

2 Chronicles 34 — “The Young Man Josiah: His Destroying Idols, His Godly Priorities, His Repentant Heart, His Courageous Leadership!”

- Spurgeon was 16 when he began preaching.
- Whitefield was 21 when he began open air preaching to thousands.
- Savonarola was in his 20's when he called the city of Florence & Italian leaders to repent.
- Calvin was 26 when he published his Institutes of the Christian Religion.
- In 1796, 26 Yale students founded an organization on campus to promote “holy/biblical living”. By 1800 nearly 1/2 of the student body was involved & this laid the groundwork for soon-coming revivals on campus.
- John Girardeau, the mighty Presbyterian preacher to the slaves of Charleston, SC, was 34 when revival broke out in his church in 1859.
- Evan Roberts, the leader of the Welsh Revival of 1904-1905, was 26.

No doubt these young preachers ... had a holy zeal for Christ and his kingdom. They believed wholeheartedly what they were preaching. They had not yet been brought to cynicism by the affairs of the church and world. To go further, perhaps they had not yet been corrupted by the world, the flesh, and the devil; and because of this they tended to be purer, cleaner vessels through whom the Holy Spirit can work powerfully. And it could be they had child-like faith. Jesus told us that unless we are converted and become as little children, we will not enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 16:3). —**Al Baker**

- This Chapter (2 Chronicles 34) shows us a **YOUTHFUL** man (1-3) & a **COURAGEOUS** man (4-7) & a **BIBLICAL** man (8-13) & a **REPENTANT** man (14-22) & an **OBEDIENT** man (22-33)
 - *God raises up **YOUNG** men for certain occasions.
 - *God raises up **COURAGEOUS** men for impossible situations.
 - *God raises up **HUMBLE** men for God-sent revivals.
 - *God raises up **BIBLICAL** men for exemplary leadership.

Josiah's narrative -- 2 Chronicles 34 & 35:

1. Introduction/summary of his life (34:1-2)
2. Removal/purging of idolatry (34:3-7)
3. Temple repairs and discovery of book of the Law (34:8-28)
4. Covenant renewal (34:29-33)
5. Passover (35:1-19)
6. Josiah's death (35:20-27)

THESIS — See the patient faithfulness of God in raising up Josiah to be king over Judah.

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I. THE RULER (1-7)

Verse 2: “**seek** the LORD” -- to fully engage with God.

what does it mean to *SEEK THE LORD*?

1. to seek GOD is to **PURSUE** GOD.
2. to seek GOD is to **WORSHIP** GOD.
3. to seek GOD is to **MORTIFY** SIN.
4. to seek GOD is to **FOLLOW** SCRIPTURE.

NOTE the verbals in v.3-4 in eradicating sin/ idolatry:

v.3 - he purged...

v.4 - they tore down

v.4 - he chopped down...

v.4 - he broke in pieces

v.4 - he ground to powder

v.4 - he scattered it

v.5 - he burned the bones

v.5 - he purged

v.7 - he tore down

v.7 - he beat into powder

v.7 - he chopped down

v.7 = THEN HE RETURNED TO JERUSALEM.

He went on a DESTROYING mission >> destroy all idols, false gods, idolatrous images, deities! (cf. Colossians 3.5 - put to death, therefore...)

II. THE REPAIRS (8-13)

III. THE RECOVERY/REVELATION (14-18)

V.14 - Hilkiah found the Book of the Law >> refers to entire Torah (Genesis - Deuteronomy)

IV. THE REPENTANCE (19-28)

V.25 - Huldah the prophetesses's words:

1. God's holy anger against sin! >> coming, fiery, widespread, inescapable destruction at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar & the Babylonians in 586BC (*HISTORICALLY*)
2. God's holy anger against sin! >> in hellfire, fiery, widespread, inescapable destruction from GOD (cannot be quenched!) (*ETERNALLY*)
3. God's holy anger against sin! >> at Calvary -- fiery, divine wrath against sin **TOTALLY QUENCHED** by the glorious & saving Son! (*SALVIFICALLY*)

The wrath of God is described in vv.24-25. What's it like?

- CALLED THE “CURSES” [a Hebrew word for strong, inflexible judgment]
- IT'S WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW
- IT'S REVEALED WRATH (IN SCRIPTURE/IN THE TEXT)
- IT'S BECAUSE THEY'VE FORSAKEN GOD
- IT'S BECAUSE THEY'VE PURSUED IDOLS
- IT'S INESCAPABLE, DESERVED >> “THEREFORE”
- IT'S DIRECTED, SPECIFIC, FOCUSED (NOT GENERAL BUT INDIVIDUALIZED) -> “on this place”
- WRATH IS COMING AND IT'LL NOT BE QUENCHED!

Note Josiah's repentance:

1. a tender heart (v.27 - you heart was tender)
2. a kneeling disposition (you humbled yourself)
3. a piercing Spirit (humbled yourself)
4. a declared Word (when you heard His words)
5. a divine presence (v.27 — humbled yourself “before me... before me”)
6. a public repentance (tearing clothes) (v.19, 27)
7. a grievous weeping (wept)
8. a confident hearing (I have heard, v.27)

V. THE RESOLUTION (29-30)

God's Word is sometimes uncomfortable and sin-exposing. How do you respond? There are 2 responses...

1. Evasion -
2. Submission -

VI. THE REVIVAL (31-33)

Mark it: The word of God – when found, read, believed, and spread – has this kind of transforming power.

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May God use the young people, like Josiah, to do great things for God’s great Name...

- ➔ **ZEAL** of our young people
- ➔ **COURAGE** of our young people
- ➔ **ENERGY** of our young people
- ➔ **FEARLESSNESS** of our young people
- ➔ **AVAILABILITY** of our young people
- ➔ **RISK-TAKING nature** of our young people
- ➔ **ADVENTUROUS** hearts of our young people
- ➔ **PASSION/excitement** of our young people

RISE UP O MEN OF GOD

Rise up, O men of God!
Have done with lesser things.
Give heart and mind and soul and strength
to serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O men of God!
The kingdom tarries long.
Bring in the day of brotherhood
and end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O men of God!
The church for you doth wait,
her strength unequal to her task;
rise up, and make her great!

Lift high the cross of Christ!
Tread where his feet have trod.
As brothers of the Son of Man,
rise up, O men of God!

AND CAN IT BE THAT I SHOULD GAIN?

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth and followed Thee.
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!