

THE REIGN OF JOSIAH: PART 3  
(2 Kings 23:21-30)

- I. Josiah's RESTORATION of the PASSOVER (2 Kings 23:21-23)
  - A. He commanded ALL the people to CELEBRATE
    - 1. It was SUPPOSED to have been an ANNUAL event once they were SETTLED in the Promised Land
    - 2. It had been neglected THROUGOUT THEIR HISTORY
  - B. Such had not been seen since the days of SAMUEL (2 Chron. 35:1-19; cf. 2 Chron. 30:1-27)
    - 1. It was done in STRICT ADHERENCE to the Law (Exod. 12:1-11; Deut. 16:1-8)
    - 2. It was celebrated by all JUDAH and ISRAEL (2 Chron. 35:18)
  
- II. Josiah's Prohibition of PRIVATE PAGANISM (2 Kings 23:24a)
  - A. He removed "the MEDIUMS and SPIRITIST"
  - B. He removed all HOUSEHOLD GODS and other IDOLS
  
- III. Josiah's LEGACY (2 Kings 23:24b-30)
  - A. He OBEYED all the LAW (v. 24b)

- B. His DEVOTION to the Lord EXCEEDED that of all PREVIOUS kings and of all FUTURE kings (v. 25)
- C. God's JUDGMENT would still FALL (vv. 26-27)
  - 1. Manasseh's provocation had been TOO GREAT
  - 2. The people's rebellion had persisted TOO LONG
  - 3. Hulda's prophecy would be FULFILLED
- D. Complicated international POLITICS led to Josiah's DEATH
  - 1. He was killed in BATTLE at Megiddo while trying to keep EGYPT from providing support for ASSYRIA
  - 2. His servants brought his body to JERUSALEM for BURIAL
  - 3. The people MOURNED his death (2 Chron. 35:24-25; cf. Jer. 22:14-15)

#### IV. Lessons

- A. Demonstrates the inexorable nature of GOD'S WRATH
- B. We must not confuse OBEDIENCE with PRAGMATISM
- C. A glimpse of the GLORY of the IDEAL Kingdom