

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
ELEMENTS OF GENUINE REVIVAL
PT 3–REFORMATION
2 KINGS 23:4-20, 24

Introduction

We are looking at the **REVIVAL** that took place in **JUDAH** during the reign of the good **KING JOSIAH** even as **JUDAH** was under a cloud of impending **JUDGMENT** from the **LORD!**

We are noting **THE ELEMENTS OF GENUINE REVIVAL** as we go through the text here.

Two weeks ago we **saw in 1 KINGS 22 how that GENUINE REVIVAL INVOLVES REDEDICATION! A RENEWED DEVOTION TO THE HOUSE OF GOD AND THE WORD OF GOD!**

Last week we saw how that **GENUINE REVIVAL INVOLVES REPENTANCE!**
WE SAW JOSIAH’S PERSONAL RESPONSE TO THE LAW!
WE SAW JOSIAH TOOK THE LAW TO THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH!
(23:1-3)

He read the **LAW** to them and led them in a time of **PERSONAL and NATIONAL REPENTANCE!** They **REPENTED** and joined together in a **COVENANT** by which they committed themselves to keep and honor the **WORD OF GOD. REDEDICATION...REPENTANCE..**

NOW WE SEE GENUINE REVIVAL INVOLVES REFORMATION!
(23:4-20, 24)

When **JOSIAH** and the people of **JUDAH** renewed their covenant with the **LORD** and repented of their sins, the door was open to some major changes in **JUDAH.**

Let’s take a look at the changes that were made:

I. WE SEE THEY CLEANSED THE TEMPLE AND NATION OF THAT WHICH PERTAINED TO IDOL WORSHIP! (Vs 4-7)

Vs 4– The **TEMPLE** had become a place of idol worship and gross sin of every description.

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They removed all the vessels that were in the LORD’S HOUSE that appertained to idol worship and destroyed them!

Vs. 5– They “**put down**” the idolatrous priests who had been ordained by the previous administration to burn incense to idols in various places in the land.

“put down” = cease, stop; be absent; come to an end, perish, die; rest,

Vs 6– They brought out the **grove** from the **HOUSE OF THE LORD** and burned it outside of **JERUSALEM** by the brook Kidron.

Vs 7– They brake down the houses of the **sodomites**, that were by the **HOUSE OF THE LORD.** They were there for the wicked immoral activities associated with the idol worship!

WE SEE THEY CLEANSED THE TEMPLE AND NATION OF THAT WHICH PERTAINED TO IDOL WORSHIP...

II. WE SEE THEY ENDED THE UNAPPROVED WORSHIP OF THE LORD IN THE HIGH PLACES BY THE PRIESTS! (Vs 8-9)

When the **TEMPLE** worship was stopped and even banned under some of the previous kings, many of those in the **LEVITICAL** order who depended on the tithes and the offerings that were associated with the **TEMPLE** worship of the **LORD** found a way to sustain themselves even though it was against **GOD’S LAW!**

They performed their services in the high places, by offering the sacrifices that were brought to them in these high places. Even though the object of that worship was the true **GOD**, they were breaking **GOD’S LAW! (Deuteronomy 12:10-14)** (i.e. Right thing /wrong way)

The priests who had been guilty of this sin, were brought to **JERUSALEM**, but they were regarded as defiled and were barred from the service of the **TEMPLE!**

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Nevertheless, they were given an allowance out of the **TEMPLE** in much the same manner as the lame and disabled members of the priesthood or those who had a blemish. (*Leviticus 21:16- 23*)

WE SEE THEY ENDED THE UNAPPROVED WORSHIP OF THE LORD IN THE HIGH PLACES BY THE PRIESTS...

III. WE SEE THEY DESTROYED AND DEFILED ALL THE HEATHEN TEMPLES AND ALTARS IN THE LAND! (Vs 10-20)

Now this included:

Vs 10–The places where human sacrifices were offered!

Vs 11–The horses were removed and the chariots were burned that had been used for the worship of the sun!

The idolatrous kings of **JUDAH** had given and dedicated **horses and chariots** for use in worshiping the sun god! Horses were usually dedicated to that divinity, from the supposed idea that the sun was drawn in a chariot by horses.

