

THE REIGN OF JOSIAH: PART 2
FURTHER REFORMS
(2 Kings 23:1-20)

- I. Promulgating the WORD (2 Kings 23:1-3)
 - A. Convened the ELDERS for CONSULTATION
 - B. Called the ASSEMBLY to gather in the TEMPLE (cf. 1 Kings 8:1ff)
 - 1. Those assembled included the ELDERS, the PRIESTS, the PROPHETS, and “all the PEOPLE”
 - 2. The KING read to them the “BOOK of the COVENANT”
 - C. Renewed the COVENANT with God concerning the LAW
 - 1. Josiah vowed to be the kind of king GOD DEMANDED
 - 2. The PEOPLE also “entered into the COVENANT”

- II. Purging the NATION (2 Kings 23:4-20)
 - A. Cleansing the TEMPLE (23:4-7)
 - 1. REMOVED pagan CULT OBJECTS
 - 2. ABOLISHED pagan CLERGY
 - 3. PULVERIZED the Asherah image
 - 4. DEMOLISHED the apartments of the temple PROSTITUTES
 - B. Decommissioning the HIGH PLACES (23:8-9)
 - 1. DEFILED the altars

2. DEPOSED the priests
- C. Destruction of RECENTLY established PAGAN SHRINES (23:10-12)
1. DESECRATED Topheth, the place of CHILD sacrifice
 2. DESTROYED the HORSES and CHARIOTS dedicated to sun worship
 3. CRUSHED the ROYAL idolatrous altars
- D. Removal of HISTORICALLY established PAGAN SHRINES (23:13-18)
1. ELIMINATED the pagan altars built by SOLOMON
 2. SMASHED the ancient sites dedicated to FERTILITY worship
 3. RAZED Jeroboam's worship center at BETHEL
 4. HONORED the remains of the PROPHET who predicted this destruction (cf. 1 Kings 13:1-13)
- E. Purging the NORTHERN KINGDOM (23:19-20)
1. TORE DOWN everything associated with the HIGH PLACES in Samaria
 2. EXECUTED on their own altars the pagan PRIESTS

III. Lessons

- A. An illustration of how DETESTABLE God considers IDOLATRY
- B. A demonstration of the unerring WORD OF THE LORD
 1. His prophecy of JUDGMENT will ALWAYS be fulfilled
 2. His promise of a DELIVERER will CERTAINLY be fulfilled
- C. A glimpse of the RIGHTEOUS WRATH of the IDEAL King when He comes to PURGE the EARTH and set up His Kingdom