

Introduction: The Sunday before Advent is the last Sunday of the liturgical year of the Church. It is known as Christ THE King Sunday. Today, more than any other day of the year, Christians may get excited about the day when Jesus Christ will return, forever destroy all evil, and lead His people into the new heaven and new earth (Revelation 20-22). This is the ‘advent’ all Christians eagerly wait for as they do the works they know are God’s will for them IN Christ. In this way they may hasten Christ’s coming (2 Peter 3:1-13, especially verse 12). *** It will also be a great reunion with all who ever lived and died IN Christ (Revelation 6:9-11; 7:9-17) in the holy city, the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-8). *** In the T^cN^oK (Torah, Prophets and Writings) there are many ‘types’ of Jesus Christ that foreshadow all He revealed Himself to be in the Gospels and the New Testament. Josiah is a person who is a ‘type’ of Jesus. *** Josiah was anointed king at the age of eight. Along with Hezekiah, he was one of only two kings in the line of David that Scripture says was wholly right before the covenant God, Yahweh. However, in fear, Hezekiah turned over all the silver and gold in his palace to the king of Assyria (2 Kings 18:13-16); and, he showed the king of Babylon everything in his palace and kingdom (2 Kings 20:12-19). The only thing negative about Josiah is that he foolishly went to his death at age thirty-nine (2 Kings 22:1; 23:29-30). *** Josiah oversaw the cleansing of the Temple along with the high priest Hilkiah. When Hilkiah found, and then read the Torah to the king, Josiah exercised his authority to gather all God’s people, and to lead them to renew the covenant to be God’s people and to have God as their only God. *** We also heard how THE King, Jesus, opened eyes to Scripture so people’s heart burned. *** Now let’s look at some details of what makes a great King.

I. The righteous king Josiah directed repairs to the Temple through the high priest who found the Torah there; then, he read it to Josiah who repented. (2 Kings 22:1-11)

A. Josiah, the upright boy-king who died young. (2 Kings 22:1-2)

1. Eight years old, Josiah, when he became king and he was king thirty-one years in Jerusalem; his mother’s name, Jedidah, daughter of Adaiah of Bozqath. (Verse 1)

Data: Josiah was a boy-king who died young. His mother’s name means ‘loved’. She was from ‘rocky place’. Her name is similar to the name Yahweh gave to Nathan the prophet for Solomon: Jedidah, ‘loved of Yah’ (2 Samuel 12:25).

2. And he did upright in the eyes of Yahweh, and he walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside right or left. (Verse 2)

Upright: He was a ‘straight arrow’, fully following God’s ways with a heart fully open to God.

B. At age twenty-six, with the help of the high priest, Josiah directed workers to repair the Temple. (2 Kings 22:3-7)

1. In the eighteenth year of Josiah, he sent Shaphan (rock badger), son of Azaliah, son of Meshullam (from peace), to the house of Yahweh: Go up to Hilkiah the high priest so he will sum up the silver, having been brought, gathered by the doorkeepers from the people. (Verses 3-4)

Accounting: Josiah requests that Hilkiah count the coins brought to clean the Temple his father and grandfather desecrated (2 Kings 21).

2. They will give it to the hand of those given oversight of the house of Yahweh, and they will give to repair damages: to carpenters, builders, and masons to buy timber and quarried stone. (Verses 5-6)

Workers: The Temple had been built some three-hundred-fifty years ago. Over time all materials deteriorate. Entropy is always at work.

3. But, not will be reckoned from them the silver being given, because faithfully they are doing. (Verse 7)

Faithful: Josiah has confidence that under the high priest’s direction the Levites are trustworthy.

C. While repairing the Temple, the high priest found the Torah and read it to Josiah who strongly repented. (2 Kings 22:8-11)

1. Then Hilkiah, the high priest, said to Shaphan, the scribe, ‘The book of the Torah I have found in the house of Yahweh’; then Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan; then he read it. (Verse 8)

Torah found: The high priest found the five books of instruction given by Yahweh to Moses. This raises the question: were the Jews obeying God only based their memory of the Torah?

2. Then Shaphan came to the king and he said, ‘Have emptied out thy servants the silver that was found in the house, then they gave it to the overseers of the house of Yahweh’. (Verse 9)

Progress report: Shaphan starts his report to Josiah by telling him the donated silver has been used to pay workers and the repairs have started.

Application: May we all be as concerned as Josiah to work to repair God’s new Temple, His Church.

3. Then Shaphan said to the king, ‘A book has given to me Hilkiah’; then he read it before the king; when heard the king the words of the Torah, he tore his clothes. (Verses 10-11)

Torah read: Josiah, and all the kings before him, should have read his personal copy of the Torah every day to learn to trust and obey Yahweh (Deuteronomy 17:18-20).

Josiah repents: When Josiah fully heard the Torah, and realized the disobedience of his ancestors and himself, he tore his clothes, demonstrating the repentance in his heart.

Application: May we all hear God’s Word so we may repent of our disobedience to His Word.

The Word of God leads to repentance

II. Josiah sends to Huldah who confirms the destruction of Jerusalem; but, due to his repentance, Josiah will die at peace with God; and, Jesus opens the heart of fellow-travelers through Scripture. (2 Kings 22:12-20; 23:1-3; Luke 24:30-32)

A. Josiah sends a delegation to the prophetess Huldah who declares the destruction of Judah and Jerusalem is inevitable. (2 Kings 22:12-17)

1. The king commanded Hilkiah and Ahiqam, son of Shaphan, and Achbor (mouse), Shaphan the scribe and Asaiah the king’s servant: You all must go and inquire of Yahweh for me and all Judah about the words of this book, because great is Yahweh’s wrath which He has kindled because we not have obeyed the words of this book to do all that has been written. (Verses 12-13)

Inquires of Yahweh: Josiah sends five men to inquire of Yahweh because generations have disobeyed His words in the Torah.

