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2 Kings 22.,23:1-35.

1 **. Josiah Reigns in Judah. .**

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign; and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath.

2 He did that which was right in the eyes of YAHWEH, and walked in all the way of David his father, and didn't turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

3 **. Hilkiyah Finds the Book of the Torah. .**

It happened in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan, the son of Azaliah the son of Meshullam, the scribe, to the house of YAHWEH, saying,

4 "Go up to Hilkiyah the high priest, that he may sum the money which is brought into the house of YAHWEH, which the keepers of the threshold have gathered of the people.

5 Let them deliver it into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of YAHWEH; and let them give it to the workmen who are in the house of YAHWEH, to repair the breaches of the house,

6 to the carpenters, and to the builders, and to the masons, and for buying timber and cut stone to repair the house.

7 However there was no accounting made with them of the money that was delivered into their hand; for they dealt faithfully."

8 Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the scroll of the Torah in the house of YAHWEH!" Hilkiyah delivered the book to Shaphan, and he read it.

9 Shaphan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and said, "Your servants have emptied out the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of YAHWEH!"

10 Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, "Hilkiyah the priest has delivered a book to me." Shaphan read it before the king.

11 It happened, when the king had heard the words of the scroll of the Torah, that he tore his clothes.

12 The king commanded Hilkiyah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Micaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying,

13 "Go inquire of YAHWEH for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found; for great is the wrath of YAHWEH that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not listened to the words of this book, to do according to all that which is written concerning us."

14 So Hilkiyah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asaiah, went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe (now she lived in Jerusalem in the second quarter); and they talked with her.

15 She said to them, "Thus says YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of Israel: 'Tell the man who sent you to me,

16 "Thus says YAHWEH, 'Behold, I will bring evil on this place, and on its inhabitants, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read.

17 Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the work of their hands, therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and it shall not be quenched.'"

18 But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of YAHWEH, thus you shall tell him, "Thus says YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of Israel: 'Concerning the words which you have heard,

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19 because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before YAHWEH, when you heard what I spoke against this place, and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and have torn your clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard you,' says YAHWEH!

20 "Therefore, behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace, neither shall your eyes see all the evil which I will bring on this place.""" They brought back this message to the king.

1 . **Josiah Restores True Worship.** .

The king sent, and they gathered to him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.

2 The king went up to the house of YAHWEH, 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 YAHWEH!

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

4 The king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the threshold, to bring forth out of the temple of YAHWEH all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the Asherah, and for all the army of the sky, and he burned them outside of Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron, and carried their ashes to Bethel.

5 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 around Jerusalem; those also who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the army of the sky.

6 He brought out the Asherah from the house of YAHWEH, outside of Jerusalem, to the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and beat it to dust, and cast its dust on the graves of the common people.

7 He broke down the houses of the sodomites, that were in the house of YAHWEH, where the women wove hangings for the Asherah.

8 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 he broke down the high places of the gates that were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on a man's left hand at the gate of the city.

9 Nevertheless the priests of the high places didn't come up to the altar of YAHWEH in Jerusalem, but they ate unleavened bread among their brothers.

10 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.

11 He took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entrance of the house of YAHWEH, by the room of Nathan Melech the officer, who was in the court; and he burned the chariots of the sun with fire.

12 The king broke down the altars that were on the roof of the upper room of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of YAHWEH, and beat them down from there, and cast their dust into the brook Kidron.

13 The king defiled the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mountain of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon.

14 He broke in pieces the pillars, and cut down the Asherim, and filled their places with

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the bones of men.

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, even that altar and the high place he broke down; and he burned the high place and beat it to dust, and burned the Asherah.

16 As Josiah turned himself, he spied the tombs that were there in the mountain; and he sent, and took the bones out of the tombs, and burned them on the altar, and defiled it, according to the word of YAHWEH which the man of ELOHIM proclaimed, who proclaimed these things.

17 Then he said, "What monument is that which I see?" The men of the city told him, "It is the tomb of the man of ELOHIM, who came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that you have done against the altar of Bethel."

18 He said, "Let him be! Let no man move his bones." So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet who came out of Samaria.

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

20 He killed all the priests of the high places that were there, on the altars, and burned men's bones on them; and he returned to Jerusalem.

