

## ***Revival: The Book that Changes Nations***

### **2 Chronicles 34-35**

Six weeks ago, we began a journey together. A journey of becoming righteous, resilient, a people who remain

- strong during adversity,
- hope-filled during scarcity,
- and determined in the face of demonic opposition.

A significant technique Ezra is using to equip us for these things is to tell us the stories of Israel's Revivals. The book of 2 Chronicles has been called *The Book of Revivals*. Because from chapter 15 to chapter 35, Ezra records several revivals that each transformed the people and brought them back to God.

**These revivals have five things in common: commitment, prayer, place, corporate worship, and repentance.**

Today we will consider one more revival comes during King Josiah's reign in Judah found in 2 Chronicles 34 and 35.

At the time Josiah comes to power, the kingdom is at an all-time low. All that is right is forsaken, and all that is wrong is exalted.

God, however, sends a revival.

#### **Josiah's Reforms**

2 Chronicles 34:1-14: Josiah starts the revival with cleansing the countryside of idols and repairing and refurbishing the temple through monies collected through a capital campaign.

2 Chronicles 34:14-21: The book of the Law was discovered in the temple. After having it read to him, Josiah repented by tearing his clothes. He admitted that the Lord's wrath is being poured out upon Judah because their ancestors did not keep the word of God.

2 Chronicles 34:22-28: The prophetess, Huldah, tells Josiah that God will pour out His wrath on Judah for their idolatrous worship and wicked behavior, but because he humbled himself and repented, he would not see this disaster. He would die before that happens. Josiah was faithful to God, so God will be faithful to him.

2 Chronicles 34:29-32: Josiah is fully committed to the Lord. Because of His devotion to God, he sends a message to everyone in Judah that they, too, should follow the Lord.

#### **Josiah's Seven Decisive Steps**

1. ***He cleansed the land of false worship. Vs. 34:3-7***
2. ***He cleansed the Temple. Vs. 34:8-13***
3. ***He found the Book of the Law. Vs. 14-18***
4. ***He repented of not following the Book of the Law. Vs. 19-21***
5. ***He called the people to obey the Book of the Law. Vs. 29-30***
6. ***He and the people made a covenant to keep God's commands. Vs. 31-32***
7. ***He celebrated Israel's greatest Passover. Vs. 35:1-19***

***God's Promise to Josiah: If you live by My Word, I will take care of you. 2 Chronicles 34:26-27, 28b***

For us, the promise is manifested in Matthew 6:33 - "*Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.*"

## Lessons

### **1. Reading scripture changes your life. V. 19**

Hebrews 4:12 - *"The word of God is living and active. Sharper than a two-edged sword, it penetrates between soul and spirit, joints, and marrow. It judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."*

Romans 12:2 says, *"Be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove the will of God, His good pleasing and acceptable will."*

Matthew 4:4, Jesus said to Satan, *"Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

Ezra describes himself this way in Ezra 7:10. He says, *"The good hand of God was upon him, because he had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to practice it, and to teach his statutes and ordinances in Israel."*

### **2. It is good to make a covenant with the Lord. V. 31b**

### **3. Reading scripture changes nations. V. 33**

The Scriptures change lives, and the book that changes nations.

Let the Scriptures change you, friends. God wants to meet you in these pages every day. He has things to say to you, perspectives He wants to show you. Ways He wants to guide you.

At one time, this book was mothballed in the Temple. Don't mothball it in your home. Let it out.... And let it in. Share it with your family and friends. Be a Josiah. Spark a revival.