

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why did the reading of God's Word suddenly have such an impact on the king?
2. According to present day thinking, standards of right or wrong are different than in the past. Why?
3. Why did God delay His judgments?
4. Can the leadership today have as much influence on delaying God's judgment as Josiah had?
5. Why is God's word sometimes more profound and have a greater impact on us, when it is brought to us (like when it was brought to Josiah) than when we would read it by ourselves?

SUMMARY:

After being lost for a period of time, the Word of God was found again. Apparently the find stirred much interest. Its reading brought conviction to the King who immediately turned to God. His anguish for sin was so great that he tore his garments and wept before the Lord. Because of this, God had compassion on King Josiah and on Israel and gave peace to Josiah.

Today God still looks with favor upon the person who is convicted of sin and who turns to Him in remorse, even with tears. Oh, that more people could be humbled as King Josiah and truly repent as he did. God's Word says of him, "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." (2 Kings 23:25)

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #9

November 27, 2011

Fourth Quarter

JOSIAH DISCOVERS GOD'S WORD

LESSON TEXT: 2 Kings 22:8-20

LESSON SETTING: Josiah destroys idolatry in Judah.

TIME: Approximately 641 - 624 B.C.

I. DISCOVERY OF GOD'S WORD. 2 Kings 22:8-10

- A. Finding the Word of God (vs. 8)
- B. Reading the Word (vs. 8, 10) 2 Kings 23:2; Nehemiah 8:8; Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27

II. CONVICTION BY GOD'S WORD. 2 Kings 22:11-13

- A. Convicted by the Word (vs. 11) Acts 2:37; 16:14;
- B. Seeking God (vs. 13) Psalm 34:4; 40:1-3; Zephaniah 2:3; James 4:8
- C. Acknowledging Sin (vs. 13) Proverbs 28:13; Jeremiah 3:13

III. WARNING FROM GOD'S WORD. 2 Kings 22:14-17

- A. God's Word Never Changes (vs. 16) Psalm 111:7-8; Matthew 5:18
- B. God's Wrath (vs. 17) Romans 1:18; 2:8; Ephesians 5:6

IV. PROMISES TO THE REPENTANT. 2 Kings 22:18-20

- A. Prayers Heard (vs. 19) Psalm 34:17; Proverbs 15:29; Micah 7:7; Zechariah 10:6
- B. Penalty Delayed (vs. 20) 1 Kings 21:29; Luke 13:7-9

GOLDEN TEXT: *THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU, THEY ARE SPIRIT, AND THEY ARE LIFE.*

John 6:63

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Habakkuk 1:5-7; 2 Kings 25:1-10

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 2 Chronicles 36:9-23;
Jeremiah 39:1-9; Luke 21:5-36

QUARTERLY THEME: Kings and Prophets of Judah

TOPIC: THE COLLAPSE OF A NATION

INTRODUCTION:

Our lesson of last week dealt with King Josiah during whose reign the Law of God was again found after being lost for an unknown period of time. His reign started about 641 B.C. and was a good period in the time of Judah. However, God's wrath was kindled against Judah and the kings that followed Josiah were all wicked thus adding to God's displeasure.

Habakkuk, the prophet, prophesied while Josiah still lived, and the prophecy of the doom of Judah and their over-running by the Chaldeans was made about the middle of Josiah's reign and about 20 years before Nebuchadnezzar actually besieged Jerusalem.

Part of the reign of the successive kings were as "Puppet rulers" which was the case with King Zedekiah. He still ruled wickedly and finally rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar who had set him on the throne. As a result Jerusalem was again besieged. Zedekiah was taken captive, his children slain in his presence and finally his eyes were put out. The complete ruin of Jerusalem and of the temple soon followed.

The real lesson for us is that God's Word is sure. He condemns sin. He is forbearing and long-suffering, giving men ample opportunity to repent, but when people continue in sin the time finally comes when God says "enough is enough" and His judgment is swift and sure. Dare we today make light of what God commands us? Dare we do anything other than live righteous, holy lives before Him?

CENTRAL TRUTH: When a nation or an individual turns from God, they are courting disaster.

GOLDEN TEXT: *THOU SHALT SAY UNTO THEM THIS IS A NATION THAT OBEYETH NOT THE VOICE OF THE LORD THEIR GOD.*
Jeremiah 7:28

Jeremiah is another of the prophets sent by God to warn the people and to try to lead them to repentance. He was active at the same time as the prophet Habakkuk. The people refused to listen to Jeremiah as they so often had refused to listen to God's messengers in the past. Now the message was one of judgment and doom.

Can we imagine the implications of this message? Can we imagine a messenger of God calling people to repentance but none answering? Can we imagine God saying "speak to these people, but they will not answer?"

It is apparent that we as a nation in the U.S. are seeing a similar time transpiring. Messengers of God are still calling men to repentance, but instead people more firmly reject the Word and go deeper into sin. Immorality becomes worse and worse, no longer being acts of darkness but rather brazen attempts to discredit God's commands against indecency, nakedness, lust, adultery, rebellion against authority and all manner of wickedness. We could go on and on and see such similarities in everything we name.

Is it possible that this message aimed at the Israelites is also aimed at America today? Will God be saying of us "This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the Lord their God"?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Nov. 28 – Dec. 4

- M. The People Rebel Against Moses. Numbers 21:7-9
- T. The Apostasy of a Nation. Judges 10:6-16
- W. A Nation Repents. 1 Samuel 7:6-14
- T. *The Collapse of a Nation. 2 Kings 25:1-10
- F. Confession of Ezra. Ezra 9:5-15
- S. Jeremiah Speaks for God. Jeremiah 8:14-22
- S. Daniel Prays for His People. Daniel 9:3-13

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