21 The king commanded all the people, saying, "Keep the Passover to YAHWEH your ELOHIM, as it is written in this book of the covenant."

22 Surely there was not kept such a Passover from the days of the judges who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah;

23 but in the eighteenth year of king Josiah was this Passover kept to YAHWEH in Jerusalem.

24 Moreover Josiah removed those who had familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the teraphim, and the idols, and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might confirm the words of the Torah (teaching and instruction) which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of YAHWEH!

25 Like him was there no king before him, who turned to YAHWEH with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Torah of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.

26 . **Impending Judgment on Judah.** .

Notwithstanding, YAHWEH didn't turn from the fierceness of his great wrath, with which his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocation with which Manasseh had provoked him.

27 YAHWEH said, "I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city which I have chosen, even Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, 'My name shall be there.'"

28 . **Josiah Dies in Battle.** .

Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and all that he did, aren't they written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

29 In his days Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt went up against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates: and king Josiah went against him; and Pharaoh Necho killed him at Megiddo, when he had seen him.

30 His servants carried him in a chariot dead from Megiddo, and brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own tomb. The people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father's place.

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31 . The Reign and Captivity of Jehoahaz. .

Jehoahaz was twenty-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.

32 He did that which was evil in the sight of YAHWEH, according to all that his fathers had done.

33 Pharaoh Necho put him in bonds at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and put the land to a tribute of one hundred talents of silver, and a talent of gold.

34 Pharaoh Necho made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the place of Josiah his father, and changed his name to Jehoiakim: but he took Jehoahaz away; and he came to Egypt, and died there.

35 . Jehoiakim Reigns in Judah. .

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 everyone according to his taxation, to give it to Pharaoh Necho.

Nahum 3.

1 . The Woe of Nineveh. .

Woe to the bloody city! It is all full of lies and robbery. The prey doesn't depart.

2 The noise of the whip, the noise of the rattling of wheels, prancing horses, and bounding chariots,

3 the horseman mounting, and the flashing sword, the glittering spear, and a multitude of slain, and a great heap of corpses, and there is no end of the bodies. They stumble on their bodies,

4 because of the multitude of the prostitution of the alluring prostitute, the mistress of witchcraft, who sells nations through her prostitution, and families through her witchcraft.

5 "Behold, I am against you," says YAHWEH of Hosts, "and I will lift your skirts over your face. I will show the nations your nakedness, and the kingdoms your shame.

6 I will throw abominable filth on you, and make you vile, and will set you a spectacle.

7 It will happen that all those who look at you will flee from you, and say, 'Nineveh is laid waste! Who will mourn for her?' Where will I seek comforters for you?"

8 Are you better than No-Amon, who was situated among the rivers, who had the waters around her; whose rampart was the sea, and her wall was of the sea?

9 Cush and Egypt were her boundless strength. Put and Libya were her helpers.

10 Yet was she carried away. She went into captivity. Her young children also were dashed in pieces at the head of all the streets, and they cast lots for her honorable men, and all her great men were bound in chains.

11 You also will be drunken. You will be hidden. You also will seek a stronghold because of the enemy.

12 All your fortresses will be like fig trees with the first-ripe figs: if they are shaken, they fall into the mouth of the eater.

13 Behold, your troops in your midst are women. The gates of your land are set wide open to your enemies. The fire has devoured your bars.

14 Draw water for the siege. Strengthen your fortresses. Go into the clay, and tread the mortar. Make the brick kiln strong.

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- 15 There the fire will devour you. The sword will cut you off. It will devour you like the grasshopper. Multiply like grasshoppers. Multiply like the locust.
- 16 You have increased your merchants more than the stars of the skies. The grasshopper strips, and flees away.
- 17 Your guards are like the locusts, and your officials like the swarms of locusts, which settle on the walls on a cold day, but when the sun appears, they flee away, and their place is not known where they are.
- 18 Your shepherds slumber, king of Assyria. Your nobles lie down. Your people are scattered on the mountains, and there is no one to gather them.
- 19 There is no healing your wound, for your injury is fatal. All who hear the report of you clap their hands over you; for who hasn't felt your endless cruelty?

Psalms 40.

1 . To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David..

