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**21** Amon *was* twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. **22** But he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done; for Amon sacrificed to all the carved images which his father Manasseh had made, and served them. **23** And he did not humble himself before the LORD, as his father Manasseh had humbled himself; but Amon trespassed more and more. **24** Then his servants conspired against him, and killed him in his own house. **25** But the people of the land executed all those who had conspired against King Amon. Then the people of the land made his son Josiah king in his place.

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1. Like father, like son

- a. Amon was growing up during his dad's wicked reign
  - a1. Amon completely embraced the evil done
  - a2. Amon did not embrace dad's repentance
- b. 2 Kn. 21 records both Manasseh's & Amon's evil deeds, but not Manasseh's repentance
- c. 1/2 Kings was compiled appr. 550 BC from the records of the *Chronicles of the Kings of Israel & Judah*
- d. 1/2 Chronicles was compiled by Ezra about 458 BC
- e. Amon sacrifices to all the carved images his father made
  - a1. Apparently, in his purging, Man. hadn't destroyed the idols, but had merely removed them
  - a2. Amon was determined to outdo his dad in evil
- f. Chr. records that Amon didn't humble himself as Man. had done (not recorded in 2 Kn. 21)
- g. A conspiracy of his servants led to his assassination
  - a1. More than likely a political coup
  - a2. There were pro-Assyrian & pro-Egyptian factions

2. Josiah takes the throne

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**34** Josiah *was* eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. **2** And he did *what was* right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of his father David; *he did not* turn aside to the right hand or to the left. **3** For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images. **4** They broke down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and the incense altars which *were* above them he cut down; and the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images he broke in pieces, and made dust of them and scattered *it* on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. **5** He also burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. **6** And *so he did* in the cities of Manasseh,

Ephraim, and Simeon, as far as Naphtali and all around, with axes. **7** When he had broken down the altars and the wooden images, had beaten the carved images into powder, and cut down all the incense altars throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.

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- a. Josiah was only 8 when he assumed the throne
    - a1. His advisors led him until he was 16 (632 BC)
    - a2. Josiah sought the Lord with a whole heart
  - b. 2 Kn. 23:25 there was no king like him before or after
  - c. Josiah began destroying all the high places, idols, images, & pagan altars
    - a1. He desecrated the graves of pagan priests
    - a2. He reestablished the worship of the Lord
  - d. 628-626 BC the Scythians invaded the area
    - a1. Scythians = a nomadic warlike people from the Black Sea & Caucasus area
    - a2. Great fear in Judah as the Scythian hoard ravaged the eastern plains of Judah
    - a3. The Scythians were stopped by the Egyptians
  - e. The last Assyrian king, Ashurbanipal, died in 631 BC
  - f. Since Assyria no longer controlled Israel, Josiah was free to spread his reforms to the northern kingdom
    - a1. He moved into Ephraim & Naphtali to cut down altars, destroy idols, & reestablish the worship of God (also in Manasseh on west bank)
    - a2. He moved south into Simeon to make reform

3. The Josiah revival

- a. Unlike many revivals, this one lasted throughout the reign of Josiah
- b. This was the most complete reform since reign of David
- c. This turns out to be the last opportunity Judah is given to completely turn to God
  - a1. Judah follows the king, but are still rebellious
  - a2. One never knows when a last opportunity will be given before judgment comes
- d. Judah lies between 2 great powers vying for control of the Near East (Egypt & Babylon)
  - a1. In 612 BC Egypt begins to move north
  - a2. In 609 BC Josiah intercepts Pharaoh Necho & is killed in battle
  - a3. In 605 BC Nebuchadnezzar defeated Pharaoh Necho at Carchemish, breaking Egyptian power
- e. In 605, 597, & 586 BC Judah is taken into exile