

JOSIAH: SEEKER OF GOD

You will recall from last week's lesson that Josiah was the last of four Judean king reformers.

- King Asa (1 Kings 15:9-24)
- King Azariah (Uzziah) (2 Kings 15:1-7)
- King Hezekiah (2 Kings 18-20)
- King Josiah (2 Kings 22-23)

2 Chronicles 34 records three important dated events of the reformation of King Josiah.

- 8th year of reign (age 16) – “He began to seek the God of his father David.” (34:3)
- 12th year of reign (age 20) – “He began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places.” (34:3-7)
- 18th year of reign (age 26) – “He began to repair the house of the Lord his God.” (34:8-13)

He reigned 31 years and was killed in combat at the age of 39 (2 Kings 12:1; 23:29-30). He died in the prime of life and at the top of his career. *Listen to the Lord's eulogy of him* – **“Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did - with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.”** (2 Kings 23:25; Deut.6:5)

Principle: God's plan is greater than any single event in life even death (2 Kings 22:15-20; Rom.8: 35-39).

The order of these three dates and events are important to Josiah being a great reformer. The first of these important historical events and dates was Josiah seeking God.

This lesson will study five aspects of Josiah: Seeker of God.

1. Josiah became a serious seeker of God at the age 16 (2 Chron.34:3).

“In the eight year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David.”
(2 Chron.34: 3) (Age 8 + 8 years = age 16).

Began (chalal/ hiphil pf/ motivation for devotion) to seek (darash/ kal infin/ strive after God) is a periphrastic form. This verbal form placed the importance of Josiah's spiritual journey and his kingship.

It emphasized the important of seeking God as the first event and date in the life of King Josiah that put him on the road to becoming a great reformer.

David gave this advise to Solomon - **“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.”** (1 Chron.28: 9)

Jesus also taught this same principle - **“But seek (zeteo/ p.a.impv) first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.”** (Matt.6:33)

2. At a very young age, Josiah understood and applied the divine formula for victory in the devil's world.

“This is the victory that overcomes the world - our faith.” (1 John 5:4)

Josiah began to seek the God of his father David. David and Josiah were similar in age (teens) when they began to seek after God (1 Sam.16: 10-13; 17:34-37).

This fall we will be starting a **Five Star** program for teen Seeker of God based on 1 Tim.4: 12 – “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.”

3. A seeker of God is a believer who consistently inhales and exhales the word of God by means of the faith cycle.

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim.3:16-17)

Ps.119: 9-11 describes a teen seeker of God much like Josiah. **“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word. With all my heart I have sought Thee; do not let me wander from Thy commandments. Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee.”**

Psalms 119 is written in context by the Hebrew alphabet (22 contexts). Ps.119: 9-16 is known as the (beth) context.

4. Remaining a seeker of God amidst troubled times is a sign of spiritual maturity. This is when the light of God shines the brightest.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” (Matt.5:14-16)

Isaiah reminds the remnant of Jews under the 5th cycle of national discipline to Babylon about this principle. “Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.” (Isa.55: 6) now read (55:7-9)

Isa.55 opens with a verse used by Jesus in His ministry when looking for seekers of God – “Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters.” (Isa 55:1, John 4:13-14; 7:37-39)

5. The Son of God came to earth to seek the lost and to make true worshippers out of them.

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10)

In His discussion with the woman at Jacob’s well, Jesus told her that God seeks true worshippers (John 4:19-24).

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshippers.” (4:23)