- For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. I waited patiently for YAHWEH! He turned to me, and heard my cry.
- 2 He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay. He set my feet on a rock, and gave me a firm place to stand.
- 3 He has put a new song in my mouth, even praise to our ELOHIM! Many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in YAHWEH!
- 4 Blessed is the man who makes YAHWEH his trust, and doesn't respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.
- 5 Many, YAHWEH, my ELOHIM, are the wonderful works which you have done, and your thoughts which are toward us. They can't be declared back to you. If I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.
- 6 Sacrifice and offering you didn't desire. You have opened my ears. You have not required burnt offering and sin offering.
- 7 Then I said, "Behold, I have come. It is written about me in the book in the scroll.
- 8 I delight to do your will, my ELOHIM! Yes, your Torah is within my heart."
- 9 I have proclaimed glad news of righteousness in the great assembly. Behold, I will not seal my lips, YAHWEH, you know.
- 10 I have not hidden your righteousness within my heart. I have declared your faithfulness and your salvation. I have not concealed your loving kindness and your truth from the great assembly.
- 11 Don't withhold your tender mercies from me, YAHWEH! Let your loving kindness and your truth continually preserve me.
- 12 For innumerable evils have surrounded me. My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up. They are more than the hairs of my head. My heart has failed me.
- 13 Be pleased, YAHWEH, to deliver me. Hurry to help me, YAHWEH!
- 14 Let them be disappointed and confounded together who seek after my soul to destroy it. Let them be turned backward and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt.
- 15 Let them be desolate by reason of their shame that tell me, "Aha! Aha!"
- 16 Let all those who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let such as love your salvation say continually, "Let YAHWEH be exalted!"
- 17 But I am poor and needy. May ADONAI think about me. You are my help and my deliverer. Don't delay, my ELOHIM!

Proverbs 24.

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- 1 Don't be envious of evil men; neither desire to be with them:
- 2 for their hearts plot violence, and their lips talk about mischief.
- 3 Through wisdom a house is built; by understanding it is established;
- 4 by knowledge the rooms are filled with all rare and beautiful treasure.
- 5 A wise man has great power; and a knowledgeable man increases strength;
- 6 for by wise guidance you wage your war; and victory is in many advisors.
- 7 Wisdom is too high for a fool: he doesn't open his mouth in the gate.
- 8 One who plots to do evil will be called a schemer.
- 9 The schemes of folly are sin. The mocker is detested by men.
- 10 If you falter in the time of trouble, your strength is small.
- 11 Rescue those who are being led away to death! Indeed, hold back those who are staggering to the slaughter!
- 12 If you say, "Behold, we didn't know this;" doesn't he who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, doesn't he know it? Shall he not render to every man according to his work?
- 13 My son, eat honey, for it is good; the droppings of the honeycomb, which are sweet to your taste:
- 14 so you shall know wisdom to be to your soul; if you have found it, then there will be a reward, your hope will not be cut off.
- 15 Don't lay in wait, wicked man, against the habitation of the righteous. Don't destroy his resting place:
- 16 for a righteous man falls seven times, and rises up again; but the wicked are overthrown by calamity.
- 17 Don't rejoice when your enemy falls. Don't let your heart be glad when he is overthrown;
- 18 lest YAHWEH see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.
- 19 Don't fret yourself because of evildoers; neither be envious of the wicked:
- 20 for there will be no reward to the evil man; and the lamp of the wicked shall be snuffed out.
- 21 My son, fear YAHWEH and the king. Don't join those who are rebellious:
- 22 for their calamity will rise suddenly; the destruction from them both who knows?

23 . Further Sayings of the Wise. .

These also are sayings of the wise. To show partiality in judgment is not good.

- 24 He who says to the wicked, "You are righteous;" peoples shall curse him, and nations shall abhor him
 - 25 but it will go well with those who convict the guilty, and a rich blessing will come on them.
 - 26 An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.
 - 27 Prepare your work outside, and get your fields ready. Afterwards, build your house.
 - 28 Don't be a witness against your neighbor without cause. Don't deceive with your lips.
 - 29 Don't say, "I will do to him as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work."
 - 30 I went by the field of the sluggard, by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;
 - 31 Behold, it was all grown over with thorns. Its surface was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down.
 - 32 Then I saw, and considered well. I saw, and received instruction:
 - 33 a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep;
 - 34 so your poverty will come as a robber, and your want as an armed man.
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!! End of the Daily Reading from the PROPHETS AND WRITINGS! Praise Yah!
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