

Re-

Re = meaning "again" or "back" indicating withdrawal or backward motion

2 Chronicles 34:1-3

1. Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years.
2. He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.
3. In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David. In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images.

Illus: At the Gold City Gem Mine in Franklin, North Carolina customers pay a small fee for a "bucket of dirt" out of the mine, the dirt contains rocks, usually worthless, the joy of treasure hunting and occasionally a real gemstone out of the mine. In July of 1995, a third-grader name Griffin McCurry, paid for just such a bucket of dirt. As you might expect it didn't look as if there was any hidden treasure, but there was a rock in it that the boy kept just because he liked the shape. People magazine reported that it was a saleswoman from the Jewelry store at the mine who noticed the rock and gave it a closer inspection. As it turned out the 1104 carat sapphire had a value of approximately \$45,000.

Everybody likes a good treasure story, and the story of the discovery of the Law in the Temple during Josiah's renovation is about as good as they come,

Because God's word is a treasure that is priceless!

At 20 years old Josiah's actions brought about had the greatest revival up to that time.

For 6 years he turned he turned his world upside down.

Jeremiah started preaching at 14 during Josiah's revival.

Josiah's father was evil his grandfather Manasseh seduced the nation of Israel to do evil.

Because of Israel's great rebellion, God allowed the Assyrians to take them into captivity.

Isaiah the prophet was sawed in half because he was preaching against the sins of Manasseh!

Manasseh was Josiah's grandfather.

This is what the Bible says about him...

2 Chron. 33:1-10

1. Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years.
2. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.
3. He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had demolished; he also erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them.
4. He built altars in the temple of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "My Name will remain in Jerusalem forever."
5. In both courts of the temple of the LORD, he built altars to all the starry hosts.
6. He sacrificed his sons in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced sorcery, divination and witchcraft, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger.
7. He took the carved image he had made and put it in God's temple, of which God had said to David and to his son Solomon, "In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my Name forever.
8. I will not again make the feet of the Israelites leave the land I assigned to your forefathers, if only they will be careful to do everything I commanded them concerning all the laws, decrees and ordinances given through Moses."
9. But Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites.
10. The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention.

God was so grieved with this people that He said that He would wipe them away as a man wipes off a dish!

Manasseh did come to some repentance but, did not complete the job of tearing down the “high places”!

He had lead the people into such wickedness that the consequences couldn't be avoided!

His own son Amon who succeeded him as King had been infected with his father's idolatry!

2Chron. 33:21-24

21. Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem two years.

22. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done. Amon worshiped and offered sacrifices to all the idols Manasseh had made.

23. But unlike his father Manasseh, he did not humble himself before the LORD; Amon increased his guilt.

24. Amon's officials conspired against him and assassinated him in his palace.

Never think that sin is ok with God!

Never think that it won't have horrible consequences!

Sure, you can repent and be forgiven, but how much better to never go down that road in the first place and give the devil an inroad into your family!

And unfortunately, it's the children who were only seeing, learning and following the actions of their parents, while they were young and impressionable...

Who end up having the greatest consequences!

The parent's get older and mellow out, and then they are grieved at what they see happening in their children's lives when those bad seeds begin to bare their bitter fruit!

Listen, there is hope...

But somebody HAS to tear down all the high places!

And here comes Josiah... hungry for a move of God!

This nation came back from the greatest decline and sin in its history...
To the greatest revival!

Please understand tonight... God is not through with your situation!

God is not through with your family!

God is not through with this church!

God is not through with your potential!

God is not through with this country!

You are not too far away that God cannot make you into a great man or
woman of God!

It was many years since anybody was concerned with God at all in Israel!

So one of the things Josiah wanted to do was clean up the temple.

So as they were cleaning up they find a book!

As they dust it off, they find that it is the word of God!

This book has not been mentioned for 320 years and has not been read for
even longer!

Josiah is not just working with a bad family situation...

And he's just not working with a backslidden nation,

He is working with a people who are totally lost!

When they found the book, to them it was a great historical find!

But to Josiah, who the scripture says had a tender heart and who humbled
himself, this was the most important find ever!

He reached up and grabbed his king's garment and ripped it off of his back!

This again was a showing of humility and sorrow over his nation's sin. Josiah said, "we are getting ready to do all that is in that book!"

Because of Josiah's revival, Jeremiah was called to prophesy and preach.

A few others who came out of this revival:

Daniel, Ezekiel, Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego

At around 20 years old, Josiah began to tear down altars and burned them with fire and even through the ashes out.

An 800 year old problem taken care of by Josiah who had the fire of God!

He went throughout the whole nation of Judah and everywhere he found a grove or high place or idol he broke it down.

He broke down altars of Baal and threw the pieces on the graves of the false prophets.

He was in there faces showing them that their false prophets were weak!

And his God was strong!

Josiah was sold out for God!

Josiah gets Judah cleaned up and then moved to clean up the northern kingdom and cleansed that land also.

342 years before Solomon had built shrines for his wives and Josiah tore them down!

Josiah was serious about revival!

Judah was in even worse shape than America and one man brought revival!

Are we to believe that we are to go down weak and backslidden while allowing

the enemy to seduce our nation into whole hearted apostasy and immorality.

Josiah then called for 30,000 lambs, 33,000 bullocks ,7600 cattle, and 800 oxen as an offering unto god.

