

2 KINGS 23 vs 1

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The first and second books of the kings originally were one book, which Jewish tradition credits to the prophet Jeremiah. The subject follows the successes and failures of the kings of both Judah and Israel. This second book of kings follows the decline of **Israel** leading up to their captivity in Aram; and 170 years later, to the decline of **Judah** leading up to their captivity in Babylon.

King Josiah renews the Covenant of God with His people,

¹ Now the king sent, and they gathered to him all the elders of **Judah and of Jerusalem.**

² And the king went up to the House of the LORD, and all the men of **Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that was found in the House of the LORD.**

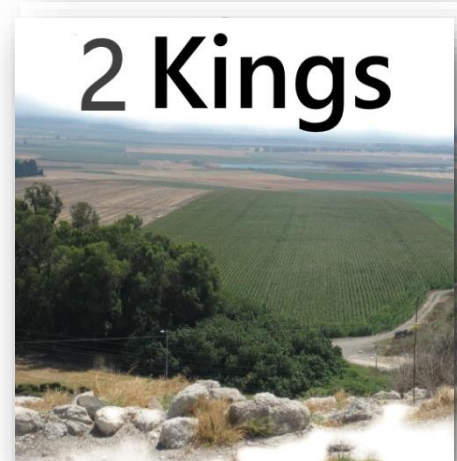
³ And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD, and to **keep His instructions, His testimonies and His statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to do the words of this covenant that are written in this Book. And all the people entered into the covenant.** / Josiah the last great king of Judah, did what the Lord told His people in each generation to do; from Adam, to the last days, when those in the assembly of Philadelphia are faithful.

⁴ And the king instructed Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth from the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them to Bethel.

⁵ And he did away with idolatrous priests, who the kings of **Judah had ordained to burn incense in the shrines of the cities of Judah, and in shrines all around Jerusalem; along with those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven. / all the demon worship**

⁶ And he brought out the Asherah idol from the House of the LORD, outside Jerusalem to the Kidron ravine, and burned it at the Kidron river, grinding it to powder, and flinging its dust on the graves of the common people.

⁷ He also demolished the houses of the male-prostitutes who were in the House of the LORD, where women wove tunics for Asherah.



⁸ Then he took all the priests from the cities of **Judah**, and desecrated the high places where the priests burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba,

and he demolished the shrines which were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on one's left at the city gate.

⁹ Yet though the priests of the shrines did not go up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, but they ate unleavened bread among their brothers.

¹⁰ **He also desecrated Topheth, which is in the Valley of the children of Hinnom, that no one might sacrifice his son or daughter to Molech** / this disgusting practice has **not** gone away in our genius generation, there are reasons why hundreds of thousands of children around the world go missing each year, even in our country, and probably in your country too.

¹¹ And he took away the figures of horses that the kings of **Judah** set up to the sun, at the entrance of the House of the LORD, next to the chamber of Nathan-molech, the official in the annex; he burned up the chariots of the sun.

¹² And the altars on the roof top of Ahaz, which the kings of **Judah** had made, and the altars made by Manasseh in the two courts of the House of the LORD, the king demolished, and smashing them down from there, flung their dust into the Kidron river.

¹³ And the king desecrated the high places that were east of Jerusalem, on the south side of Destroyer-hill, which Solomon the king of **Israel** built for Ashtoreth the detestable idol of those of Sidon, and for Chemosh the detestable idol of those of Moab, and for Milcom the detestable idol of those of Ammon.

¹⁴ And he shattered the images, and cut down their poles, and filled their high places with dead men's bones.

¹⁵ As for the altar that was at Bethel, erected by Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who led **Israel** into sin, both that altar and its shrine he demolished, smashing its stones to pieces, and pulverizing it to dust, and burning its sacred pole.

¹⁶ And as Josiah turned, he caught sight of the tombs that were on the hillside, so he sent men, who took the bones from the tombs, and burned them on its altar desecrating it, fulfilling the word of the LORD proclaimed by the man of God who spoke these words.

¹⁷ Then he asked, What is that tombstone that I see? And the men of the city told him, It is the grave of the man of God, who came from **Judah**, and proclaimed these things that you have done against the altar of Bethel.

18 And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet who came from Samaria.

19 And Josiah destroyed all the houses of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of **Israel made provoking the anger of the LORD, and he did to them just as he had done in Bethel.**

20 And he killed on the altars all the priests of the high places that were there, and burned their bones on them, and returned to Jerusalem.

21 And the king instructed all the people, saying, **Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in the Book of this Covenant / isn't it rather amazing to consider on their calendar, they forgot the most significant event that allowed them to live in the land promised first to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. 3 times a year they were to keep the 7 sacred days in their memory. But that is no different than the church now days, keeping their own calendar, while ignoring the 3 days – shadows of things to come, still on the calendar of the LORD God.**

22 For no such Passover had been kept since the days of the heroic judges who judged **Israel, not in all the days of the kings of **Israel**, nor of the kings of **Judah**;**

23 but in the 18th year of King Josiah, this Passover was held to the honor of the LORD in Jerusalem.

24 Moreover the mediums with **familiar spirits / the Septuagint says, **ventriloquists**, demonic entities imitating familiar relatives or friends who have died, who were pretty crazy when we knew them, now present themselves as rivals to Albert Einstein, don't believe them, they are not who they say they are, **and the wizards, and the images, and the disgusting idols, and all that is detestable that was seen throughout the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, Josiah removed, that he might carry out the words of the law which were written in the Book that Hilkiah the priest found in the House of the LORD.****

25 And before him there was no king who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might like him; according to all the law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him.

26 Yet, the LORD did not turn from the fierce heat of His great anger, that His anger burned against **Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked Him with.**

27 And the LORD said, I will remove **Judah from My sight, as I removed **Israel**, and will reject this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the House where I said, My name will be there.**

²⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of Chronicles of the Kings of **Judah**?

²⁹ In his days Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt went up to the River Euphrates against the king of Assyria: and King Josiah went to meet him, and when the Pharaoh saw him, he killed him at Megiddo.

³⁰ And his servants carried him in a chariot dead from Megiddo, and brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own sepulcher. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in place of his father.

³¹ Jehoahaz was 23 years old when he began to reign; and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

³² **And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD**, as all his ancestors had done.

³³ And Pharaoh Neco imprisoned him at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he not reign in Jerusalem; and imposed a tribute on the land of 100 talents of silver, and a talent of gold.

³⁴ And Pharaoh Neco made **Eliakim** a son of Josiah, king instead of his father, and changed his name to **Jehoiakim**, but took Jehoahaz away: and he came to Egypt, and died there.

³⁵ So Jehoiakim paid the silver and gold to Pharaoh; but he had to tax the land in order to raise the money demanded by the Pharaoh. He exacted the silver and the gold from the people of the land, each according to his assessment, to give to Pharaoh Neco.

³⁶ Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zebidah, the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah.

³⁷ **And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD**, according to all that the fathers had done.

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3 Days are still on His Calendar

The Promises of God to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

The Mountain of Moses – Sinai in Arabia

We are grateful to God that the Saudi govt has preserved the Mountain of Moses.