

2 Kings 23

King James Version (KJV)

23 And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.

²And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD. (This was the first time in hundreds of years that the people heard the Word of God)

³And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

⁴And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel. Deuteronomy-7:25 (Burn idols) (fields of Kidron- valley of Kidron- better translation) (Bethel- the place in Israel where Jeroboam set up one of the golden calf idols. Josiah was prophesied to Jeroboam by name, that he would come and defile the altars to idols)

⁵And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven. (He got rid of all the leaders of idolatry. They were all over Judah) (planets = the constellations – the 12 signs of the Zodiac)

⁶And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people. (the grove= asherah – a male phallic symbol made of wood that the heathen worshipped)

⁷ And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove. (sodomites= male gay prostitutes)

⁸ And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba, and brake down the high places of the gates that were in the entering in of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on a man's left hand at the gate of the city. (Some of these high places were illegal places to worship Yahoveh. Only the temple was the approved place of worship)

(Josiah was the first and only king to finally get rid of the high places)

⁹ Nevertheless the priests of the high places came not up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, but they did eat of the unleavened bread among their brethren.

¹⁰ And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech. (This was a place of human sacrifice to Molech)

¹¹ And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathanmelech the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire. (Horses and chariots given for sun worship. They raced these chariots towards the east before daylight to meet the rising sun)

¹² And the altars that were on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, did the king beat down, and brake them down from thence, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron. (Places to worship the sun, moon and stars)

¹³ And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile. (This is the Mount of Olives. Solomon started all of this idol worship with his heathen wives and concubines)

¹⁴ And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men. (To permanently defile them)

¹⁵ Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove. (Finally, the Jeroboam altar to the golden calves was destroyed – after 360 years) 1Kings-13

¹⁶ And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words. (These were the graves of the idolatrous priests)

1Kings-13(The man of God – this was the grave of the unfaithful prophet who prophesied to Jeroboam & the idolatrous, false prophet that was buried with him)

¹⁷ Then he said, What title is that that I see? And the men of the city told him, It is the sepulchre of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Bethel.

¹⁸ And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.

¹⁹ And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the Lord to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Bethel.

²⁰ And he slew all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars, and burned men's bones upon them, and returned to Jerusalem. (These were idol worshipping priests)

²¹ And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto the LORD your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant. 2Chronicles-35:1-19

²² Surely there was not holden such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah; (The greatest Passover because other kings hadn't eliminated all idol worship, or Yahoveh worship in the "high places". Only Josiah did all of that – complete adherence to the Torah)

²³ But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this passover was holden to the LORD in Jerusalem.

²⁴ Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the house of the LORD. (familiar spirits= evil spirits)

(Josiah wasn't just a reader of God's Word; he was a doer of God's Word) James-1:22

²⁵ And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him. (As foretold by prophets to Jeroboam 360 years before)

²⁶ Notwithstanding the LORD turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked him withal. (Judah was doomed, as a country, after Josiah would pass away. The people obeyed Josiah, as long as he lived. After he died, they went right back to their idolatry)

²⁷ And the LORD said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there. Jeremiah-1->10 (Judah abused all the prophets that God sent to correct them. They refused to listen to God)

²⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

²⁹ In his days Pharaohnechoh king of Egypt went up against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates: and king Josiah went against him; and he slew him at Megiddo, when he had seen him. 2Chronicles-35:21 (Pharaohnechoh was commanded by God to attack the Assyrians, not

Judah. Josiah should have stayed neutral, but instead went up against the Egyptians and was slain)

(Assyria was becoming weaker in those days. They would soon be overthrown by the Babylonians)

³⁰ And his servants carried him in a chariot dead from Megiddo, and brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own sepulchre. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father's stead. (This ends the righteous kings of Judah. The rest of them weren't worth much)

³¹ Jehoahaz was twenty and three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. (This is not Jeremiah the prophet. Jeremiah the prophet was hated and abused by the rest of these kings of Judah)

³² And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done. (After Josiah, they went right back to idolatry)

³³ And Pharaohnechoh put him in bands at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and put the land to a tribute of an hundred talents of silver, and a talent of gold.

³⁴ And Pharaohnechoh made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the room of Josiah his father, and turned his name to Jehoiakim, and took Jehoahaz away: and he came to Egypt, and died there. (Judah was subjugated to Egypt. Egypt decided who would be king of Judah) Jeremiah-22:11-12 (Jehoahaz was to die in a foreign land)

³⁵ And Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give the money according to the commandment of Pharaoh: he exacted the silver and the gold of the people of the land, of every one according to his taxation, to give it unto Pharaohnechoh. (Jehoiakim was a vassal king to Egypt, in exchange for protection from Babylon)

³⁶ Jehoiakim was twenty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zebudah, the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah.

³⁷ And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.