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The Bible is so interesting; even the Old Testament. Remember: when reading the 1st and 2nd Chronicles... we read history and events recorded from the perspective of the 2 tribes of the **Southern Kingdom**, the House of **Judah**;

<u>not</u> when reading 1st and 2nd Kings... where we read the historical perspective of the 10 tribes of the **Northern Kingdom**... the House of **Israel**.

Under King Josiah's reforms, they discover the instructions of God,

¹ Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years.



- ² And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and turned neither to the right nor the left.
- ³ For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge from Judah and Jerusalem the high places, and the sacred poles, and the carved images, and the metal gods.
- ⁴ And in his presence they demolished the altars of Baal; and the images that towered over them, he demolished; and the sacred poles, and carved images, and metal gods, he broke in pieces, pulverizing them, and flinging it on the graves of those who sacrificed to them.
- ⁵ And he burnt the bones of the priests on their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.
- ⁶ And so he did in the towns of Manasseh, Ephraim and Simeon, as far as Naphtali, with their ruins all around.
- ⁷ And when he had broken down the altars and groves, smashing the graven images into powder, demolishing all the idols throughout the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.
- ⁸ Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land, and the House, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the House of the LORD his God.
- ⁹ And when they came to Hilkiah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the House of God, what the Levites who kept the doors had gathered from the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, and of all the remnant of Israel, and of all Judah and Benjamin; and they returned to Jerusalem.
- ¹⁰ And they put it in the hand of the workmen who had oversight of the House of the LORD,

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and they gave it to those who worked in the House of the LORD, to repair and fix the House:

- ¹¹ even to the artificers and builders they gave it, to buy cut stone, and timber for couplings, and beams for the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed.
- ¹² And the men worked faithfully: and their overseers were Jahath and Obadiah, the Levites, of the sons of Merari; and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to direct the work; and other Levites, all who were skillful with musical instruments.
- ¹³ Also they supervised the laborers, and oversaw all the workmen in any manner of service: and of the Levites there were clerks, and officers, and doorkeepers.
- 14 And when they took the money that was brought into the House of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD given to Moses.
- 15 And Hilkiah responded and said to Shaphan the scribe, I found The Book of the Law / the instructions of God... in the House of the LORD. And Hilkiah handed the Book to Shaphan.
- 16 And Shaphan carried the Book to the king, and further reported to the king saying, Your servants are doing all that was entrusted to them.
- 17 And they have gathered the money that was found in the House of the LORD, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers and the workmen.
- 18 Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest has given me a Book. And Shaphan read it before the king.
- 19 And it happened, when the king heard the words of the law, he ripped his clothes.
- ²⁰ And the king instructed Hilkiah, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Abdon the son of Micah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying,
- ²¹ Go, enquire of the LORD for me, and for those who are left in **Israel** and in **Judah**, concerning the words of the Book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not **kept** the word of the LORD, to do all that is written in this Book.
- ²² And Hilkiah, and those who the king appointed, went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she lived in second ward of Jerusalem:) and they spoke to her regarding this.
- ²³ And she answered them, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel,

Tell the man who sent you to me,

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²⁴ Thus says the LORD, Behold, I will bring upon this place, and upon its inhabitants, even all the dreaded curses described in the Book which they read to the king of Judah:

²⁵ Because they have abandoned Me, and have burned incense to other gods, that they provoke My anger with all their evil practices; so My anger will be poured on this place, and will not be quenched.

²⁶ And as for the king of Judah, who sent you to enquire of the LORD, say to him, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel concerning the words which you have heard;

²⁷ because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before God, when you heard His words against this place, and against its inhabitants, and humbled yourself before Me, and ripped your clothes, and wept before Me; I have heard you also, says the LORD.

²⁸ Indeed, when I gather you to your fathers, you will be gathered to your grave in peace, your eyes will not see all the disasters I will bring on this place, and on its inhabitants. So they brought the king word again.

²⁹ Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.

³⁰ And the king went up to the House of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and those who lived in Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, young and old: and he read in their hearing all the words of The Book of the Covenant that was found in the House of the LORD.

³¹ And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep His instructions, His testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to do the words of the covenant which are written in this Book.

 32 And he caused all who were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand. And those who lived in Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.

³³ And Josiah destroyed all the disgusting idols from every region that belonged to the children of **Israel**, and made all who were present in Israel to serve the LORD their God. Throughout his days they did not depart from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.

Every Praise

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