive
- C. Josiah's wholehearted work of purifying the nation
 1. Josiah ordered the keeping of the Passover
 - a. Hezekiah - kept the grandest Passover
 - b. Josiah - purest observance of the Passover during the Kingdom period
 2. Josiah compelled Judah to recommit to the covenant with God
 - a. For the king it was from the heart
 - b. For the royal officials it was an act of loyalty to Josiah
 3. Josiah redoubles his efforts to cleanse the land

V. Benefit of Josiah's Reign

- A. Josiah could easily have argued that since the judgment was unavoidable, why try and cleanse the land
- B. Key benefits
 1. A whole generation had an opportunity to seek God
 2. The period has the greatest concentration of writing prophets in the entire Old Testament
 3. Key men grew up during his reign
 - a. Daniel and his friends
 - b. Ezekiel