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Wednesday, April 26, 2023 • Read 2Kings 22

Questions from the Scripture text: Who was what age, when he became what (v1)? How long did he reign? Who was his mother? What did he do (v2)? In Whose sight? In what ways did he walk? What didn't he do? In what year of his reign does he send whom, where (v3)? To whom does he send a message to count what (v4)? To do what with the money (v5)? And what are these overseer workmen to do with it (v5)? To which workmen, specifically (v6)? What does he say needn't be done and why (v7)? What happens as a result of this work (v8)? Whom does Hilkiah tell and give it? What does Shaphan the scribe do with it (v10-11)? To whom does Josiah give instruction in v12? To go to Whom and do what (v13)? For what three parties to inquire? What has he discovered is great? Against whom? On account of what? To whom do the inquirers go (v14)? In behalf of Whom does she speak (v15)? To whom? What is the first and main response (v16)? Why will God bring this calamity (v17)? To whom does God address a personal word (v18)? What has God seen about him, through what action (v19)? What has Yahweh already done? And what will Yahweh do for Josiah in response to hearing him (v20)?

How can revival come, and what may it look like? 2Kings 22 looks forward to the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these twenty verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **revival may begin in smaller mercies, as the Lord brings the response of the life by the moving of the heart.**

The influence of a godly grandpa, v1-7. Josiah was 8 when he became king (v1), which means that he was 6 when grandpa Manasseh died (cf. 21:18-19). For those six years, he would have known the man of 2Ch 33:12-17 as his grandfather. And though father Amon would have been 16 at Josiah's birth and set in his ways, grandfather Manasseh in full repentance mode can be expected to have done much of the upbringing of Josiah with a keen interest in his soul.

As Daniel and his friends would soon demonstrate in Babylon (cf. Dan 1, 3, 6:10, 9:21), such an upbringing can (by God's grace!) have a profound and lasting spiritual effect. For two years after grandpa Manasseh died, Josiah lived under the wicked reign of his 22-24 year old father (cf. 21:19-23).

God's praise of Josiah's character and reign is already glowing in v2 (and will be even more glowing in 23:25). When he's 24 (v3-7, cf. 12:4-15), he adds renovation of the temple itself to his reforms—something that grandpa had not accomplished (cf. 2Chr 33:15-17).

How one reform leads to another, v8-13. The Lord has already shown Josiah great grace. The Lord gave Josiah a grandfather whose experience of sin and of repentance was poured into his own life. The Lord gave Josiah to follow and grow in his grandfather's ways rather than his father's. And now the Lord adds at least four more glorious gifts of grace to these others.

First, He gives the recovery/discovery of the book of the law (v8, 10a).

Then, God gives Josiah to hear the Word read (v10b).

Then, God gives Josiah to respond to that Word from the heart (v11).

Finally, the Lord gives to Josiah to look for hope in the very God Whose character is declared in the Law.

In a similar way, prayer for revival and reformation of worship are often blessed by God as He answers those prayers through His powerful Word, with which He has filled biblical worship. What we must seek from Him is the grace to respond not merely with the curiosity and responsibility of a Hilkiah or Shaphan, but with the broken-hearted, torn-clothed seeking of God's face Himself. It was His Spirit Who gave this response to Josiah. It is the same Spirit to Whom we look for the same response in us.

The timeline of answered prayer for reformation, v14-20. The Lord's answer to Josiah is that because Josiah heard the Lord with a tender heart (v19a), He will also hear Josiah (v19b). He reminds us that the nation is beyond the point of no return (v16-17, cf. 21:12-15). What Josiah had heard in the Word (v13) was true.

We saw in 21:17-26 how Manasseh's late repentance couldn't undo the damage done to the nation, but now we see that there is mercy for households in repenting parents and mercy for individuals in their own repentance. The Lord will spare Josiah in mercy (v20). But a big part of that answer had come already through Josiah's reforms and Josiah's tender-heartedness. The Lord had been doing this work that would answer Josiah's prayer for decades before he was brought to pray it! Indeed, the prayer itself was part of the answer.

