

PREPARING FOR REVIVAL

2. The Example of King Josiah



Introduction

In our previous study we saw how there was a revival in the time of King Hezekiah. We discovered that the King and people took steps that prepared the way for this revival. In the time of King Josiah there was another revival among the people of Israel. Let's see what we can learn from King Josiah to help us prepare for a move of God's Spirit in our own lives and churches.

Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 34:1-13

- ❖ What steps did King Josiah take to purify the land and temple? See v3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12

(v3 - He began to purge Judah of the high places where other gods were worshipped.

V4 - He destroyed all the objects that were used to worship these gods.

V5 - He even burnt the bones of those who had worshipped these gods.

V8 - He began to repair the temple.

V9 - He collected money for work on the temple.

V12 - He mobilized the people to do the work on the temple.)

We have seen that Josiah got rid of everything that had been used for other kinds of worship. The same is true in our lives and homes. If we want revival we must renounce and get rid of anything that is connected to other gods.

- ❖ What kind of things could this include in your life? Discuss.
- ❖ What did Josiah do in each of these verses and how old was he? 2 Chronicles 34:1, 3, 8, 35:19.

(Josiah was 8 years old when he became king.

He was 16 years old when he began to seek the Lord, or in the 8th year of his reign.

He was 26 years old when he began to purge the land, or in the 18th year of his reign.

He was 26 years old when he began to repair the temple and celebrated the Passover.)

God can use young people to accomplish great things for him. In fact revival often begins among children and youth. Encourage the younger people in your family and church that God can use them too.

- ❖ When the priests were working in the temple they found the Book of the Law. How did King Josiah respond when he heard the Word of God according to v19-21? Also read v29-32.

(King Josiah tore his clothes and wanted the priests to enquire of the Lord about what was written in the Book. Then he called all the people to listen to the Word of God and they renewed their covenant with him.)

- ❖ What does this show us about King Josiah? Also see what God said about him in v27.

(Josiah's heart was responsive and he humbled himself before God.)

- ❖ There cannot be a true revival without a renewed love for God's Word. Discuss this statement.
- ❖ How has God been speaking to you from this story of King Josiah? Share.

Conclusion

We want to see revival and we have probably prayed for revival too! However if we want to be part of the revival that will sweep the earth in these later days, we need to do what they did in King Josiah's time. Anything that displeases the Lord or has been used for worship of other gods needs to be removed from our homes and lives. Just as Josiah humbled himself and sought God, so must we. This includes reading God's Word and being obedient to what it says. As we do this we are preparing the way for revival, and remember, no-one is too young to be involved!