

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

Rediscover the Word, 2 Kings 22

Background: The Reign of King Josiah

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.

- Josiah became king of Judah at only eight years old because his father Amon was killed by his own staff
- The leadership of Judah was under the control others until Josiah was old enough to lead on his own
- When Josiah was 16 years old, he began to seek the Lord by following the example of his ancestor David and never deviating from the righteous pattern set by David
- By the time Josiah was 20, he set out to rid Judah and Jerusalem of false worship
- Josiah's grandfather, Manasseh was the one who allowed and welcomed the worship of false gods in the Temples of Judah and Jerusalem
- When Josiah was 26, he had two major concerns: the restoration of the Temple and true worship of the living God
- Josiah appointed his royal secretary, Shaphan to oversee the renovation project
- Josiah was committed to repairing the house of God and reforming the people of God
- Josiah and Judah were offering sacrifices to God *without* knowledge of the Word of God

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- Many Christians are in the same position **2 Timothy 3:5 (KJV) 5** **“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: ...”**
- Many Christians act godly, but they are ignorant of or reject the power of God’s Word that could make them godly
- The power that is missing is the power of God that convicts of sin and delivers us from the bondage of sin and death

The Word of God is Found

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.

- During the renovation process at the Temple, Hilkiyah, the high priest “found” *the Book of the Law* in the house of God
- Some scholars think it was the Pentateuch (i.e. the first five books of the Old Testament), the book of Deuteronomy, or the Ten Commandments
- God’s Word had not been available to the people of God for at least 75 years
- They worshipped, lead services, prayed, preached, and taught *without* the Word of God
- The Word of God was not *stolen* by an enemy, it was not destroyed by a natural disaster, it was *lost* in God’s house by *own* people
- It was lost *in* the Temple, in the house of God!
- How did they pray without the Word of God?
- How did the High Priest minister without the Word of God?
- The saddest part is that the Word of God was “lost” for at least 75 years, but it was *not missed*
- When Hilkiyah discovered the Book of the Law, he gave it to Shaphan the royal secretary

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How Does the Word of God Get Lost Today?

- **Lack of a *daily devotion* time**
 - When our daily devotions in the Word of God are sporadic to non-existent, it may be a sign of our loss of spiritual appetite for the Word of God
- **AWOL from church services (in-person or virtually)**
 - The Bible tells us to fail not to assemble **Hebrews 10:25 KJV) 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**
 - The longer you are away from church, the easier become occupied with other things
- **The Word of God has dropped in priority**
 - We've put other things ahead of Word of God
 - We have filled our schedules with work, family, entertainment, and activities there's little to no time for Word of God individually or corporately
- **The Bible is considered *old, dated, antiquated***
 - Some think that since the Bible is more than 2,000 years old, it is irrelevant and can't possibly address current issues
- **My life is good, there's "no need" for the Bible**
 - Is the Bible only worthwhile when life is bad?
- There's *no difference* between the Word of God *lost in the Temple* in Josiah's and it being "lost" on our bookshelf, lost in our priorities, lost in our schedules, lost in our debates over its usefulness today

What Josiah Did to Rediscover the Word

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**

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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.

- Hilkiyah, the High Priest gave the Book of the Law to Shaphan, Josiah's secretary of state and he read it and he brought it to king Josiah
- Shaphan read the Book of the Law to king Josiah and he did three important things
 1. *He rent or tore his clothes*; tearing one's clothes was a sign of conviction, remorse and repentance
 - The Word of God showed king Josiah that the Book of the Law had not been part of Judah's life and worship for a very long time
 - The Word of God has convicting power to will bring our faults and sins to our attention ***Hebrews 4:12 (KJV) 12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***
 - The Word found king Josiah and it convicted him
 2. *He inquired of the Lord*
 - King Josiah appointed a delegation to seek God in prayer and study to determine the meaning of the message in the Book of the Law
 - He wanted to know if God would be merciful to him and Judah
 - The delegation consulted with the prophetess Huldah who lived in Jerusalem and she said God would judge and destroy the city of Jerusalem and its people
 - But despite this horrible news, there was a very special message for Josiah it was a message of mercy
 - The prophetess said Josiah would die in peace and he would personally escape God's coming judgement
 3. *He worked to reform Judah*
 - Even though his life was spared Josiah worked to please God
 - With just *one reading* of God's Word, Josiah began instituting changes in Judah

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- He had the people make a new covenant promise to live by the law they just heard, and the people agreed
- They removed and burned all the idols used to worship Baal, Asherah, that were in the Temple

What Are We to Do When We rediscover the Word?

- ***Be quick to repent Joel 2:13 (KJV) 13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.***
 - When the Word of God “convicts” us of sin, it is not to “hurt us”, but to *help us* turn to God in repentance
- ***Pray for God’s forgiveness and mercy for your neglect in reading and obeying His Word***
 - God is abundant in mercy ***Lamentations 3:22-23 (KJV) 22 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.***
- ***Take action, make the needed changes in your life***
 - True repentance without making changes is not repentance at all
- ***Share the Word with others***
 - Just as God’s Word helped you, get busy sharing the Word with others to help them
 - In Josiah’s time, the Word of God was *found, read, and spread*, let us do the same