

## II KINGS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to II Kings chapter 23 as we continue our study through the Word of God. In our last study we saw that Josiah is the king in the Southern Kingdom of Judah and he tried to bring reform to the nation, he tried to bring the nation back to God. He restored the worship of God, he restored the temple that was in disarray for some 57 years and while they were working on cleaning up the temple, repairing it, Hilkiah the High Priest found a copy of the Law of God, he found the Word of God and he presented it to the king.

And as the Word of God is read conviction comes upon Josiah and he understands the reason for all the calamity that has come upon the nation, it was due to their sin, they had transgressed the Laws of God. It is as Paul reminds us in Romans 3:20, “**Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**” The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, “**For no person will be justified (made righteous, acquitted, and judged acceptable) in His sight by observing the works prescribed by the Law. For [the real function of] the Law is to make men recognize and be conscious of sin [not mere perception, but an acquaintance with sin which works toward repentance, faith, and holy character].**”

And Josiah sent his men to Huldah the prophetess to find out what is going to happen to the nation and she says that judgment is coming, but not in the days of Josiah because his heart was tender towards the Lord! Now remember when Josiah's great grandfather, Hezekiah, found out that judgment was coming, but not in his days, he said, and I'm paraphrasing, "Praise the Lord!" He was happy that judgment wasn't going to come in his days but he did not have a concern for future generations! But Josiah, even though he knows that judgment is coming, continues to bring reform into the land, and maybe God's grace and mercy will be extended to them. You see, Josiah had a far different response to the coming judgment than Hezekiah did. May our hearts be soft and pray that God's judgment doesn't come so soon, we know it is coming, but that He would extend His grace and mercy even more so many more will come into the kingdom of God. Again, we know His judgment is coming, but may we never lose sight that if it came before we were saved, we would be lost!

With that said, let's begin reading in II Kings chapter 23, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word this evening as we continue to see the reforms that Josiah is bringing to the nation, the Southern Kingdom of Judah and on into the Northern Kingdom of Israel!

**II KINGS 23****VERSES 1-3**

1. Now that Josiah has heard the Word of the Lord he wants all the people to hear the Words of God. And as the king reads the Law of God, maybe the first five books of Moses or the Torah, from Genesis through Deuteronomy, he challenges the people to make a commitment to the Lord. You see, it is not that we just know the Word of God, it is not just hearing the Word of God, but it is applying it to your life. If the Word of God does not affect the way you live out your faith, then it is meaningless to you.

And as the king commits his life to the Lord, the people stand with him and commit their lives to the Lord. We have seen this before as leaders have committed their lives to the Lord and challenged their people to do the same. Back in Exodus 19:8 we see Moses call for the people to accept the covenant of God, and they said, “**All that the LORD has spoken we will do.**” Joshua, in his farewell address to the nation, as he was exhorting the people to follow after the Lord, and they said in Joshua 24, “**No, but we will serve the LORD! . . . The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!**” Joshua 24:21, 24.

Tragically it was all an outward show of emotion for the most part and not an inward relationship. And that is what I believe was happening during Josiah's time. I believe that Josiah's heart was right with God, and there were some who were right with God, but for the most part, the nation was not walking with the Lord. You see, it was superficial and their hearts were not in it. That is why God, in Jeremiah chapter 7 said not to trust in the temple of the Lord when your heart is far from Me. Trust in Me to save you and not some building. You can't live like the devil and then go to the temple or to church and believe everything is alright, it is not!

2. Far too often we are looking for revival in the lives of others, in a community, a home, a nation and-so-on and that is great, but that is not where it starts. It all begins in our own hearts as we read God's Word, as He convicts us of our sin and we recommit our lives to Him and that recommitment is seen in the way we live out our faith. True revival is seen by changed lives! J. Vernon McGee made these comments about a revival that he heard about. He wrote,

We could have revival in many of our churches, but there must be a conviction of sin that only the Word of God can bring. When the Bible brings conviction to the heart, repentance must follow. To repent means to make things right, my friend. Repentance means to turn around and go in the opposite direction. If you are going the wrong way, you turn around and go the right way.

I heard of an evangelist who held meetings in upper New York State years ago. He preached for a week, and not one person made a move toward God. Then one night the leading deacon in the church came forward, shedding tears of repentance. That broke the meeting wide open because he was the one standing in the way of revival in that church. He apologized to someone he had wronged, and all during the night as he prayed, the Lord would convict him of something else—his life hadn't been right. He would go over and knock on the door of the person he had wronged, and say, "I'm here to make things right." That went on all night! Imagine getting folk out of bed in the middle of the night! By morning there was a revival going on in that town because one man repented.

