

## 2 Kings 22

Verses 1 - 2

**Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned for thirty-one years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath. <sup>2</sup>He did what was right in the sight of the Lord and walked entirely in the way of his father David, and did not turn aside to the right or to the left.**

**Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned for thirty-one years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath.**

See chart 2205

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
10	Jotham	750/740	731	16	10 years
11	Ahaz	743/731	715	16	12 years
12	Hezekiah	728/715	686	29	13 years
13	Manasseh	696/686	642	55	10 years
14	Amon	642	640	2	
15	Josiah	640	609	31	
16	Jehoahaz	609	609	3 months	
17	Jehoiakim	609	598	11	
18	Jehoiachin	598	597	3 months	
19	Zedekiah	597	586	11	

**He did what was right in the sight of the Lord and walked entirely in the way of his father David, and did not turn aside to the right or to the left.**

Hezekiah, his great-grandfather, received very high praise from God and the praise given here to Josiah matches his praise.

Before we go on to verses 3 thru 7 we need to fill in some important events that took place in the life of Josiah between verses 2 and 3.

See 2 Chron. 34:3-7

<sup>3</sup> For in the eighth year of his reign while he was still a youth, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, the carved images, and the cast metal images. <sup>4</sup> They tore down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and he chopped down the incense altars that were high above them; also he broke in pieces the Asherim, the carved images, and the cast metal images, and ground *them* to powder, and scattered *it* on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. <sup>5</sup> Then he burned the bones of the priests on their altars and purged Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> In the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, Simeon, and as far as Naphtali, in their surrounding spaces, <sup>7</sup> he also tore down the altars and crushed the Asherim and the carved images into powder, and chopped down all the incense altars throughout the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

See chart 2215

King Josiah		
Year of reign	Events	Age
	Became King	8
8	Began to seek God	16
	<b>The reforms of Josiah</b>	
12	Began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places	20
	the Asherim, the carved images, and the cast metal images	
	They tore down the altars of the Baals	
	He also tore down the altars in the cities of	
	Manasseh, Ephraim, Simeon, and as far as Naphtali	
18	They began to repair the house of the Lord	26
	Hilkiah discovers the lost Book of the Law	

All of the events highlighted in orange (18 years) took place between verses 2 & 3.

Verses 3 - 7

**Now in the eighteenth year of King Josiah**, the king sent Shaphan, the son of Azaliah the son of Meshullam the scribe, to the house of the Lord, saying, <sup>4</sup> “Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, and have him count all the money brought into the house of the Lord, which the doorkeepers have collected from the people. <sup>5</sup> And have them hand it over to the workmen who have the oversight of the house of the Lord, and have them give it to the workmen who are in the house of the Lord to repair the damage to the house: <sup>6</sup> to the carpenters, the builders, the masons, and for buying timber and cut stone to repair the house. <sup>7</sup> However, no accounting shall be made with them for the money handed over to them, because they deal honestly.”

Josiah was 8 years old when he became king so he is now 26 years old.

The last time we heard about repairs being made to the temple was in 812 BC during the reign of King Joash. 190 years have passed since that time.

See chart 2210

### 2nd Kings timeline

Ch.	Event	Other	Year
11	Joash king of Judah	7s	835
12	The temple repairs begin		812
14	Amariah king of Judah	8s	796
15	Azariah king of Judah	9s	792
15	Jotham king of Judah	10s	750
16	Ahaz king of Judah	11s	735
17	Israelites deported to Assyria		722
18	Hezekiah King of Judah	12s	715
18	Sennacherib threatens Jerusalem		701
21	Manasseh king of Judah	13s	697
21	Amon king of Judah	14s	642
22	Josiah	15s	640
23	The temple repairs begin		622
23	Jehoahaz king of Judah	16s	609

Verses 8 - 13

**<sup>8</sup> Then Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, “I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord.” And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, who read it. <sup>9</sup> Then Shaphan the scribe came to the king and brought back word to the king and said, “Your servants have emptied out the money that was found in the house, and have handed it over to the workmen who have the oversight of the house of the Lord.” <sup>10</sup> Moreover, Shaphan the scribe informed the king, saying, “Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book.” And Shaphan read it in the presence of the king. <sup>11</sup> When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes. <sup>12</sup> Then the king commanded Hilkiyah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Micaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the king’s servant, saying, <sup>13</sup> “Go, inquire of the Lord for me and for the people and all Judah concerning the words of this book that has been found, for the wrath of the Lord that burns against us is great, because our fathers did not listen to the words of this book, to act in accordance with everything that is written regarding us.”**

**<sup>8</sup> Then Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, “I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord.”**

The greater part of Josiah's reforms preceded the high priest finding the Book of the Law so we know that the king's reforms were based on an oral knowledge of the Law rather than the written word. As we will see shortly many aspects of the Law were being overlooked. There is no substitute for the daily reading of God's word.

**<sup>11</sup> When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes.**

The king was a person of faith and he reacted in a way that every believer should react if they found themselves in a similar circumstance. The Jewish people did not know some of the key elements of the Law and therefore had neglected it for many years.

**<sup>13</sup> “Go, inquire of the Lord for me and for the people and all Judah concerning the words of this book that has been found, for the wrath of the Lord that burns against us is great, because our fathers did not listen to the words of this book, to act in accordance with everything that is written regarding us.”**

The king may have been concerned that the end of the Jewish nation was eminent and he wanted to know if it was too late to stop God's judgment.

Verses 14 - 20

**<sup>14</sup> So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe (and she lived in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter); and they spoke to her. <sup>15</sup> Then she said to them, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: ‘Tell the man who sent you to Me, <sup>16</sup> “This is what the Lord says: ‘Behold, I am going to bring disaster on this place and on its inhabitants, all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read. <sup>17</sup> Since they have abandoned Me and have burned incense to other gods so that they may provoke Me to anger with all the work of their hands, My wrath burns against this place, and it shall not be quenched.’” <sup>18</sup> But to the king of Judah who sent you to inquire of the Lord, this is what you shall say to him: “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: ‘Regarding the words which you have heard, <sup>19</sup> since your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become an object of horror and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before Me, I have indeed heard you,’ declares the Lord.” <sup>20</sup> Therefore, behold, I am going to gather you to your fathers, and you will be gathered to your grave in peace, and your eyes will not look at all the devastation that I am going to bring on this place.’” So they brought back word to the king.**

**<sup>14</sup> So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe (and she lived in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter); and they spoke to her.**

The king sent a delegation to Huldah the prophetess who lived in Jerusalem.

Huldah was one of three women who were called "prophetess" in the Old Testament along with Miriam and Deborah.

**<sup>16</sup> “This is what the Lord says: ‘Behold, I am going to bring disaster on this place and on its inhabitants, all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read. <sup>17</sup> Since they have abandoned Me and have burned incense to other gods so that they may provoke Me to anger with all the work of their hands, My wrath burns against this place, and it shall not be quenched.’”**

Judah would suffer the same fate as the North for the same reason.

**<sup>19</sup> since your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become an object of horror and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before Me, I have indeed heard you,' declares the Lord." <sup>20</sup> Therefore, behold, I am going to gather you to your fathers, and you will be gathered to your grave in peace, and your eyes will not look at all the devastation that I am going to bring on this place.'" So they brought back word to the king.**

Because Josiah was a righteous king and he had responded to the word of God with deep grief and mourning, the destruction of Judah would not come during Josiah's lifetime.

Josiah will die in battle but the reference about the king going to his grave in peace refers to him not seeing the judgment of God on Judah which will include the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.