

"GOOD KING JOSIAH"**Introduction**

1. God tells us about many people in the Bible.
2. Some were kings and queens
3. God tells us so as to teach us

1. WE SHOULD PAY GREAT ATTENTION TO THE CHILDREN

- 1) This king was a child of eight – excellent king.
- 2) His ancestry is interesting:
 - (i) Hezekiah: very great man of God
 - (ii) Manasseh: long reign of terror – repented!
 - (iii) Amon: short, bad reign – murdered.
- 3) Good men have bad sons, and vice versa
APPLICATION: Pay great attention to young children:
 - (i) discipline
 - (ii) religious knowledge
 - (iii) support
- 4) There have been good kings + queens very young:
 - (i) Edward VI – c.10 – 6yrs
 - (ii) Lady Jane Grey – 9 days
They both loved God and advanced His word
APPLICATION: children, live for God in your life.

2. ONE GOOD LEADER CAN DO VERY GREAT GOOD

- 1) How God shows us the progress of King Josiah:
 - (i) v.3: first beginnings. Conversion here.
 - (ii) v.3-7: destroyed idolatry far + wide
 - (iii) v.8: repaired God's house
 - (iv) v.15: the book of God found
APPLICATION: this is what our nation needs!

- (v) v.19: The repentance he showed
APPLICATION: An example to us all

- 2) The blessing he got for this:
 - (i) v.22: The enquiry from Huldah
 - (ii) v.24f: The judgement threatened
APPLICATION: Our poor nation today!
 - (iii) v.27-28: the value of a tender heart
APPLICATION: The godly may hold back God's hand of judgement
- 3) The great good which Josiah did:
 - (i) v.31: public national covenant
ILLUSTRATION: The Scottish covenants
 - (ii) chapter 35: great Passover (see v.18-19)
APPLICATION: Should we not pray for such men as this to lead our nation?

3. GOD'S PEOPLE MAY NOT GET THEIR REWARD ON EARTH

- 1) You might think Josiah would have a very long reign – but no – 31 years, then, killed in battle. Not an old man.
- 2) But he has not lost his reward:
 - (i) v.25: the lamentations
 - (ii) v.26-27: recorded in God's Book too
- 3) So, if we do God's will we shall not lose our reward – even if we die young:
 - (i) "lay up...treasure"
 - (ii) Parables of Talents + Pounds
 - (iii) "steadfast...not in vain in the Lord"

APPLICATIONS

1. Young people, pray to be given grace and ability to honour God in life.
ILLUSTRATION: Picture Josiah at 16 years old – seeking the Lord! (How?)

2. How do we know he is high in God's favour in heaven now?
Because God has spoken so well of him in the Bible.

PSALM

1: 1 – 6

119: 9 – 14

92: 12 – 15