

REDEEMED

God can turn anything around

Help For Your Home

Pastor Doug Heisel – March 24, 2018

Context for our story

- **1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles, cover the same basic time period** (roughly 1000 BC to the fall of Jerusalem in 587 BC). Both Kings and Chronicles record how the Lord worked through (and around) the various kings, to keep His redemptive story moving forward.
- **The nation of Israel divides into 2 parts:** The Northern Kingdom (10 tribes) which keeps the name Israel; and the Southern Kingdom that is called Judah, where Jerusalem is, and where the family line of David was from.

1 Kings 11:31-33

For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'See, I am going to tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand and give you (Jeroboam) ten tribes ... I will do this because they have forsaken me and worshiped other gods ...

Building the home God wants you to enjoy

- 1) **BELIEVE that the LORD can do something GOOD, no matter how BAD the starting point was.**

2 Chronicles 34:1-2 – (Josiah) reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. He did what was pleasing in the Lord's sight and ...did not turn away from doing what was right. For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David...

2) Pay the price to make united WORSHIP a priority.

2 Kings 22:5 – Entrust this money to the men assigned to supervise the Temple's restoration. Then they can use it to pay workers to repair the Temple of the Lord.

3) Embrace God's WORD – believing it to be your very LIFE .

2 Kings 22:8-13 – Hilkiah the high priest said ... "I have found the Book of the Law in the Lord's Temple!" ... When the king heard what was written in the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes in despair ... (saying) "Our ancestors have not obeyed the words in this scroll. We have not been doing what this scroll says we must do."

Deuteronomy 32:45-47 – When Moses had finished giving God's teachings to the people, he said, "Be sure to obey all these commands that I have given you today. Repeat them to your children, so that they may faithfully obey all of God's teachings. These teachings are not empty words; they are your very life. Obey them and you will live long in that land across the Jordan that you are about to occupy."

4) As the Lord reveals it, PURGE whatever may pull you backwards.

2 Kings 23:15-16 – (Josiah) tore down the altar and shrine ... He crushed the stones to dust ... As Josiah was looking around, he noticed several graves in the side of the mountain. He ordered his men to bring out the bones in them and to burn them there upon the altar at Bethel to defile it, just as the Lord's prophet had declared would happen to Jeroboam's altar. [See also: 1 Kings 13:1-3]

5) Celebrate God's GRACE - building your life and home on His perfection, not yours.

2 Kings 23:21-23 – The king gave this order to all the people: "Celebrate the Passover to the Lord your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant." Neither in the days of the judges who led Israel nor in the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah had any such Passover been observed. But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, this Passover was celebrated to the Lord in Jerusalem.

Life Group Discussion & Questions

BREAKING THE ICE: Can you recall having a good role model growing up, or is there someone more recent that has had a positive influence on you? Explain.

DIGGING IN: Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-33.

1. Josiah had terrible role models in his father and grand father, yet he broke from their patterns and established a new godly path. Do you know anyone (maybe in your family) who broke a negative family tradition? What was it? What impact did it have on you or others? Perhaps you are the first. If so, describe some of those changes.
2. It is easy to blame our bad habits or problems on others (often our parents). But Josiah didn't do that, and instead simply chose to seek the LORD himself. This Sunday we looked at five ongoing actions. Even though all are important, review each of them and then share which one or two stands out most to you right now, and why.

BRINGING IT HOME: One of the biggest tools of the devil is discouragement. He wants us to focus on all the challenges or setbacks. This week, find ways to celebrate God's grace and love instead - even when our lives and world are imperfect.