

# Week 27: Josiah - Restoring True Worship

*A Sabbath Family Bible Study*

---

## Introduction

Josiah became king of Judah as a child, inheriting a nation corrupted by generations of idolatry. Temples to false gods stood where the house of the Lord once ruled the people's hearts. Yet while still young, Josiah began to seek the God of David, his father. When the Book of the Law was rediscovered in the temple, he trembled at its words and led his nation in repentance. This week's study reminds us that true revival begins with rediscovering God's Word and restoring worship according to His ways, not our preferences.

---

## Scripture Reading: Selected Passages (KJV)

2 Kings 22:1–13; 2 Kings 23:1–3, 4–8, 21–25 (KJV)

(With commentary throughout)

---

### **2 Kings 22:1–13 - The Discovery of the Law**

**1** Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath.

**2** And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

**3** And it came to pass in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, the scribe, to the house of the LORD, saying,

**4** Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may sum the silver which is brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers of the door have gathered of the people:

**5** And let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD: and let them give it to the doers of the work which is in the house of the LORD, to repair the breaches of the house,

**6** Unto carpenters, and builders, and masons, and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house.

**7** Howbeit there was no reckoning made with them of the money that was delivered into their hand, because they dealt faithfully.

**8** And Hilkiyah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.

**9** And Shaphan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and said, Thy servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of them that do the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD.

**10** And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiyah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king.

**11** And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.

**12** And the king commanded Hilkiyah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying,

**13** Go ye, enquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us.

**Commentary:**

Josiah's heart was tender toward God. He did not excuse the nation's ignorance or blame past kings, he took responsibility. When God's Word was rediscovered, conviction followed. Revival always begins with repentance, and repentance begins when the Word pierces the heart. The greatest danger to any generation is not ignorance of the world, but neglect of Scripture.

---

**2 Kings 23:1-3 - The Covenant Renewed**

**1** And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.

**2** And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.

**3** And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

**Commentary:**

Josiah didn't merely study the Word privately, he brought the nation together to hear it publicly. He led from the front, reading Scripture aloud and renewing covenant before the people. True leadership begins with example. Revival is not emotion; it's alignment: hearts, homes, and nations brought back under God's order.

---

**2 Kings 23:4–8 - Purging Idolatry**

**4** And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel.

**5** And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.

**6** And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder.

**7** And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove.

**8** And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense.

**Commentary:**

Josiah did not tolerate idols; he destroyed them. False worship cannot be reformed, it must be removed. His zeal shows that repentance without cleansing is incomplete. It is not enough to say we are sorry for sin; we must tear down what tempts us to return to it. Purity begins where compromise ends.

---

**2 Kings 23:21–25 - Restoring True Worship**

**21** And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto the LORD your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant.

**22** Surely there was not holden such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah;

**23** But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this passover was holden to the LORD in Jerusalem.

**24** Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.

**25** And like unto him was there no king before him, that 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; neither after him arose there any like him.

**Commentary:**

When idols were removed, worship was restored. Josiah reestablished the Passover, the remembrance of redemption. The return to true worship always follows the removal of false gods. God measures revival not by emotion but by obedience. Josiah's reform was total: heart, soul, and might. The same measure is required today.

---

 **Discussion Questions for All Ages**

**Young Children:**

- Who found the Book of the Law?
- What did Josiah do when he heard it read?
- Why did the people celebrate Passover again?

**Older Children & Teens:**

- Why was Josiah's reaction to God's Word different from the kings before him?
- What does this story teach about leadership and repentance?
- How can we remove "idols" from our homes or hearts today?

**Adults:**

- Why must repentance include both sorrow and action?
  - What does Josiah’s reform teach about the relationship between Scripture and worship?
  - How can we ensure that our households stay aligned with God’s order rather than cultural comfort?
- 

## Psalm Reading

### Psalm 119:9–16 (KJV)

**9** Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

**10** With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

**11** Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

**12** Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.

**13** With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.

**14** I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.

**15** I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.

**16** I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

### Commentary:

Purity begins in the heart that treasures God’s Word. Josiah’s story is this psalm in action, a man who cleansed his nation by first cleansing his own way.

---

## Hymn: “Take My Life and Let It Be”

By Frances R. Havergal (1874)

1.

Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;

Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

**2.**

Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet, and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

**3.**

Take my voice, and let me sing  
Always, only, for my King;  
Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee.

**4.**

Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect, and use  
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

**5.**

Take my will, and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

**6.**

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.



## Family Application Points

- 1. Rediscover the Word:** Revival begins when Scripture is reopened and obeyed.
- 2. Lead by Example:** Parents must model repentance before commanding it.
- 3. Destroy Idols:** Anything that replaces God's authority in your home must go.
- 4. Restore Worship:** Make your home a sanctuary of praise and obedience.

**5. Renew Covenant:** Commit your household daily to walk after the Lord with all heart, soul, and might.

---

### **A Sabbath Feast Prayer**

“Holy Father, thank You for the example of Josiah, who humbled himself at Your Word. As we gather this Sabbath, teach us to hear, repent, and obey. Let our homes be purified of every false thing and restored to true worship. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

---

### **Closing Prayer**

“Lord, renew our hearts as You renewed Judah through Josiah. Help us to treasure Your Word above all and to lead our families in obedience and reverence. May our worship be pure, our homes holy, and our lives consecrated to You alone. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”