

THE LOST BOOK OF THE LAW

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 Land
- 18th year of reign (age 26) – Repairer of Temple

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

During the repairing of the temple, the high priest Hilkiah found the Book of Law in the temple (2Kings 22:8). The high priest took it to Shaphan the king's secretary who in turn read it to Josiah (22:9-10).

“When the king heard the words of the Book of Law, he tore his robes.” (22:11)

This lesson will study SIX aspects of the Lost Book of the Law found during the repairing of the temple.

1. Tearing of the king's robe symbolized great grief for the nation. What did Josiah hear from this Book of the Law that caused him to tear the king's robe?

“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.*” (22:13)

2. The king's natural spiritual response was acknowledged by the Lord and was rewarded.

- Response – “Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the Lord.”
- Reason - “when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people, that they would become accursed and laid waste.”
- Reward – “and because you tore your robe and wept in My presence, I have heard you, declares the Lord.” (22:19)

3. The king's special task force went to the prophetess Huldah to get clarity and details of the disaster foretold in this Book of Law.

She is described as the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem in the Second district (22:14).

Shallum – “Perhaps the same Shallum who was the uncle of Jeremiah (Jer.32:7).” (NIV)

Second District – “A section of the city (the Hebrew for this phrase is translated ‘New Quarter’ in Zep.1:10) probably located in a newly developed area between the first and second walls in the northwest part of Jerusalem (2 Chron.33:14).” (NIV, 2 Kings 22:14)

Huldah reaffirmed the king's fears of impending divine discipline upon the priest-nation under his reign.

“I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people, according to everything written in the Book the king of Judah read.” (22:16)

4. This Book of Law gave three reasons for the impending divine discipline upon the priest-nation of Judah in 2 Kings 22:17.

- They have forsaken Me.
- They have burned incense to other gods.
- They provoked Me to anger by all the idols their hands have made.

“My anger will burn against this place and will not be quenched.”

5. Huldah confirms that the priest-nation of Judah has passed the point of no return. They will suffer the 5th cycle of divine discipline as a nation.

The 5th cycle is the fall of the priest-nation of Judah to a Gentile nation.

There are only two Books of the Law, which describe in detail the five cycles of divine discipline upon the priest-nation of Israel (Leviticus and Deuteronomy).

6. Each of these two Books of Law devote a chapter to the five cycles of divine discipline (Lev.26:14-46 and Deut.28:15-68). Many Bible scholars believe that this Book of Law was Deuteronomy because of (Deut.31:24-26).

Five cycles or curses - “But it shall come about, if you will not obey the Lord your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.” (Deut.28:15 / curses 16-19) (28:45-48)

The 5th cycle is described in gruesome details in Deut.28:49-68. It would be a warning sign to future generations of Jewish believers (28:45-48).

However, it is only spiritual advancing believers who pay attention to the importance of categorical doctrine – “If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32)

Reversion believers are not interested in knowing the truth in order to obey it in their daily living – “Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things.” (Deut.28:47) (Matt.23:37-39)