

# THE KING

IMAGINE THE POWER



*GROUP/FAMILY*

# Session 11

- Watch the sermon “The Prophet Profit?” on The Redemption Church YouTube Channel.
- Apply your life to the Bible alongside your group or family with the honest questions in this lesson.



This Week's Sermon exposit 2 Kings 15 and 17, placing this session in the middle  
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## Context

Second Kings 23 records the reforms of King Josiah in the late seventh century BC, during the final decades of the kingdom of Judah before the Babylonian exile. After the Book of the Law was discovered in the temple (2 Kings 22), Josiah responded with covenant renewal and a nationwide effort to remove idolatry. For generations, Judah's kings had tolerated or promoted pagan worship connected to Baal, Asherah, astral deities, and practices borrowed from surrounding nations. Josiah sought to bring the nation back into conformity with God's covenant given through Moses. Although his reforms were extensive and sincere, the chapter also reveals that Judah's accumulated guilt under previous kings, especially Manasseh, had brought divine judgment that would not ultimately be averted.

## The Big Idea of the Text

Josiah renewed the covenant, destroyed idolatry, restored Passover worship, and died before Judah's inevitable judgment.

## Connecting the Session to the Sermon:

Second Kings 23 is the direct continuation and culmination of the themes introduced in chapters 21–22. Chapter 21 described the spiritual collapse of Judah under Manasseh and Amon, whose idolatry provoked God's wrath and brought prophetic declarations of coming judgment. Chapter 22 then introduced Josiah, whose humility before God's Word contrasted sharply with his predecessors. The discovery of the Book of the Law exposed Judah's covenant violations and led Josiah to seek the Lord. Chapter 23 shows the practical outworking of that repentance through covenant renewal, removal of idols, destruction of pagan worship sites, and restoration of proper worship. Together, these chapters emphasize the authority of God's Word, the consequences of sin, the necessity of repentance, faithful leadership, and God's unwavering commitment to His covenant promises and warnings.

# Biblical Text (CSB) - 2 Kings 23

So the king sent messengers, and they gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem to him. <sup>2</sup> Then the king went to the Lord's temple with all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, as well as the priests and the prophets—all the people from the youngest to the oldest. He read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant that had been found in the Lord's temple. <sup>3</sup> Next, the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant in the Lord's presence to follow the Lord and to keep his commands, his decrees, and his statutes with all his heart and with all his soul in order to carry out the words of this covenant that were written in this book; all the people agreed to the covenant.

## Josiah's Reforms

<sup>4</sup> Then the king commanded the high priest Hilkiah and the priests of the second rank and the doorkeepers to bring out of the Lord's sanctuary all the articles made for Baal, Asherah, and all the stars in the sky. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron and carried their ashes to Bethel. <sup>5</sup> Then he did away with the idolatrous priests the kings of Judah had appointed to burn incense at the high places in the cities of Judah and in the areas surrounding Jerusalem. They had burned incense to Baal, and to the sun, moon, constellations, and all the stars in the sky. <sup>6</sup> He brought out the Asherah pole from the Lord's temple to the Kidron Valley outside Jerusalem. He burned it at the Kidron Valley, beat it to dust, and threw its dust on the graves of the common people. <sup>7</sup> He also tore down the houses of the male cult prostitutes that were in the Lord's temple, in which the women were weaving tapestries for Asherah.

<sup>8</sup> Then Josiah brought all the priests from the cities of Judah, and he defiled the high places from Geba to Beer-sheba, where the priests had burned incense. He tore down the high places of the city gates at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city (on the left at the city gate). <sup>9</sup> The priests of the high places, however, did not come up to the altar of the Lord in Jerusalem; instead, they ate unleavened bread with their fellow priests.

<sup>10</sup> He defiled Topheth, which is in Ben Hinnom Valley, so that no one could sacrifice his son or daughter in the fire to Molech. <sup>11</sup> He did away with the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun. They had been at the entrance of the Lord's temple in the precincts by the chamber of Nathan-melech, the eunuch. He also burned the chariots of the sun.