Whom would you hope to affect in godliness, if the Lord were to give you a great reformation of life? What parts of the reviving work (reformation of worship, hearing the Word, movement of heart, earnest prayer) that He did in Josiah have you seen in your own life? How can you get what remains?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for the amazing difference that You used Manasseh's repentance to make in Josiah's life. Forgive us for not seeking our own repentance more, or seeking the spiritual good that might come by it to others. Forgive us for lacking Josiah's zeal to reform worship or his tenderheartedness at Your Word. Grant that Your Spirit would continue to strive with us and bring revival to our lives and to Your church in our day. Make us urgent in prayer, and answer it in Your grace, we ask through Christ, AMEN!

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Suggested songs: ARP32AB "What Blessedness" or TPH178 "We Have Not Known Thee as We Ought"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Second kings, 22. These are God's words. Desire was eight years old, when he became king. And the rain 31 years in jerusalem. His mother's name was yadida. The daughter of a Daya of buzzcat. And he did what was right in the side of Yahweh and walked all the ways.

And his father david. He did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. Now, it came to pass in the 18th year of king desire. That the king sent chiffon, the scribe, the son of azalea, the son of mashulam to the house of Yahweh saying, Go up to help here.

The high priest. That he may count the money. Which has been brought into the house of yahweh which the door keepers have gathered from the people. And let them deliver it into the hand of those doing the work to are the overseers in the house of yahweh. Let them give it to those who are in the house of y'all way doing the work.

To repair the damages of the house. To carpenters and builders and masons. And to buy timber. And he instead to repair the house. However, there need be no accounting made with them. Of the money delivered into their hand because they deal faithfully. Then hokey of the high priest said to chefan, the scribe I have found the book of the law and the house of yahweh.

And he'll take the book to Shephania and he read it. Shephania, the scribe went to the king. Bringing the king word saying, Your servants have gathered, the money that was found in the house. And have delivered it into the hand of those who did the work, who oversee the house of Yahweh.

And then Shephania described to the king saying, He'll take, the priest has given me a book. And Shephania read it before the king. Now it happened. When the king heard the words of the book of the law. That he tore his clothes. Then the king commanded. He'll take of the priest.

I am the son of Shephania Akbar, the son of Mekhiah Shephania, the scribe this a servant of the king saying, Go inquire of y'all play for me for the people and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found For granted, is the wrath of Yahweh that is aroused against us.

This book to do, according to all that has written concerning us. So he'll hear the priest. He come across a man and messiah went to hold off the prophetess, the wife of Shalom, the son of Tikkvah, the son of her hash keeper of the wardrobe. She dwelt in Jerusalem in the second quarter.

And they spoke with her. And she said to them, Thus says, Yahweh God of Israel. Tell the man who sent you to me. Thus says Yahweh. Behold, I will bring calamity on this place. And on its inhabitants. All the words of the book, which the king of Judah has read.

Because they have forsaken, me and burned incense to other gods. That they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore, my rock shall be aroused against this place. And shall not be quenched. But as for the king of Judah who sent you to inquire of Yahweh, And this manner, you shall speak to him.

Thus says, Yahweh God of Israel. Concerning the words, which you have heard. Because your heart was tender. Do humbled yourself before y'all say. When you heard, what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants? That they would become a desolation and a curse. And you tore your clothes and wept before me?

I also have heard you since Yahweh. Surely, therefore, I will gather you to your fathers. And you shall be gathered to your grave in peace. And your eyes shall not see. All the calamity. Which I will bring on this place. So, they brought back word. To the king. So far, the reading of God's.

Inspired. And an errand worked. One of the things that we noticed in, The last part of chapter 21. With the conclusion to Manasse's reign. And, The whole. Of almonds rain. Was that Manasse's? Repentance Manasse's conversion. At the end of his life isn't even recorded and second Kings. Indeed it says all the rest of the act of Manasse and then it follows up with and the sin which he sinned.

Because he had caused. Judah to sin. He is. In the category of Gerbone, the son of knee back. The one who started the sin that finally brought down. The kingdom. And we, Uh, we compare that to what second chronicles? Tells us and it's a chronicles 33. That Manasse. Was exiled for his sin but that in Babylon, he repented and the Lord caused him to be restored, and he came back and he instituted reformation And, This would have left quite an impression.