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru The Bible, Vol. II, p. 355

3. Now let's look at how this inward work of God was affecting their outward actions, how Josiah is going to respond to what God is doing in him.

#### VERSE 4

1. Here we see how far away the Southern Kingdom of Judah had moved away from God. They had replaced the worship of the true and living God with idols and they placed these idols to these false gods right in the temple of God. Thus, clean up God's house and that will affect the lives of the people. There are many churches today that need to remove the false idols from their churches because if they don't their people will not be changed, they will continue down this dangerous path of idolatry thinking they are worshiping God and they are not!

2. Let me share this story with you regarding a true revival that broke out. We are told,

In 1904 one of the greatest revivals in history took place in Wales. A coal miner named Evans Robert was touched by the grace of God. Unlearned and ineloquent, he nonetheless began to teach and preach in the streets. People responded to his message to such a degree that within one year, there was not one functioning pub in Wales. They all closed, not because Christians picketed, but because no one was going. Morality cannot be legislated. Revival is what is needed because when people are touched by the Lord, their lives begin to change and sin begins to be removed. You don't fight darkness by fighting darkness. You turn on the light. When the Lord's love and light come into a life, the darkness is dispelled automatically.

- Jon Courson, Application Commentary,  
Old Testament, Volume 1: Genesis – Job, p.  
1088

I have said this before and I guess I will say it again, you can't legislate morality. You can't force people to love God or do what is right. That is why I am not big on holding up signs and protesting for this cause and that cause, the cause is Christ and unless people receive Jesus, nothing will change them, not like the Lord! Now in saying that please don't take this to the wrong conclusion. We are to live out our faith; people are to see that our faith is real. We are not to change the way we live to make people more comfortable living in sin. We are light and we are not to turn our faith off, but to shine in the darkness and allow God's Spirit to touch others.

Let me share this news article with you that will show you that we are to live out our faith and even though the world may not understand it, we are not to change what we believe. The article is called, “New Ala. gov: Just Christians are his family” and we are told,

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley told a church crowd just moments into his new administration that those who have not accepted Jesus as their savior are not his brothers and sisters, shocking some critics who questioned Tuesday whether he can be fair to non-Christians.

“Anybody here today who has not accepted Jesus Christ as their savior, I’m telling you, you’re not my brother and you’re not my sister, and I want to be your brother,”

Bentley said Monday, his inauguration day, according to The Birmingham News. The Anti-Defamation League on Tuesday called Bentley’s remarks shocking.

“His comments are not only offensive, but also raise serious questions as to whether non-Christians can expect to receive equal treatment during his tenure as governor,” said Bill Nigut, the ADL’s regional director.

Speaking at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Church after the official inaugural ceremony, Bentley told the crowd that he considered anyone who believed in Jesus to be his brothers and sisters regardless of color, but anyone who isn’t a Christian doesn’t have that same relationship to him.

“If the Holy Spirit lives in you that makes you my brothers and sisters. Anyone who has not accepted Jesus, I want to be your brothers and sisters, too,” Bentley said. After his speech, Bentley said he did not mean to insult anyone.

Responding to questions about it, Bentley's office released a statement Tuesday saying he believes "he is the governor of all of Alabama."

"The governor clearly stated that he will be the governor of all Alabamians - Democrat, Republican and Independent, young, old, black and white, rich and poor. As stated in his (inaugural) address, Gov. Bentley believes his job is to make everyone's lives better," the statement said.

Ashfaq Taufique, president of the Birmingham Islamic Society, told The Birmingham News he wasn't sure how Bentley's remarks were intended.

"Does it mean that those who according to him are not saved are less important than those who are saved?" Taufique said. "Does he want those of us who do not belong to the Christian faith to adopt his faith? That should be toned down. That's not what we need. If he means that, I hope he changes it. We don't want evangelical politicians. They can be whatever in their private life."

The official with the Anti-Defamation League, which fights discrimination against Jewish people, said it sounded like Bentley was using the office of governor to advocate for Christian conversion.

"If he does so, he is dancing dangerously close to a violation of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which forbids government from promoting the establishment of any religion," Nigut said.

