

# **REAL REVIVAL! or DEFINING REVIVAL**

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**TEXT:** 2 KINGS 22:1,2,3 & 23:25

**THESIS:** To define real, biblical revival by examining what happened under Josiah's kingship and his leadership.

**INTRO.:**

**A.** People wonder how a preacher decides what to preach. For me personally, I try to assess the need of the church, and possibly the signs of the times, and attempt to build a message that will address those two important aspects. This was my usual approach as a pastor. Now, I do not always know the needs of the church I am preaching in, but I try to keep my finger on the pulse of the times we live in and how they may affect that body of believers.

**B.** Since revival is almost always needed, I thus assume that a message that will address that subject is in order. The question then, is how do I or you define revival? I define it most simply as God's Blessing and God's Power. There are many more lengthy and complicated definitions that I have read, but these two ingredients are the result of any real revival. When they come together as they did under Josiah, a genuine revival takes place. In fact, I have a message entitled "DO RIGHT!" built on these two verses. However, my desire today is to examine what happened when Josiah did just that...

**C.** Josiah's grandfather Manasseh and his father Amon were both wicked and evil kings and plunged the nation into idolatry, sinfulness, and national disgrace. Then came the godly young man named Josiah. Thus, no one can excuse themselves when they do wrong due to inheritance, or background or the activity of others. Let's look at this young man (26 yrs.

old, v.3) and the revival he led the nation into, and the results of his actions... v.23 Note the summary verse in 23:25!

## I. JOSIAH DID RIGHT: v.2a & v.11

**A.** The More Apostate the Culture, the More Separation There Must Be:

1. Our culture, our music, our TV shows, school curriculum, internet content, social media, Government intrusion, and even sports, must be challenged.

**ILLUS.:** It is interesting that believers can sit transfixed before a TV for hours watching sports, and be happy when the game goes into overtime, but when the sermon at church does so, we vow not to return to hear that preacher again. We can spend hours “catching up” with our friends of Facebook or some other “smart phone” app but can’t spend 15 minutes in God’s Word without being bored.

**B.** Josiah stood when his father (Amon) and grandfather (Manasseh) refused to do so.

1. Josiah had to completely reject the idolatrous, immoral and twisted government of his predecessors.

2. During the COVID pandemic the Govt. gained control over the population and now is pushing even more controls on our nation and its people – we became a nation of sheep!

a. Under Josiah’s grandfather and his father, the people became sheep without a shepherd.

b. Josiah had to stand where they refused to stand and lead where they refused to lead.

c. It is always the revival leader who has to set the standard and demand compliance to a new standard, a return to the “old paths”.

1) Children now are being taught that it is OK to change genders!

2) The public (read Govt.) school system has taken the place of parental control.

**3)** The even larger tragedy is that there are so few options for parents and too few churches offering options (but even where they do, parents refuse to support them).

**ILLUS.:** Recently I stayed in a preacher's home in NJ where the church is in a retirement community that is mostly senior citizens. But the preacher has started a small Christian school, in spite of a small number of students over the years and has raised 3 children who are models of what Christian kids should be! They DO what they have been taught and live by the standards of what their parents and teachers have instructed them. Two of them have gone on to Christian colleges and another is a senior in H.S. this year and will also go there! I stayed in that godly home and watched the parents set the example! That was their secret.

## **II. JOSIAH WALKED RIGHT: v.2b**

**A.** Our Walk Must Be Consistent with Our Word:

1. We can't preach one thing and live another!
2. Josiah set the standard for the nation.
3. Preachers and parents must set the standard for the younger generation in dress, activities, worship, and daily life.
4. We can't go to a Bible believing and preaching church and live the opposite at home or at work and expect others to hear our witness.

**ILLUS.:** Moms need to set the standard for their daughters and dads for their sons in conduct, dress, business, morals in the home and in public. They cannot expect children to dress right, talk right, live right, if the parents don't do right!

(> I have another message that started with Josiah and used 23:1-3 as the starting point entitled "DO RIGHT!" It wasn't titled "SPEAK RIGHT"! Josiah did right and followed God's Word and words in doing so!)

## **III. JOSIAH SET THE EXAMPLE AND REVIVAL RESULTED:**

### **23:25**

**A.** Josiah Led the Greatest Revival Judah Had Ever Experienced:

1. He enacted 52 reforms in the nation! Talk about a revival!!! (WOW!) [be sure to read 2 Chron. 23 when you get home or in your devotions tomorrow morning.]

2. It started with the Word of God that his forefathers neglected and even hid from the people.

**NOTE:** Most preachers today use 2 Chron. 7:14 when they speak about revival.

🔥 But that passage is about God blessing a nation with good crops, not about revival which begins with the Word of God and not only changes lives but changes a nation! Real spiritual revival comes from rediscovering and doing what God says in His Word, not praying for a good harvest!

**CONCL.:** We don't need a good crop of vegetables; we need a good crop of finding out what God says we should be doing and how we should be living! We need to be sowing seeds of revival as did Josiah and perhaps God will again change our hearts, our homes, and our nation! Revival must start in our heart, be shown in our godly living, and taught to our families. Maybe then we could see our loved ones pay attention, get saved and follow our example.

Does someone in your family or among your friends need to be saved? If you ever want them to go to Heaven and see them in Heaven, it will be more about your walk than your talk! More about your word than your witness! More about what you do than what you tell them! More about what God says than what you say!