<sup>12</sup> The king tore down the altars that the kings of Judah had made on the roof of Ahaz's upper chamber. He also tore down the altars that Manasseh had made in the two courtyards of the Lord's temple. Then he smashed them there and threw their dust into the Kidron Valley. <sup>13</sup> The king also defiled the high places that were across from Jerusalem, to the south of the Mount of Destruction, which King Solomon of Israel had built for Ashtoreth, the abhorrent idol of the Sidonians; for Chemosh, the abhorrent idol of Moab; and for Milcom, the detestable idol of the Ammonites. <sup>14</sup> He broke the sacred pillars into pieces, cut down the Asherah poles, then filled their places with human bones.

<sup>15</sup> He even tore down the altar at Bethel and the high place that had been made by Jeroboam son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin. He burned the high place, crushed it to dust, and burned the Asherah. <sup>16</sup> As Josiah turned, he saw the tombs there on the mountain. He sent someone to take the bones out of the tombs, and he burned them on the altar. He defiled it according to the word of the Lord proclaimed by the man of God who proclaimed these things. <sup>17</sup> Then he said, "What is this monument I see?"

The men of the city told him, "It is the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and proclaimed these things that you have done to the altar at Bethel."

<sup>18</sup> So he said, "Let him rest. Don't let anyone disturb his bones." So they left his bones undisturbed with the bones of the prophet who came from Samaria.

<sup>19</sup> Josiah also removed all the shrines of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to anger the Lord. Josiah did the same things to them that he had done at Bethel. <sup>20</sup> He slaughtered on the altars all the priests of those high places, and he burned human bones on the altars. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

# 2 Kings 20 Continued:

**Passover Observed**

21 The king commanded all the people, "Observe the Passover of the Lord your God as written in the book of the covenant." 22 No such Passover had ever been observed from the time of the judges who judged Israel through the entire time of the kings of Israel and Judah. 23 But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, the Lord's Passover was observed in Jerusalem.

**Further Zeal for the Lord**

24 In addition, Josiah eradicated the mediums, the spiritists, household idols, images, and all the abhorrent things that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem. He did this in order to carry out the words of the law that were written in the book that the priest Hilkiah found in the Lord's temple. 25 Before him there was no king like him who turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength according to all the law of Moses, and no one like him arose after him. 26 In spite of all that, the Lord did not turn from the fury of his intense burning anger, which burned against Judah because of all the affronts with which Manasseh had angered him. 27 For the Lord had said, "I will also remove Judah from my presence just as I have removed Israel. I will reject this city Jerusalem, that I have chosen, and the temple about which I said, 'My name will be there.'"

**Josiah's Death**

28 The rest of the events of Josiah's reign, along with all his accomplishments, are written in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings. 29 During his reign, Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt marched up to help the king of Assyria at the Euphrates River. King Josiah went to confront him, and at Megiddo when Neco saw him he killed him. 30 From Megiddo his servants carried his dead body in a chariot, brought him into Jerusalem, and buried him in his own tomb. Then the common people took Jehoahaz son of Josiah, anointed him, and made him king in place of his father.