Upon desire. Because Jeshiah would have been. And we don't know exactly how many years Manasse spent in instituting this reformation, but but Jeshiah was six. If we do the math on it, He's eight when his daddy dies. And his daddy reigned for two years. So for six years, Uh, He would have known his daddy and his grandpa.

From 16 to 22. And for the last part of that time that he knew his daddy and his grandpa. You would have had a dad. Who is very wicked. Acting in the way that he had learned. When Manasse was a young father, and very wicked worldly, and hostile to God.

And indeed, as soon as Manasse dies. I am an immediately, reinstitutes, all of the wickedness that his father had previously done. This 22 year old. Uh, full of himself hateful to God. Uh, king. But whom do you think? Was the one of the two. That was likely to have poured himself more into Jeshiah.

Has recently converted grandfather. No doubt grand over what he had brought. Upon his son as Um, And as he saw the character of his son already formed and what he had brought on the kingdom, Knowing that he must soon die. Now, being in the in, Uh, yeah. More than four decades, the king.

And that has time to leave this world. Must come soon. And his son almond. It is not repenting with his daddy. Well, then be the king. And how he must. Have poured himself instead then into his son. Josiah, he read second Kings. And you say where did the godliness of Josiah come from?

And it is true that the Lord does not need human agents. He could have just convinced Josiah from his heart. And yet, they didn't even have the book of the law. And the Lord has ordained means. And those means are, especially Uh his word, which is spirit uses. And the people in the offices and institutions.

That the spirit uses especially. Fathers grandfathers in the home. Elders. In. The church. And so we see. The influence of a godly grandpa. This must have been very sad years for him. When his grandpa died, when he was six, And his wicked daddy became the king. And it must have been a very sad and horrible time for him.

When he was eight years old, as wicked as his daddy was, it was still his daddy and his daddy was murdered by the servants in in the palace. Or of the palace at least. Uh, and For someone to go through that at six, and then at eight, But we see how he turned to the Lord.

In. In response to all this. The Lord was the one who made his heart tender. He's gonna come and say verse 19 because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before he always But it's the Lord who is giving him that already. Uh, by the way in which God's gracious.

Uh, providence worked out in Manasse's life. Yes, the damage had been done as far as Judah was concerned as far as almond was concerned. Uh, but do not underestimate. What the Lord may do through your repenting. You may be in various situations, there might be something in your life that you look back on and say if only I had come to this conclusion earlier.

I might have been spared. Whatever it is. You guys are young. You are going to have much more opportunity to come to that conclusion. About thoughts and practices in your life, but You are not so young. That you can't look back at your life and see ways that you have thought and ways that you have acted, perhaps ways that you currently thinking act.

That need to be repented of. Um, and there are genuine consequences. The Lord is able to restore the years of locusts of eaten. Nothing is wasted in his providence. But there may still be ongoing serious consequences. But do not let that discourage you from repentance, do not let that discourage you from

hoping?

And what the lord may do. Should you begin to walk with him now, the effect, he may give you to half For his glory, in his kingdom, in your household. In the outcome. Of your life. And this encourages you, when you get old, And we do, pray that The lord will spare you in this world to serve him the useful to his church.

Uh, for many many years. As that you in your letter years will come back to second kings. 22. And you may not remember this particular family worship. But the lord's blessing to you. The knowledge of the text, you will see. Ah, yes. The lord really does bring about. Great things even through.

Feeble saints, late in life. Who may have lived a long time. Uh, in ways that they're ashamed of And yet. Uh, what might he do? And, When you're old be like some of the old people that you know, in the church Who seek out the young. Who know that.

They have a better shot for usefulness with the six-year-olds. Than they do with the 22 year olds. And you see them, don't you? Talking to the six to 12 year olds about their souls talking to the softer hearted older, teens and young adults. Um, Although, Humanly speaking in god's ordinary providence.

Uh, you're praying for a miraculous conversion. If they're not tender-hearted. By that age. So you have the The influence of a godly grandpa. Reminds us of something that actually isn't too far in the future of the history. Uh, from what's before us right now, daniel and his friends will be taken to Babylon at a very young age.

And they will cling. Uh, to the god of israel. And, Uh, you know, so that even when we see, Uh, daniel in his 80s, maybe 90s. Um, And he's still keeping time. Uh, by the sacrifices that he hadn't seen. For 70 years. Um, And they haven't been done for 70 years.

