

God's Book Lost in God's House

2 Kings 22:8-11

Introduction:

- A. God's book was lost in God's house (the temple).
 - 1. Written by Moses. (Deut. 31:24-27).
 - 2. Found by Hilkiah, the priest. (v. 8).
 - 3. Read to Josiah by Shaphan, the scribe.
- B. God's book sometimes lost in God's house (the church).
 - 1. Lost to the hearts and lives of many of us.
 - 2. Lost to the preaching of many of us.
 - 3. Lost to the practices of many of us.
- C. God's book led young King Josiah to take three decisive actions:

Discussion:

I. It Led Josiah to *Change His Own Life*.

- A. He confessed his and nation's sins. (2 Kings 22:11-13; 23:3; cf. 1 John 1:9)
- B. He took a firm stand for truth found in God's book.
 - 1. Meant repudiating his own former position.
 - 2. Meant repudiating his father's position. (2 Kgs. 21:19,20).
 - 3. Meant repudiating nation's religious establishment. (2 Kgs. 22:13).

II. It Led Josiah to *Destroy False Religion*.

- A. He destroyed idolatry.
 - 1. In the temple (2 Kings 23:4-7)
 - 2. In the nation (2 Kgs. 23:8-24).
 - 3. One cannot love truth and ignore error.
- B. N. T. should lead us to destroy error in minds of people. (2 Cor. 10:4-5).
 - 1. Destroy by exposure and teaching, not by physical force. (cf. 2 Cor. 10:4,5).
 - 2. All soul threatening error must be destroyed (Tit. 1:10, 11).
 - a. Denominational doctrines and creeds (Eph. 4:4-6; Gal. 1:10; 2 John 9-11).
 - b. Various false doctrines and practices among brethren.
 - c. Humanistic ideas of morality and ethics.
 - 3. Truth and error cannot co-exist in peace (Gal. 2:5; Eph. 5:11).

III. It Led Josiah to *Restore True Religion (2 Kings 23:24-25)*

- A. Josiah's "restoration movement" was a move back to the Bible (v. 21).
 - 1. It made same plea we make today: Back to the Bible for it all.
 - 2. It insisted on doing Bible things in Bible ways.
- B. Josiah's "restoration movement" was unique for its time. (vs. 22,23).
 - 1. We must be more interested in truth than conformity to established practice.
 - 2. We must realize that ancient truth can be strange to modern religionists.
- C. Josiah's "restoration movement" caused Josiah to go down in history a great king.

Conclusion:

- A. Let us once again find the Book of God any place it may be lost.
- B. Let us have the courage to change to conform to the Book of God.
- C. Let us have the courage to destroy error instead of compromising with it.
- D. Let us go back to the Bible for all our religious faith and practice.