

Josiah: The Boy King

Josiah – “Yahweh gives,” “Yahweh cures,” “Yahweh brings forth”

Josiah’s father: Amon, king of Judah , 642-640 B.C.

(Amon is derived from the Egyptian god, “Amun”)

Josiah’s mother: Jedidah, daughter of Adaiah of Boscath,
2 Kings 22:1

Amon began to reign as the king of Judah when he was twenty-two years old. (2 Kings 21:19-24).

- He reigned in Jerusalem for only two years.
- He did evil in the sight of the Lord.
- He walked in the way of his idolatrous father (Manesseh).
- He worshipped and served his father’s idols.
- He abandoned the Lord God of his fathers and would not walk in his way.
- The servants of King Amon conspired against him and killed him.
- The people of the nation rose up to kill those conspirators
- These dramatic events led to the installation of Josiah, the son of Amon, king of Judah.
- Josiah, king of Judah, had been prophesied three hundred years before, according to 1 Kings 13:1-3.
- Josiah was only eight years old when he began to reign as king of Judah! (2 Kings 22:1)
- He became king about fifty-four years before the Babylonian captivity, when Israel went into exile.
- The Lord called Jeremiah to begin his prophetic ministry in the thirteenth year of Josiah’s reign. (Jeremiah 1:1-2)

Two Crucial Observations from Josiah’s boyhood

Just because our fathers have sinned, this does not mean that we are predestined or forced to repeat those sins. 2 Kings 21:16-24; 22:2

- Manasseh and Amon chose to do evil in the sight of the Lord, but Josiah did not choose this path.
- This is explained in Ezekiel 18.

Even a child can do that which is right in the sight of the Lord and diligently follow the excellent examples that God has given us. 2 Kings 22:2

- God sets the standard for right and wrong.

- A child must learn his responsibility before God

- Each child must be taught diligence – to concentrate and turn away from distractions

- Each child could benefit from the stories of the Bible with special emphasis on the examples that God has given us.

Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work *be* pure, and whether *it be* right.
(Proverbs 20:11)

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.
(James 4:8)