And he was exiled in the first group. So, it's been even longer than that. But when the angel shows up and he wants to tell Daniel what time of day, something he happened, he says, at the time of the evening sacrifice, Because, Daniel was disciplined young. And that was, Uh, result even of the passage that we have before us, wasn't it?

Because it would have been in josiah's reformation That the people's hearts were turned back to the lord that they disciplined their children. That the three hebrew slaves would refuse to eat meat sacrificed to idols, even though they were in a youth competition for who would end up the strongest fastest smartest, And they would make the suicidal move of saying, vegetables, only please.

Not so that men could write books about how whole food plant-based diets or biblical. But so that men would rejoice in the miraculous work of god. That he might make vegetarians strong. Um, But it wasn't about the vegetables. It was about the lord. And the refusal to participate in the worship of any foreign god.

So, it's really As far as the loss of the kingdom. It was too little too late for manasa, wasn't it? But when you see what Josiah did And that's the counterpart here. Now it was unlikely. Anybody is going to make one of you president.

Anytime soon. Um, But you never know. What the lord may do. Through one of you.

Remember in revelation a Flutter, that is Written to a church. And it says, behold i stand at the door and knock If anyone hears me knocking and opens. I will come in and sup with him. And he with me. He's not talking about knocking on the door of your heart.

It's not a letter to an individual. Uh, it's a letter to a church. And the lord responds to little ones. Their prayers. They're seeking him, they're loving him. Our treasured in heaven. And he says, even in a church, That is so far gone that jesus is as it were on the outside looking in of that church.

And what a dreadful situation that is for a congregation to be in. Says, if just one If just one, Welcomes christ. And the christ will come. Even in and buy that one. And have fellowship in. In the congregation. And you do not know what the lord may do. And response to your loving him.

You might not sit on a throne but you don't need to The one you love and trust and pray to sits on the throne. And so you don't have to have a palace. To have royal. Uh, influence. You serve and belong to a king. Um, Well, very briefly compressedly here.

One reform leads to another. Um, Josiah. Starts restoring the worship problem with the worship is, although Uh, manasa had Clean things up and restored. The altar outside the temple courts. His wicked son ammon has had two years to mess up. Uh, the And that's up the temple worship again.

And not only that. The altars outside and there's probably much more to do inside as you can see. Uh, with the work here. So, Uh, wanting to restore the worship leads to restoration of the temple. Restoration of the temple leads to the discovery of the book of the law who's already tenderhearted before god.

And then the word of god came and pierced him. How easy it would have been for him to say, oh yeah, those threats in the book of Deuteronomy. But we've been sitting for 500 years and, you know, there's Yeah, almost we've been sitting for 400 years. 350, something like that.

We've been sitting for hundreds of years We've been sending for hundreds of years and this hasn't come upon us yet. You know, those old mids. Uh, but no. The, the lord has increasingly given him tenderness of heart. Every bit of reformation increases, The effectiveness of the spirits. Uh, work on him.

And, Um, And it's that response that desires to know the word of the lord. And, He says inquire concerning the words. For great, is the wrath of yahweh. Uh, it doesn't even sound necessarily like he's asking for forgiveness. Just asking what to do or what's going to happen. And the lord responds.

To his tender heartedness. Uh, yes, there's weeping and there's tearing of robes. Uh, but it's it's to the heart that produced that That the Lord responded note. That Whatever. You display to men. Is not what the lord is responding to. You might, you know, there you can have a very emotional reaction and emotional booking reaction, but it not be from your heart.

It was his heart that had reduced this things. Um, that the lord was responding to. And so, the lord Confirms. That. Because josiah has heard him with a tender heart. He will hear Jessiah. And, Although the Um, Although the nation. Will perish. He will spare jessiah and mercy. Um, So, let's pray.

And ask for the lord to give us tender heartedness toward him. Our father in heaven. And we thank you for giving us time together. In your work. Pray that you

would.

But you would, Grant to us to have tender hearts before you. That you would grant to us to repent even now. Of things that. Have lingered that we would have much hope. And the good that you might do through it. We ask these things in jesus name. Amen.