

THE BOOK OF THE LAW. 2 KN. 22. 4/21/24. #39.

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³Now it came to pass, in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, *that* the king sent Shaphan the scribe, the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the house of the LORD, saying: ⁴“Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may count the money which has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have gathered from the people. ⁵And let them deliver it into the hand of those doing the work, who are the overseers in the house of the LORD; let them give it to those who *are* in the house of the LORD doing the work, to repair the damages of the house—⁶to carpenters and builders and masons—and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house. ⁷However there need be no accounting made with them of the money delivered into their hand, because they deal faithfully.”

1. Repair of the temple

- a. 2 centuries had passed since Joash had ordered the temple repaired, so there was a need of more repairs
 - a1. Though there may have been ongoing minor repairs throughout, major renovations, such as replacing beams & stones, waited until needed
 - a2. Josiah wanted to honor the Lord in all areas
- b. Shaphan was to oversee the work (his sons stopped the destruction of Jeremiah’s scroll & life, carried Jeremiah’s letter to Babylon, consulted the prophetess Huldah; & his grandson was governor of Judah)
- c. The money from the treasury was given to the workers without accounting & they worked faithfully (a rare display of honesty & integrity)

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⁸Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, “I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD.” And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. ⁹So Shaphan the scribe went to the king, bringing the king word, saying, “Your servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of those who do the work, who oversee the house of the LORD.” ¹⁰Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.” And Shaphan read it before the king.

2. The Book of the Law found

- a. While the repairs were made, they discovered the Law
 - a1. Where had it been & how did the priests function without it? (probably by tradition)
 - a2. Shaphan reads parts of Deuteronomy to the king
- b. The content of the book was new to Josiah
- c. The contents terrified Josiah

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¹¹Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes. ¹²Then the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Michaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of

the king, saying, ¹³“Go, inquire of the LORD for me, for the people and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great *is* the wrath of the LORD that is aroused against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.”

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- d. When Josiah heard the judgment for sin he mourned
 - a1. He knew that his reforms hadn’t changed hearts
 - a2. Judah had been involved in idolatry & evil
 - e. Dt. 1-5 describes what God expects
 - a1. Dt. 6-17 details punishment for disobedience
 - a2. Dt. 18-26 describes Israel’s continual rebellion
 - a3. Dt. 27-30 describes both the blessings for obedience & judgment for rebellion, including exile
 - f. Josiah realizes that Judah was under the wrath of God
 - a1. He sends emissaries to inquire of the prophetess Huldah, wife of the keeper of the royal wardrobe
 - a2. Apparently Jeremiah & Zephaniah were not available to consult

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¹⁶Then she said to them, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘Tell the man who sent you to Me, ¹⁶“Thus says the LORD: ‘Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants—all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read—¹⁷because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore My wrath shall be aroused against this place and shall not be quenched.’ ” ¹⁸But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, in this manner you shall speak to him, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel: “Concerning the words which you have heard—¹⁹because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard *you*,” says the LORD. ²⁰“Surely, therefore, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place.” ’ ” So they brought back word to the king.

3. The coming terror

- a. Huldah confirms that judgment is at hand due to Judah’s idolatry & wickedness
- b. Josiah’s reforms were not enough to change the nation
- c. God promises that Josiah would be spared the judgment
 - a1. He is killed in 609 BC, 4 years before Babylon conquers the land & 23 years before the exile
 - a2. Judgment is closer than people think
- d. 2 great deceptions: ① that we are not as bad as others & as we could be ② God has not judged yet, so He won’t ever
- e. Judah didn’t learn from Israel’s exile or from warnings
- f. Gal. 6:7 whatever a man sows, he shall reap (today?)