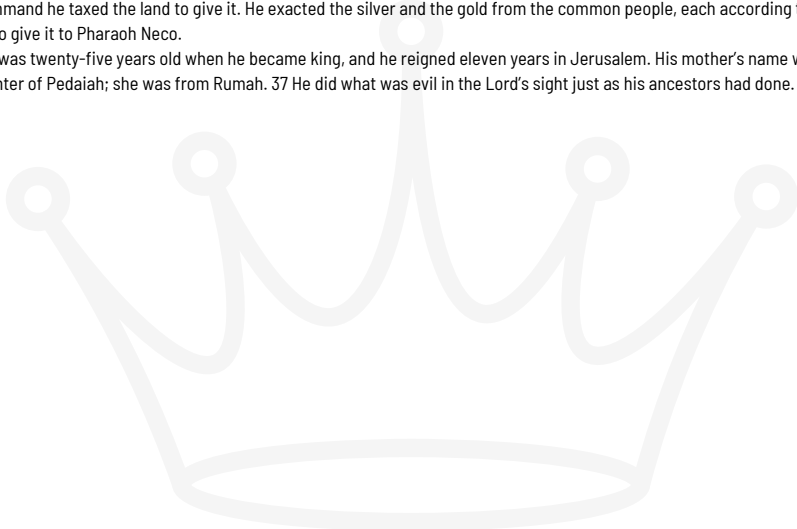
**Judah's King Jehoahaz**

31 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah. 32 He did what was evil in the Lord's sight just as his ancestors had done. 33 Pharaoh Neco imprisoned him at Riblah in the land of Hamath to keep him from reigning in Jerusalem, and he imposed on the land a fine of seventy-five hundred pounds of silver and seventy-five pounds of gold.

**Judah's King Jehoiakim**

34 Then Pharaoh Neco made Eliakim son of Josiah king in place of his father Josiah and changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. But Neco took Jehoahaz and went to Egypt, and he died there. 35 So Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh, but at Pharaoh's command he taxed the land to give it. He exacted the silver and the gold from the common people, each according to his assessment, to give it to Pharaoh Neco.

36 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zebidah daughter of Pedaiah; she was from Rumah. 37 He did what was evil in the Lord's sight just as his ancestors had done.



# Applying Our Lives to the Text

- In verses 1–3, how did Josiah's public reading of God's Law and covenant commitment demonstrate biblical leadership and accountability before God?
- Reviewing verses 4–14, what specific forms of idolatry did Josiah destroy, and what does their variety reveal about Judah's spiritual condition?
- Looking at verses 15–20, why was Josiah's destruction of Bethel significant, and how did it fulfill earlier prophetic declarations?
- Examining verses 21–23, what made this Passover celebration unique, and how did renewed obedience flow from rediscovered Scripture?
- Considering verses 24–27, why did God's judgment remain certain despite Josiah's remarkable reforms and sincere devotion to the Lord?
- Reading verses 28–37, how do Josiah's death and Judah's subsequent kings demonstrate the limitations of human leadership and reform?



# The Takeaway: So What Church?

**We will submit to God's Word, reject idols, trust Christ the greater King, and celebrate redemption He perfectly accomplished.**

## For Parents:

*SHOW YOUR KIDS JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE*

Imagine a king who finds God's Word and wants everyone to obey it again. That is what Josiah did. He tore down idols, called the people back to God, and celebrated the Passover. But even though Josiah was a good king, he could not change people's hearts forever or stop the judgment their sins deserved. That helps us see why God promised a greater King. Jesus came as the perfectly righteous King who never sinned. He not only teaches God's Word but fulfills it completely. Jesus is also the true Passover Lamb who died for sinners so they can be forgiven and belong to God forever.

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- Holy Dissident: Isaiah for Groups
- Letters to My Sons: The Pastoral Epistles
- Into The Fray: I Corinthians
- The God of All Comfort: II Corinthians
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## ABOUT JCM

Dr. Jesse Campbell is the founder and head Pastor of The Redemption Church, located on the outskirts of Seattle, WA. Jesse has a strong calling to preach the Bible as it is written. In the midst of a socially and religiously starving culture, his biblical foundation for understanding and preaching the gospel in a strong, clear, and concise manner has earned him a large following in a short amount of time. He's grown the JCM platform quickly, has been featured on national radio shows, and has been a guest speaker across the nation at many churches and large events.

Originally from the Pensacola, FL area, Jesse moved with his family to Nashville and worked at Lifeway Publishing for a while before completing his pastoral education. He was led to launch his own biblically-based church, The Redemption Church, in 2020.

Jesse is married to his wife, Jessi, and they have 4 children. Together they also run a conference for bereaved parents, in memory of their son, Aiden, called Aiden's Hope. When Jesse and Jessi aren't investing their time in JCM or The Redemption Church, you can find them on the bleachers cheering on many baseball and football games or mountain biking and snowboarding in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.