

**BOOK OF 2 KINGS**  
**THE TRAGEDY OF JOSIAH'S DEATH**  
**2 KINGS 23:25-30; 2 CHRONICLES 35:20-27**

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**Introduction**

**LORD** willing we're going to finish looking at king **JOSIAH** this evening. In order to do that, we're going to have to be in two places as we often have done in our **2 KINGS SERIES**. We will be in **2 KINGS 23** and **2 CHRONICLES 35** so if you will go ahead and turn to those two places and mark them for easy access, that will help facilitate us as we get into our **BIBLE STUDY!**

Now, let's begin in **2 Kings 23:25** to the verse that follows what we have seen thus far.

**I. WE SEE THE POSITIVE UNIQUENESS OF JOSIAH'S REIGN!**

There was this matter-of-fact statement about **JOSIAH'S** life and reign! **Let me remind you briefly what we have seen thus far that leads up to this statement:**

- A. JOSIAH Did That Which Was Right In The Sight Of The LORD And Sought The LORD While He Was Yet Young!** (*2 Kings 22:2; 2 Chronicles 34:2-3*)
  
- B. JOSIAH Restored The TEMPLE That Had Been Allowed To Fall Into Ruin!** (*2 Kings 22:3-7; 2 Chronicles 34:8-13*)  
During that process, the **HIGH PRIEST** overseeing the cleanup found the **BOOK OF THE LAW** in the ruin of the **TEMPLE**.
  
- C. JOSIAH Was Repentant When The Lost BOOK OF THE LAW Was Read And He Realized How Far The Nation Had Strayed From The LORD And The Warnings Of Judgment!** (*2 Kings 22:8-11; 2 Chronicles 34:14-19*)
  
- D. JOSIAH Sought The LORD By Way Of HULDAH THE PROPHETESS!** (*2 Kings 22:12-14; 2 Chronicles 34:20-22*)
  
- E. The LORD Said That Judgment Would Come, But That He Would Die In Peace Before The Coming Destruction And Exile.** (*2 Kings 22:15-20; 2 Chronicles 34:23-28*)

- F. JOSIAH Led JUDAH In A Covenant Renewal Ceremony Reaffirming Their Allegiance To The LORD!** (*2 Kings 23:1-3; 2 Chronicles 34:29-32*)
  
- G. JOSIAH Destroyed The Idols From JUDAH And Even The Territory Of ISRAEL!** (*2 Kings 23:4-20, 24; 2 Chronicles 34:3-7, 33*)
  
- H. JOSIAH Reestablished The PASSOVER And Held The First PASSOVER Celebration In A Very Long Time!** (*2 Kings 23:21-23; 2 Chronicles 35:1-19*)

So it was very clear that **JOSIAH** was righteous man who truly sought after the **LORD** and became a bold reformer for his nation and his life and reforms held back the **JUDGMENT** of the **LORD** in his days!

*2 Chronicles 34:33* tells us in the last of that verse, "*And all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.*"

But though the **LORD** gave **JOSIAH** and **JUDAH** a reprieve during **JOSIAH'S** reign, **JUDGMENT** was still going to come. (*2 Kings 23:26-28*)

Yet, we are going to see that **JOSIAH'S** story ends on somewhat of a sour note. It is completely baffling and startling the way that **JOSIAH** dies in a senseless battle for no apparent good reason!

**II. WE SEE JOSIAH'S TRAGIC DECISION!**

**(2 Kings 23:29; 2 Chronicles 35:20)**

Having completed all the great reforms of the 18th year of his reign, 13 years later, look at what our text says in **2 Chronicles 35:20!**

**PHARAOH NECO** of **EGYPT** was going north to give assistance to his allies, the **ASSYRIANS** who were being defeated by the **BABYLONIANS**.

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In order to do that, **NECO** had to pass through a part of the territory of the former kingdom of **ISRAEL** to get there, along the coastal highway. And **JOSIAH**, for reasons unknown to us, went up to do battle with **NECO**, at **MEGIDDO**.