His wrath great: He is concerned about the burning wrath of God toward His people because they have not listened to God.

2. Then went [the five men] to Huldah (weasel) the prophetess, wife of Shallum, son of Tikwah (hope) son of Haras, keeper of the wardrobe; she (is) dwelling in Jerusalem, the second quarter. (Verse 14)

Huldah: How ironic her name means weasel. God can use anyone!

3. She said: 'You all must tell the man who sent to me: thus says Yahweh: Behold! (I am) bringing evil on this place and its inhabitants, all the words of the book which he read because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other 'gods' to anger Me with all the work of their hands'. (*Verses 15-17b*)

Curse on those forsaking: Yahweh confirms all the curses in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28.

4. Therefore has been kindled the wrath of Me against this place, and it will not be quenched. (*Verse 17c*)

Unquenchable fire: Jerusalem will be burned to the ground in an unquenchable fire. It came in thirty four years (2 Kings 25:8-9).

Application: We must be careful to heed every prophetic warning in Scripture.

- B. She also says Yahweh saw Josiah's humble repentance so he will die at peace with God; then, Josiah leads a universal covenant renewal. (*2 Kings 22:18-20; 23:1-3*)

1. To king, sending you to seek Yahweh, say, 'Thus says Yahweh, God of Israel, the words thou heard, because tender thy heart, and thou were humbled when thou heard what I spoke against this place and inhabitants, to be desolation and curse; then thou tore thy clothes and wept before Me, and I also, I have heard thee'. (*2 Kings 22:18-19*)

Humble tears: Josiah's heart was softened by the words of Yahweh so he humbly wept in repentance.

Emphatic hearing: The covenant God replied He heard Josiah's pleas for disobeying His Torah Word.

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2. 'Therefore, behold! Gathering thee to thy fathers to thy grave in peace; and, not will see thy eyes all the evil I am causing to come on this place'; and they brought the king word'. (*2 Kings 22:20*)

Peaceful death: God says Josiah will die at peace with Him. He died in a war in which he foolishly participated (*2 Kings 23:29-30*)

Application: May we all live in order to die right with God.

3. The king sent and gathered to him all the elders; then he went up to Yahweh's house and all the men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, prophets and all people, great and small; then he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant found in Yahweh's house. (*2 Kings 23:1-2*)

Called everyone: Together, the four groups signify that everyone was called to the Temple.

Read Torah to all: Josiah read the five books of the Torah to them all!

4. Then stood the king by pillar, he made a covenant before Yahweh to walk after Him and to keep His commandments, testimonies and statutes with all his heart and soul, and to establish the words of the covenant; then stood all the people in the covenant. (*2 Kings 23:3*)

Renewed covenant: Because God accepted Josiah, he seized the moment to lead all God's people into renewing the covenant of God with Israel.

Foreshadows New Covenant IN Christ THE King: This foreshadows the New Covenant IN The Savior King, Jesus Christ. It is by His sinless death on behalf of all people that they may be forgiven and cleansed from all sin by His grace and faith.

'All Israel' joined: When the king took a strong stand to faithfully obey God's Torah because he repented over God's words he heard, then God moved all Israel to join in the renewal of His covenant.

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- C. Jesus opens the eyes of fellow-travelers with a table blessing, then He vanishes, and they exclaim burning hearts when He opened the Word to them. (*Luke 24:30-32*)

1. And it happened, to have reclined at table, He with them, having taken the bread, He blessed; and, having broken, He was giving to them. (*Verse 30*)

Blessing: The blessing would have been: 'Blessed art Thou, Lord our God, King of the universe, who feeds the whole world with Thy goodness'. This can be heard often during 'The Chosen' series.

Bread: The bread was given per the 'Last Supper' which became a sacrament after Pentecost.

2. And of them, they were opened, the eyes; and, they (experientially) knew Him. (*Verse 31a*)

Eyes opened: The partaking of the sacrament with Jesus opened first their soul, then their eyes.

Jesus opens hearts with His words

Application: We must pray to be in awe of Christ THE King who is perfect in righteousness and opens God's Word to reveal Himself to God's people.

3. And vanished He became, He from them. (*Verse 31b*)

Vanished: Post-resurrection, more than ever, Jesus was doing astonishing things.

4. They said to one another, 'Not the heart of us being burned, it was being within us while He was talking with us while He was opening to us the Scriptures?' (*Verse 32*)

Heart burned: Their collective heart was set afire by the words of Jesus (verses 25-27)! The word used for 'not' expects a 'yes' answer to the question.

Talking and opening Scripture: Many Christians strongly desire to know what Jesus said the T^cN^aK said about Him! But the more Scripture we know the better we can figure out some of what Jesus said to these two disciples.

Application: Every time we open God's Word to read it, we must ask Jesus to open our eyes so our heart will burn when we read it.

Jesus opens hearts with His words

Conclusion: Josiah was a righteous young king who repaired the Temple and responded to God's Torah with humble repentance over the ongoing disobedience of Israel's fathers. He inquired of the covenant God and was told the destruction of Jerusalem is certain but he will die before it happens. Jesus opened the eyes of disciples with a table blessing, then later the heart of the disciples burned as He opened Scripture to them.

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