

The Josiah Generation

Opening - Deja vu (The Matrix)

1 Kings 13:1-5, The prophet denounces Jeroboam and predicts a king called Josiah will burn the bones of the pagan priests on the altar.

Note - 322 years later...

2 Chronicles 33:24-25, Then Amon's own officials conspired against him and assassinated him in his palace. 25 But the people of the land killed all those who had conspired against King Amon, and they made his son Josiah the next king.

2 Chronicles 34:1-7, Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. 2 He did what was pleasing in the LORD's sight and followed the example of his ancestor David. He did not turn away from doing what was right. 3 During the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, Josiah began to seek the God of his ancestor David. Then in the twelfth year he began to purify Judah and Jerusalem, destroying all the pagan shrines, the Asherah poles, and the carved idols and cast images. 4 He ordered that the altars of Baal be demolished and that the incense altars which stood above them be broken down. He also made sure that the Asherah poles, the carved idols, and the cast images were smashed and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. 5 He burned the bones of the pagan priests on their own altars, and so he purified Judah and Jerusalem. 6 He did the same thing in the towns of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, even as far as Naphtali, and in the regions all around them. 7 He destroyed the pagan altars and the Asherah poles, and he crushed the idols into dust. He cut down all the incense altars

idols into dust. He cut down all the incense altars throughout the land of Israel. Finally, he returned to Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 34:14-19, While they were bringing out the money collected at the LORD's Temple, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD that was written by Moses. 15 Hilkiah said to Shaphan the court secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the LORD's Temple!" Then Hilkiah gave the scroll to Shaphan. 16 Shaphan took the scroll to the king and reported, "Your officials are doing everything they were assigned to do. 17 The money that was collected at the Temple of the LORD has been turned over to the supervisors and workmen." 18 Shaphan also told the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a scroll." So Shaphan read it to the king. 19 When the king heard what was written in the Law, he tore his clothes in despair.

2 Chronicles 34:33, So Josiah removed all detestable idols from the entire land of Israel and required everyone to worship the LORD their God. And throughout the rest of his lifetime, they did not turn away from the LORD, the God of their ancestors.

- Young people today have a story not so different from Josiah's. Your place in history has been foretold. You are a Josiah Generation.

Joel 2:28, And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.

The Responsibilities of a Josiah Generation

1. Seek God at an early age.

2 Chronicles 34:3, For in the eighth year of his reign (at age sixteen), while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father...

Ecclesiastes 12:1, Remember your Creator in the days of your youth...

Note - You are not the church of tomorrow! You are very much a part of the church TODAY!

1 Timothy 4:12, Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

2. Make a commitment to holiness.

2 Chronicles 34:3, In his twelfth year (at twenty years of age) he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images.

Note - Idolatry comes in all forms. (Self, looks, money, sex, popularity, anything you love more than God!) The first of ten commandments says, "Thou shalt have no other gods besides me." You, like Josiah, will embrace your destiny when you tear down idols amidst a generation filled with idolatry!

3. Take care of the temple of God.

2 Chronicles 34:8, In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign (at twenty-six years of age), to purify the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan... Maaseiah the ruler of the city, with Joah the recorder, to repair the temple of the LORD his God.

Note - You cannot have a heart for God without having a heart for His temple! People are the new covenant, new testament temple of the living God.

Example - The story of a boy name Shay and God's perfection

Note - You, like Josiah, will embrace your destiny

when you begin to build up and minister to people all around you who are broken and hurting!

4. Read and respond to the Word of God.

2 Chronicles 34:18-19, Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king. When the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his robes.

Note - Unlike the days of Josiah, the Word of God is not hidden today. On the contrary you can read it on t-shirts, national monuments and your iPhone! You, like Josiah, will embrace your destiny when you respond to the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16, All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

· A Josiah Generation only cares how they look in God's eyes and they do not turn away from their destiny!

2 Chronicles 34:2, He did what was pleasing in the LORD's sight and followed the example of his ancestor David. He did not turn away from doing what was right.

Lamentations 1:9, Jerusalem's own filth [covers] its clothes. It gave no thought to its future. Its downfall was shocking.

