

I. Josiah’s Clear Commitment To A New Direction (1-3)

A. He established unity (1-2a) – “Then the king sent, and all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem were gathered to him. 2a And the king went up to the house of the LORD, and with him all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the prophets, all the people, both small and great.”

B. He threw down an anchor (2b) – “And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD.”

C. He removed all possibility of doubt (3) – “And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant.”

II. The Harsh Reality Of All Reformation (4-5)

A. Rectifying the wrongs of the past (4a) – “And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest and the priests of the second order and the keepers of the threshold to bring out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven.”

B. Intense steps to prevent repeating the past (4b) – “He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron and carried their ashes to Bethel.”

C. Exposing & removing violators from their positions (5) – “And he deposed the priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to make offerings in the high places at the cities of Judah and around Jerusalem; those also who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and the moon and the constellations and all the host of the heavens.”

III. Josiah’s Radical Follow-Through (6-8)

A. Pornographic images eradicated (6) – “And he brought out the Asherah from the house of the LORD, outside Jerusalem, to the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron and beat it to dust and cast the dust of it upon the graves of the common people.”

B. Places of sin were destroyed (7-8a) – “And he broke down the houses of the male cult prostitutes who were in the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the Asherah. And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had made offerings, from Geba to Beersheba.”

C. No partiality was shown (8b) – “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...”