Look at what happened next:

The People of Judah experienced RE-vival...

There were four things that they needed to do to experience it:

1. They Re-newed... their Covenant!

2 Chronicles 34:31-33

31. The king stood by his pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD--to follow the LORD and keep his commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in this book.

32. Then he had everyone in Jerusalem and Benjamin pledge themselves to it; the people of Jerusalem did this in accordance with the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.

First of all they took a stand.

They said look we've been going in the wrong direction, but right here, right now, we're going back on the right track.

We're renewing our covenant with the Lord.

We will follow, we will serve.

They renewed their Promise. Next...

2. They Re-membered... their God given Provision!

2Kings23:21 - The king gave this order to all the people: "Celebrate the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant."

Note that this is the first time Passover was correctly celebrated since before the time of David.

The Passover was all about remembering God's help in ages past.

It was all about recalling God saving His people.

Josiah = The Lord saves

The significance of this act is to renew the faith of the people...

The God who worked miraculously on our behalf in the past is a God worthy to be trusted for the present and the future.

We have a need for the same type of remembrance.

3. They Re-pented... of their Lawlessness!

2Kings23:24 - Furthermore, Josiah got rid of the mediums and spiritists, the household gods, the idols and all the other detestable things seen in Judah and Jerusalem. This he did to fulfill the requirements of the law written in the book that Hilkiah the priest had discovered in the temple of the LORD.

In other words... They cleaned house!

Now let me jump to the New Testament and refresh some of your memories about what is said about repentance...

The first thing Jesus ever preached was, REPENT!"

Matthew 4:17 - From that time on Jesus began to preach, "REPENT, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Matthew 11:20 - Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not REPENT.

Mark 1:15 - "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. REPENT and believe the good news!"

Mark 6:12 - They went out and preached that people should REPENT.

Luke 13:3 - I tell you, no! But unless you REPENT, you too will all perish.

Luke 15:10 - In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who REPENTS."

Luke 17:3 - So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he REPENTS, forgive him.

Jesus to the church in Laodicea:

Revelation 3:15-16 - I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Revelation 3:19 - Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and REPENT.

The Apostles also followed Jesus example in proclaiming the need for repentance:

Peter:

Acts 3:19 – REPENT, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to REPENTANCE.

Paul:

Acts 17:30 – (Paul) In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to REPENT.

2 Corinthians 7:10 - Godly sorrow brings REPENTANCE that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

... And there are many more!

Ezekiel 33:8-9 - "When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked

man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself."

James 5:19-20

19. My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back,

20. remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Now turn to your neighbor and say, "REPENT!"

Illus: The story is told of a famous rabbi who was walking with some of his disciples when one of them asked, "Rabbi, when should a man repent?" The rabbi calmly replied, "You should be sure you repent on the last day of your life." "But," protested several of his disciples, "we can never be sure which day will be the last day of our life." The famous rabbi smiled and said, "Exactly".

4. They Re-turned... their affection to the Lord!

2Kings23:25 - Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the LORD as he did--with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.

Josiah, the Scripture is careful to note, was passionate in his devotion to the Lord.

In 1746 Jonathan Edwards published a book, *The Religious Affections*, in which he argued that "true religion must consist very much in the affections,"

Edwards believed that one of the chief works of Satan was to convince men that affectionate responses to God are to be guarded against.

This mindset, he warned, will "bring all religion to a mere lifeless formality, and effectually shut out the power of godliness!"

Edwards went on to say, "There is no true religion where there is no religious affection...."

If the great things of religion are rightly understood, they will affect the heart!"

One of the undeniable features of revival is that God's people turn their affections back to God...

And get passionate about serving Him with all of their heart, soul and strength.

When we truly understand what Christ has done for us, we can't help but be filled with joy!

Revival is by necessity a heart centered activity and love is the motive of repentance.

Illus: The New Yorker had a cartoon where a young boy in math class is standing at the chalk board with other students. The teacher has written the problem on the board for each student: $7 \times 5 = \underline{\quad}$. All the other students have the answer right: 35. But this boy has written $7 \times 5 = 75$. The teacher has obviously told him it's wrong, and he says to her, "It may be wrong, but it's how I feel."

That is a perfect metaphor of our culture. Responding to the cartoon's message, Stephen Carter, a professor of law at Yale University says, "Faith is dead, reason is dying, but 'how I feel' is going strong."

People are not interested in the Word of God because they are not interested in the truth.

People are not interested in God's will, because they are wrapped up in their will and doing what they want to do!

People want to go by their feelings which are much more to their liking.

The Word of God must reemerge in our lives.

350 years before Josiah was born, a prophesy came stating...

1Ki 13:1-2

1. By the word of the LORD a man of God came from Judah to Bethel, as Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make an offering.
2. He cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD: "O altar, altar! This is what the LORD says: `A son named Josiah will be born to the house of

David. On you he will sacrifice the priests of the high places who now make offerings here, and human bones will be burned on you."

2 Chronicles 34:33 - Josiah removed all the detestable idols from all the territory belonging to the Israelites, and he had all who were present in Israel serve the LORD their God. As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the LORD, the God of their fathers.

- 1. They RENEWED their Covenant!**
- 2. They REMEMBERED their God given Provision!**
- 3. They REPENTED of their Lawlessness!**
- 4. They RETURNED their affection to the Lord!**