

A TIME OF RESTORATION

TEXT: (II Kings 22:1-2, NIV)

¹Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. His mother's name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah; she was from Bozkath. ²He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in all the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

KEY VERSE: "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me" (Psalm 51:12, NIV).

INTRODUCTION

1. "down to the grave, to the depths of the pit" (Isaiah 14:15, NIV).
2. "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:13-14, NIV).

I. REVIVAL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

1. "Abram **believed** the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness" (Genesis 15:6, NIV).
2. "And **if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us**, that will be our righteousness" (Deuteronomy 6:25, NIV).

A. Sought the LORD

1. "And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you" (Joel 2:25, KJV).
2. "In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David. In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images" (II Chronicles 34:3, NIV).
5. "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:8, KJV).

B. Purged the Land

1. "In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images" (II Chronicles 34:3, NIV).
2. "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:22-24, NIV).
3. "But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator" (Colossians 3:8-10, NIV).

II. REVIVAL OF SACRIFICE

A. Money

1. "In the eighteenth year of his reign, King Josiah sent the secretary, Shaphan son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the temple of the LORD. He said: 'Go up to Hilkiah the high priest and have him get ready the money that has been brought into the temple of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have collected from the people'" (II Kings 22:3-4, NIV).
2. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21, NIV).
3. "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (II Corinthians 9:7, NIV).
4. "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38, NIV).

B. Integrity

1. "But they need not account for the money entrusted to them, because they are acting faithfully" (II Kings 22:7, NIV).

III. REVIVAL OF THE WORD

1. "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word" (Psalm 119:9, NIV).
2. "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11, NIV).
3. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105, NIV).

A. Finding the Book

1. "Hilkiah said to Shaphan the secretary, 'I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the LORD'" (II Chronicles 34:15, NIV).
2. "Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life'" (John 6:68, NIV).

B. Hearing the Word

1. "Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, 'Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.' And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king".
When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes" (II Kings 22:10-11, NIV).

C. The Impact of the Word

1. "'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 our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us'" (II Kings 22:13, NIV).
2. "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 accursed and laid waste, and because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the LORD" (II Kings 22:19, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "Buy the truth and do not sell it..." (Proverbs 23:23, NIV).
2. "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me" (Psalm 51:12, NIV).