

WORD

¹Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. ²And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father; and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. **2 CHRONICLES 34:1,2**

(Read also **2 CHRONICLES 34.**)

King Josiah was preceded by many wicked kings. Despite his lack of godly mentors and his very young age, he grew up to be a king who followed the Lord. Even with his age and background, he was able to lead God's people back to Him. Josiah's life shows us that our purpose is not dependent on our circumstances, but on the sovereignty and grace of God. Moreover, it shows the enormous potential of young people to make an impact on families, communities, and even kingdoms and nations. If we want to change the world according to God's ways, we need to follow Josiah's example and raise a generation that is fully devoted to God and His purposes, like Josiah. In this lesson, we will look at Josiah's devotion, and how this applies to us.

1 Devoted to the Lord

²And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father; and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. ³For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father . . .

2 CHRONICLES 34:2,3

Josiah sought the Lord, following the example of David who lived 400 years before him. Because of this, he did not turn from God's laws. Like David, we can be a model to the generations that will come after us. The way we live can inspire and influence them to follow God no matter what. How are you inspiring others to seek God?

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2 Devoted to Righteousness

³. . . and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, and the carved and the metal images. ⁴And they chopped down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and he cut down the incense altars that stood above them. And he broke in pieces the Asherim and the carved and the metal images, and he made dust of them and scattered it over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. **2 CHRONICLES 34:3,4**

As an adult, Josiah started reforms in Judah and Jerusalem. He acted decisively, destroying places of worship to false gods. As he sought God, he also sought to do what was righteous in God's eyes. How did Josiah show his devotion to do what was right?

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3 Devoted to the Word

³⁰. . . And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the Lord. ³¹And the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book.

2 CHRONICLES 34:30,31

Josiah did not just listen to God's Word; he also acted upon it. After hearing the Book of Law, he humbled himself before God. He also gathered the people, read the book of the Law before them, and they made a covenant to obey God's Word. Because of Josiah's devotion and humility, God responded by giving him a promise of peace until the end of his days (2 Chronicles 34:28). After hearing God's Word, what was Josiah's covenant before God?

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