

Conc: Here is what Josiah and Israel did:

1. They recognized their sin.
2. They repented of their sins and eliminated their sinful practices.
3. They attacked the causes of their sin.

Revivals are nothing new. As long as there have been people serving the Lord, people have been backsliding and experiencing revival. This passage records one of the greatest revivals in the Old Testament. The nation of Israel had drifted far away from the Lord. They had given themselves over to idolatry and to the worship of vile, heathen gods. They were living in deep sin, and they had neglected the God of their fathers. They were in great spiritual darkness and the danger of God's judgment was hovering over them. They stood in need of a genuine spiritual revival.

What can one person do?

Josiah knew God was going to spare him the wrath to come. Josiah knew God was going to take his life, and probably sooner rather than later. His passion for the Lord caused him to lead the nation back to the path of righteousness. Under his leadership, the kingdom experienced a genuine revival.

Josiah used his days wisely...

Psalm 90: ¹² So, teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Series: Biblical Gen. Ed.

Title: Make a Difference

Topic: Use your days

Introduction: Reign of Josiah: 640-609 BC

Josiah was _____ when he became king of Judah. He was born into a world much like ours – in an idol-worshipping, sex-obsessed culture. His father Manasseh and his grandfather Amon were both wicked kings right before his reign.

When he was _____: 2 Ch. 34:14 *In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David.*

When he was _____, as repairs were being made on the Temple, the Book of the Law was found.

2 Kings 22: 11 *When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes. 12 He gave these orders to Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Akbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king's attendant: 13 "Go and inquire of the Lord for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the Lord's anger that burns against us because those who have gone before us have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us."*

The priest and 4 others went to see a prophetess: Huldah

15 *She said to them, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Tell the man who sent you to me, 16 'This is what the Lord says: I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people, according to everything written in the book the king of Judah has read. 17 Because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods and aroused my anger by all the idols their hands have made, my anger will burn against this place and will not be quenched.' 18 Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, 'This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says concerning the words you heard: 19 Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people—that they would become a curse and be laid waste—and because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I also have heard you, declares the Lord. 20 Therefore I will gather you to your ancestors, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place.'"*

Lesson: What Josiah did with the time he had left.

2 Kings 23:1-25

Genuine revivals have observable characteristics:

I. 22:8-13 Revival involves _____.

When Josiah saw himself and his nation in the light of the Word of God, he saw how far they had drifted. He also understood the need to make things right with the Lord. The Word of God convicted his heart and challenged him to seek the Lord. He rededicated himself to keeping the commands of the Word of God!

What about us? We make bold statements about the Bible. We declare it to be the very Word of God, and it is. We claim that it is without error, and it is. We hold it up as the final authority in all spiritual matters, and it is. We say it is the standard by which all men should live, and it is. While all of this is true and it is right, we still often _____ when it comes to the Bible.

II. 23:1-3 Revival involves _____.

Josiah took the Bible to the people. He read the Law to them and led them in a time of personal and national repentance. They joined together in a covenant in which they committed themselves to keep and honor the Word of God.

What about us? We are fooling ourselves when we think we can hold on to our ways and still have the power, presence and blessings of the Lord.

III. 23:4-20, 24 Revival involves _____.

When Josiah and the people renewed their covenant with the Lord and repented of their sins, the door was open to some major changes

in Israel. Objects and practices that they were used to had to go. Change was necessary.

1. v. 4-7 - They cleansed the Temple and its precincts – The Temple had become a place of idol worship and gross sin of every description. They removed everything from the Lord's House that was not supposed to be there.
2. v. 8-20 - They destroyed and defiled all the heathen temples and altars. The places where human sacrifices were offered; the places where gross sexual worship occurred; the high places; all the places where the people had gone to sin against the Lord God and to serve idols were torn down and defiled.
3. v. 24 – All those people in the kingdom who practiced the occult were put away as well.

It was a total purge of evil from the whole land. All of this came about because they read the Word of God, recognized their sinful ways and repented of their sins! Reform follows genuine repentance!

What about us? “We are not in a position to reform our nation. We simply do not possess the power to effect change on that level. I wish we could! It is not our business to change the other churches around us who have and are abandoning the ways of the Lord. I wish we could! We are not in a position to change our denomination. I wish we could! What we can do is see that our own house is in order! I wish we _____!” Unknown author

IV. 23:21-23 Revival involves _____.

Among the things Josiah discovered when he read the Word of God was the command for Israel to hold the Passover feast every year. They were to have this time of remembrance to commemorate God's deliverance of Israel from bondage in Egypt. Israel had not kept the Passover in years. They had been guilty of forgetting their deliverance and their redemption.

What about us? When we remember Whose we are, we cannot help but be in love with Jesus Christ. Real revival all about God's people falling in love with God all over again! We need to remember!