

## **A Nation in Peril (#1) (Introduction)** **(Josiah's Reformation)**

There is evidence that 21<sup>st</sup>. Century America, as a client nation, is **A Nation in Peril**.

One piece of evidence is the general attitude towards the **Sovereignty of God** whether it is the Priest Nation of Judah or the client nation of America (Acts 17:17, 26-31; Rom.1:18-32)

(1 Cor.1:22-23) "For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we reach Christ crucified, **to the Jews a stumbling block** and **to Gentiles foolishness.**"

<b>This lesson will study five aspects of Josiah's Reformation to A Nation in Peril.</b>
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### **1. Jeremiah was called to be the prophet to the nation of Judah in the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of King Josiah.**

(Jer.1:2) "To whom the word of the Lord came in the days of Josiah, the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the 13<sup>th</sup> years of his reign."

Josiah reigned 31 years (2 Kings 22:1) [640 BC - 609 BC]. He was eight years of age when becoming King (2 Chron.34:1).

Therefore Jeremiah was called in 627 BC [640 -13 = 627]. The name Jeremiah means, "The Lord exalts."

Jeremiah was born to be a priest to the nation, but then called to be a prophet to the nation

We are told that Jeremiah was the author of the Book of Jeremiah:

(Jer.1:1) "The words of Jeremiah." (Jer.51:64) "Thus far are the words of Jeremiah."

The last chapter (52) is an appendix to the book - "Written 25 years later by someone other than Jeremiah, this historical appendix shows how Jeremiah's prophecies were fulfilled and is almost identical to 2 Kings 24:18-25:30." (Ryrie NASB, Jer.52:1-34)

### **2. In the 18<sup>th</sup> year of Josiah's reign, the high priest Hilkiah found the lost Book of Deuteronomy that belonged in the Ark of covenant (Deut.31:9, 25-27; Heb.9:1, 4) (Old Covenant).**

The "Lost book" was found in 622 BC (640 – 18 = 622 BC) and led to a great spiritual awakening within the national leaders of Judah.

The "lost book" was called the "Book of the Covenant" (2 Kings 23:21).

However, Josiah's reformation was started in the 8<sup>th</sup> year of his reign at the age of 16 (**2 Chronicles 34:1-3**). It had been going on for five years before Jeremiah became involved in the 13<sup>th</sup> year of Josiah's reign.

Jeremiah and King Josiah were very close in age (youth / naar) (Jer.1:6). At the time of Jeremiah's calling, Josiah was 21 (8yrs + 13).

Josiah's spiritual reformation continued until his death in 609 BC at the age of 39.

### 3. **Josiah was the last godly king of Judah until Jesus Christ reigns.**

(2Kings 22:2) “He did right in the sight of Lord and walked in all the ways of his father David, nor did he turn aside to the right or the left (political and doctrinally).”

(2 Kings 23:25) “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 might, according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him.” (Matt.22:34-40; Deut.6:5)

Josiah’s death marked the end of Judah’s independence and the start of Gentile rule that will become known as “the times of the Gentiles” recorded in (Luke 21:24). It was the “Period of Gentile domination of Jerusalem, which probably began under Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC. (Ryrie NASB) (Luke 21:24)

I believe that the nation of Judah’s national decline started with the death of Josiah in 609 BC. Jeremiah ministered to the last five kings and the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle of divine discipline of Judah (Jer.1:1-3).

### 4. **God gave Jeremiah 18 years of peaceful ministry to A Nation in Peril.**

God used those 18 years to spiritually prepare him for the 22 years of preaching to a nation under Gentile rule and through the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle (Deut.28).

He preached to ears that would not listen to the truth of the word of God!

(Jer.22:5;) “‘But if you will not obey these words, I swear by Myself,’ declares the Lord, ‘that this house will become a desolation.’” (Mark 8:17-21; 2 Tim.4:3-5)

(2 Kings 22:8-9) “Many nations will pass by this city; and they will say to one another, ‘why has the Lord done thus to this great city?’ Then they will answer, ‘because they forsook the covenant of the Lord their God and bowed down to other gods and served them.’”

### 5. **Spiritual renewal requires personal ‘transformation’ NOT ‘reformation’ for life change.**

#### **LISTEN:**

Josiah’s father, **king Amon**, was an evil king who was assassinated. His grandfather, **King Manasseh**, was the most evil of all kings (2 kings 23). In the end, Judah will be given the 5<sup>th</sup> because of Manasseh (2 Kings 23:26-27).

#### **LIFE CHANGE:**

**But King Josiah** was a godly believer because the gospel and spiritual growth is personal not communal or national. We are products of our choices in life.

(Rom.12:2) “And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

#### **Jeremiah:**

(Jer.2:13) “For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, **the fountain of living waters**, to hew out for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

#### **Jesus:**

(John 4:14) “But whoever drinks of the water I give him shall never thirst; but the water that I give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”