**III. WE SEE NECO TRIED TO DISSUADE JOSIAH FROM THE BATTLE! (2 Chronicles 35:21)**

In other words, **NECO** said, *'My fight is not with you as I am only doing what God commanded me to do! I don't want to fight with you, but don't oppose God's will or God will destroy you.'*

**IV. WE SEE JOSIAH FAILED TO LISTEN TO NECO AND THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES THAT FOLLOWED!**

*(2 Chronicles 35:22-24a)*

**A. JOSIAH Would Not Turn From The Battle! (Vs 22a)**  
**JOSIAH** was determined to fight with **NECO**.

**B. JOSIAH Disguised Himself For The Fight! (Vs 22b)**  
Remember how we saw **ISRAEL'S** king **AHAB** do the same thing years before this in *1 Kings 22:30-37* in the battle trying to reclaim **RAMOTH-GILEAD** from the **SYRIANS**. It didn't turn out so well for him either.

**C. JOSIAH "Hearkened Not Unto The Words Of Necho From The Mouth Of GOD." (Vs 22c)**

Wait, you mean this heathen **PHARAOH** from **EGYPT** was led by **GOD** to fight this war and he was speaking from **GOD** when he gave this warning to **JOSIAH**?

**GOD** can use whoever and whatever **HE** wants for whatever purposes **HE** desires! (e.g. *Balaam's donkey to Balaam*)

**D. JOSIAH Was Shot By An Archer And Mortally Wounded! (Vs 22d-23)**

(Again, in much the same way as King **AHAB** was except they were aiming at **JOSIAH** and the one who shot **AHAB** wasn't!)

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**E. JOSIAH Was Transferred To A Second Chariot And Died As They Carried Him Back To Jerusalem. (Vs 24a; 2 Kings 23:30)**

**V. WE SEE JOSIAH'S BURIAL AND JUDAH'S MOURNING! (24b-27)**

**JOSIAH'S** death was such a tragic and seemingly unnecessary death. That was a terrible blow to the kingdom of **JUDAH**!

Even **JEREMIAH** the **PROPHET** got in on lamenting **JOSIAH'S** death! (We don't have those particular lamentations.)

**JOSIAH** was not the promised **MESSIAH**, but was seen as being a **MESSIANIC** figure! (i.e. *A son of DAVID who could restore the people of the LORD to their rightful place in the world; possibly one who could bring back times of blessing and peace.*)

**JOSIAH** was a person that people put their hope in. He had accomplished so much. Yet he died in this tragic way, and then not too many years later, as we will soon see, **JERUSALEM** is destroyed and the people are carried off into exile in **BABYLON**.

Perhaps **JOSIAH** thought that his reforms would cause the **LORD** to help him win in this fight that he picked! Why else would he be out picking a fight with an empire, in an area that was not even his own land?

We need to be careful about **presuming** such things about the **LORD**! Because if we venture off to do what **GOD** has not purposed, we too can get hurt or die in the process! **JOSIAH** placed himself outside of **GOD'S** will and it cost both him and **JUDAH**!

Now, **JOSIAH** was true in his worship, not an idolater. He lived according to the precepts of the **LAW**, both religiously and morally.

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But he still failed in this particular instance because he didn't look to the **LORD** to see what **HIS** purpose was for him and his people at that time and in that place.

I believe that the **LORD** was trying to speak to **JOSIAH** through this pagan king **NECO**, but **JOSIAH** didn't listen and didn't follow up with a **PROPHET** to find the mind of the **LORD** before going to battle!

Oh how we need to be sensitive to the **LORD** and have **HIS** mind before we make choices that can bring tragic results if we are not right!

Let's not simply go out and do whatever we think is right and good in our own reasoning, but let us come to understand what the **LORD** would have us to do and what **HIS** purpose is for us in the things which we face!

Because if we place ourselves outside of **GOD'S** will for our lives, that's not going to end well for us!

Next week, **LORD** willing, we will see there is a new king in town and things are **NOT** alright in **JUDAH** anymore!

**JEHOIAHAZ**, the 23 year-old son of **JOSIAH**, assumes the throne! He's wicked and his father's meddling in **EGYPT'S** battle came back to bite him and the kingdom of **JUDAH**! **JEHOIAHAZ** has a short three-month reign and is carried away to **EGYPT** where he would die.

**JEHOIAHAZ'S** 25 year-old brother, **ELIAKIM**, is put on the throne by the **EGYPTIAN** king, who changes his name from **ELIAKIM** to **JEHOIAKIM** and puts **JUDAH** under heavy tribute!

Oh, and **JEHOIAKIM** is wicked to the core too!

The **JUDGMENT** of the **LORD** is here, but it is just beginning!  
More is on the horizon!