The horses were employed in sacred processions to carry the images of the sun. They were also used by the idolatrous kings or their great officers to ride in every morning to welcome the sun’s rise. They would proceed from the east gate of the **TEMPLE** to salute and worship the sun god at the appearing of the sun above the horizon.

Vs 12–The altars that were built on the top of the upper chamber of AHAZ and the altars built by MANASSEH in the two courts of the LORD were demolished.

Altars were raised up on the flat roofs of houses, where the worshipers of “*the host of heaven*” or the “*heavenly bodies*” would burn incense (*cf. Zephaniah 1:5; Jeremiah 19:13*)

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AHAZ had reared altars for this purpose on the upper chamber of his palace, and **MANASSEH** on some portion of the roof of the **TEMPLE**.

Vs 13-14–The mount of corruption refers to the **MOUNT OF OLIVES**, where **SOLOMON** had built shrines to pagan gods for his foreign wives. (*Cf. 1 Kings 11:7*)

The places where these idols stood he defiled by strewing them with dead men’s bones. The presence of a dead carcass rendered both persons and places unclean in the eyes both of **JEWS** and heathens.

Vs 15, 19– JOSIAH was not satisfied with the removal of every trace of idolatry from his own dominion, he even went up into **ISRAEL** through the cities of **SAMARIA** and all the territory formerly occupied by the ten tribes, **destroying the altars, temples, and objects of worship in the high places.**

Vs 16-17–JOSIAH defiled graves of the idol worshipers buried in the vicinity and used their bones to pollute the altars of the idols.

In the process of doing that, **JOSIAH noticed a sepulchre that stood out from among the rest and inquired about it.**

In doing all of this, **JOSIAH** fulfilled one of the most remarkable prophecies in the **BIBLE!** **JOSIAH** was prompted by his own intense hatred of idolatry and love for the **LORD**. But what he did here had been **predicted 326 years before his birth, and his name also was expressly mentioned, as well as the very place where it should be done!** (*1 Kings 13:1-3*)

Vs 18–JOSIAH commanded them to leave the bones of the **PROPHET** that were in the grave alone as well as the bones of the **PROPHET** (lying prophet) that was buried with him! (*1 Kings 13:31*)

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Vs 20–**JOSIAH** put to death the idolatrous priests of the high places, and burned their and other men’s bones upon the altars before returning to **JERUSALEM**.

IV. WE SEE ALL THOSE PEOPLE IN THE KINGDOM WHO PRACTICED THE OCCULT WERE PUT AWAY AS WELL!

(Vs. 24; Deuteronomy 18:9-14)

Leviticus 20:6–“And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.”

It was a total purge of evil from the whole land. All of this came about because they read the **WORD OF GOD** and were **CONVICTED** of their sinful ways and repented of their sins!

REFORMATION always follows GENUINE REPENTANCE!

Matthew 3:1-2, 8–“In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand...8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:”

i.e. John the Baptist was saying, “Bring forth in your life fruits that show you have repented!”

And listen, those that are truly saved by **GOD’S** grace in **CHRIST JESUS** will manifest a change in their life and walk that will show that they are truly saved!

2 Corinthians 5:17–“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Ephesians 2:10–“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

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Conclusion

Now, in closing. Understand that we are not in a position to **REFORM** our nation. We don’t possess the power to effect change on that level.

Also, understand that it is not our business to change other “*Churches*” around us who have abandoned or are abandoning the ways of the LORD.

What we can do is see that our LIFE is in order and then make sure that our HOUSE is in order and then work to help make sure that our CHURCH is in order!

Let’s begin with our personal lives and make sure we have

- 1. A PERSONAL REDEDICATION TO THE LORD’S HOUSE AND WORD!**
- 2. A PERSONAL REPENTANCE IN TURNING AWAY FROM SIN AND BACK TO THE LORD!**
- 3. A PERSONAL REFORMATION IN SHOWING IN OUR LIVES THAT WE HAVE TRULY REPENTED BY SETTING THINGS ARIGHT IN OUR LIVES!**

We can’t change anyone around us, but we can change whatever may be wrong in our own life!

If we would just put *Matthew 22:37-39* and *Colossians 3:1-17* into practice, it would revolutionize our lives and become the first steps in a GENUINE REVIVAL!