

Lost and Found Scripture

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 22:1-23, 2 Chronicles 34:1-33

Righteous King Hezekiah's son Manasseh was a very wicked king. He came to the throne at the age of 12 and reigned for 55 years. Of all the kings of Judah, Manasseh reigned for most number of years. He did all that was evil. He prepared many groves for the idols. He built altars in the house of God and gave sacrifices for the idols. God sent the Assyrians to punish Manasseh. They bound him up in chains and took him over to Babylon. At that time he humbled himself before God. God heard his prayer and caused him to return to Jerusalem. He destroyed all the idols and commanded that all his people worship the Lord God alone.

After Manasseh's death, his son Amon came to the throne. He did that which was evil. After two years he was slain inside the palace. After him, his son Josiah became the king at the age of 8. The grownups with him led him in the paths of Hezekiah. Josiah decided to live in the fear of the Lord. When Josiah was 20 years old, he realized that he had the wisdom and ability to rule his people. He commanded that all idols be removed and destroyed.

At the age of 26, Josiah began the work of repairing and renewing the temple. While the repairing works were happening, a certain priest found out a scroll of the scriptures. That was the bible of those times. Those are the first five books of our bible. Hilkiyah the priest handed the scrolls over to one of the kings' servants to be given to the king. The servant read the scriptures to Josiah. It was mentioned there about the curses that would befall those who deny the true God and worship idols. He was very much grieved and rent his cloths on thinking about his father and grandfather leading the people into idol worship. It was the custom of the Jews to express their sorrow in this manner.

Josiah went up into the house of God and read the scriptures in the presence of all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, the Levites and all the people, great and small. The King and all his people wholeheartedly made a covenant that day that they would walk according to the words of God.

Questions:

1. What happened when Manasseh repented?
2. Why did Josiah rent his cloths?
3. What was the covenant that the king and his people did in the presence of God?