

JOSIAH: REPAIRER OF THE TEMPLE

2 Chron.34:1-8 records three important dates and events of the reformation of King Josiah (16th king of Judah).

- 8th year of reign (age 16) – Seeker of God
- 12th year of reign (age 20) – Purger of the Land
- 18th year of reign (age 26) – Repairer of the Temple

The order of these dates and events were important to King Josiah becoming the last of the great reformers of Judah.

King Josiah appointed a committee to oversee the repairing of the temple. This temple committee consisted of the king's secretary, mayor of city, recorder, high priest, and Levites (34:8-13).

Money for the repair was collected from Manasseh, Ephraim and the entire remnant of Israel and from all the people of Judah and Benjamin and the inhabitants of Jerusalem (34:9-11).

King Josiah was able to make the repairing of the temple a united effort of both the north and south kingdoms. This was an enormous undertaking and accomplishment and reflects the great leadership of King Josiah.

This lesson will study SIX aspects of JOSIAH: REPAIRER OF THE TEMPLE.
--

1. Six years of purging the land of idolatry was necessary to legislate repairing of the temple.

Can you imagine outlawing all religions but one in America? Most Moslem nations that are not democratic outlaw other religions.

Why did God require it of Israel and not of America? Israel was a priest-nation in the Jewish age. As the priest-nation, Israel was the custodian of God's word and messianic salvation (Ex.19:5-6).

America is a client nation in the Church age. In the Church age, the Church of Jesus Christ is the custodian of God's word and messianic salvation (Heb.7:12; 1 Pet.2:4-10; Phil.3:20).

2. During the Church age, salvation by the historical gospel of Jesus Christ incorporates all religions into the Church (Gal.3:26-29; Rom.9:23-25).

“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; for ‘whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.’” (Rom.10:12-13; quoting Joel 2:32)

“Salvation is an individual matter and it is available to Jew and Gentile alike.” (Ren.of NT, pg.56, Rom.10:12)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Rom.1:16)

3. The OT temple represented the worship of God through shadow Christology (Heb.5-10).

“For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near.” (Heb.10:1)

“Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, ‘sacrifices and offering Thou hast not desired, but a body Thou hast prepared for Me.’” (Heb.10:5)

“For by one offering He has perfected for all times those who are sanctified.” (10:14)

“For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.” (10:7)

When he said, ‘A new covenant.’ He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.” (10:13)

4. At the heart of temple shadow Christology, was the holy place with the Holy of Holies (Heb.9-10).

The second veil separated the Holy of Holies from the holy place (Heb.9:3-7).

“The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed, while the outer tabernacle is still standing.” (Heb.9:8)

“Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh.” (Heb.10:19-20)

When Jesus died on the cross, God torn the second veil rendering the temple, high priesthood, and sacrifices inoperative (Matt.27:50-51).

5. King David was allowed to build the last Mosaic tabernacle but not the temple (1 Chron. 15:1; 16:1; 17:1; 21:29-30; 22:5-8; 2 Chron.1:3-4).

“So they brought the ark of the Lord and set it in its place inside the tent which David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offering and peace offerings before the Lord.” (2 Sam.6:17)

“You have shed much blood, and have waged great wars; you shall not build a house to My name, because you have shed so much blood on the earth before Me.” (1 Chron.22:8)

6. Solomon built the first temple on Mt. Moriah in the 4th year of his reign. It took 186,000 workmen and 7 years to complete it (2 Chron.3:1-2; 5:1-5; Acts 7:44-50). It was built 480 years after the Exodus (1 Kings 6:1, 37-38). [Four temples: Solomon, Zerubbabel, Herod, and Ezekiel (Ezk.40-48)]

After about 400 years, the temple was plundered and burned by Babylon and the Ark of the Covenant was removed (586BC) (2 Kings 25:8-17).

In 516BC, *Zerubbabel's* temple was under construction without the ark of covenant (2 Chron.36:23; Ezra 1:1-4; 3:3). According to the Talmud, this temple lacked five things: ark, sacred fire, Shekinah glory, Holy Spirit, and Urim and Thummin.

After another 400 years, this temple was plundered by Antiochus Epiphanes (170BC). In 19-20 BC, *Herod the Great* began rebuilding the temple (John 2:19-22; Matt.26:60-61; 27:40-44; Acts 6:13-14). Rome destroyed this temple in 70AD.