- JAY REEVES, New Ala. gov: Just  
Christians are his family, Associated Press,  
Tue. Jan 18, 2011



Folk's, we are not to compromise our faith but shine forth the truths of God. Tragically, a few days after this was reported, he backed down a little on what he said. Folk's, he said this at his church where he is a deacon and doesn't he have the right to do that? Obviously many feel he does not and I pray that he does stand strong for what he believes and not let others influence him from boldly speaking forth the things of God! And he is right, if you don't know Jesus then we are not brothers and sisters, like it or not! Our faith should be seen in how we walk and talk, what we do and say or it is an empty faith! Josiah put into action what he said he believed and removed the pagan idols from the house of God! Was it the popular thing to do? Absolutely not, but he did it because it was the right thing to do!

#### VERSE 5

1. Not only did Josiah remove the pagan idols, the things from the house of God but he also removed the priests that were leading the people in the worship of these idols, these false gods. I told you, the Southern Kingdom of Judah was not doing well, this is how low they sunk and now you can understand why the Lord is going to bring judgment upon them, not in the days of Josiah, but very shortly after Josiah dies, judgment will come.

VERSES 6-7

1. You would think we have read enough, but there is more. Look at what is going on here. Keep in mind that in Solomon's temple there were 3 levels around the temple used as apartments for the priests and storage areas. Now it was being used for prostitution, and sodomy, cult prostitutes were occupying these rooms around the temple. And these woven hangings that these women were making, they were nothing more than curtains that were hung and behind these curtains these ritual obscenities were practiced! Can you imagine, fornication, prostitution going on in the house of God and the priests that the previous kings appointed for work in the temple and with the people, were helping to promote these kinds of practices!

VERSES 8-9

1. Josiah had to deal with a very sensitive issue, and yet he confronts the situation head on. The priests were offering sacrifice to other god's, so Josiah defiles their places of worship and he forbids them to serve the Lord in worship. He removed them from ministry. How can these priests who lead the nation into idolatry, throughout the land of Judah, from Geba to Beersheba be allowed to sacrifice in the temple? Josiah did not allow them and that was the right thing to do. They were placed along the same lines as those that were incapable for service due to a bodily defect, (Leviticus 21:17-22).

2. Today it seems we will let anyone speak from the pulpits of our churches and that is wrong. As you have seen over the years, I am very careful of who I have come and speak here at Calvary Chapel because I do not want someone to come and share unscriptural things, to lead you away from the true and living God. I don't think I am being overprotective, just wise!

#### VERSE 10

1. Topheth means, "the place of burning" and it was located to the south and the west of Jerusalem. This was the place where children were offered as a sacrifice to the god Molech. It is also called the Hinnom Valley or the Valley of Hinnom. And this pagan practice was picked up by the Southern Kingdom of Judah and when you turn away from God, you can see where it will lead you and it is not pretty!

Now understand what went on with this practice. They would have this brass idol of Molech with his arms outstretched. And they would heat up these arms and hands of this idol until they were fiery hot and then they would place their children into the hands of this pagan god, offering their children to him to ensure prosperity for themselves. You may be wondering how they could stand the screams of these children as they were placed into these fiery hot hands, well Clarke gives us some insight as he wrote, "The rabbis say that Topheth had its name from *toph*, a *drum*, because instruments of this kind were used to drown the cries of the children that were put into the burning arms of Molech, to be scorched to death."

Well, Josiah destroys this area, he defiles the area so they could not worship their god's their anymore.

2. This place, as I have said, is also called Valley of Hinnom and it becomes a place for the garbage of the city to be burned and was thus always smoldering. And we see Jesus use this place, this Valley of Hinnom or Gehenna, as an illustration of Hell. Jesus said in Mark 9:43-44, **“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched — where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’”** The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, **“And if your hand puts a stumbling block before you and causes you to sin, cut it off! It is more profitable and wholesome for you to go into life [that is really worthwhile] maimed than with two hands to go to hell (Gehenna), into the fire that cannot be put out.”** Thus, Jesus, in speaking of Hell, Gehenna, says that it is a place of eternal burning, of punishment. There is no soul sleep or annihilation as some would like to think or these verses would not make sense. Hell is real and it is not good!

#### VERSES 11-14

1. Interestingly enough, excavations at Jerusalem have uncovered a sacred shrine used in solar worship and dating from the time of Jehoshaphat. Small horses with solar disks on their foreheads have been found both at Jerusalem and Hazor. So we see the evidence of this false worship, just like the Bible tells us!

2. This Mount of Corruption is also known as the Mount of Olives in the New Testament. The reason it got such a bad name was because of what Solomon did. At the middle or towards the end of his life Solomon got into idolatry. He built the altars for his many wives to worship their god's by. And it was on this mountain that Solomon set these altars up, thus its name came into being, the Mount of Corruption! Now keep in mind that these altars were probably removed by king Hezekiah but the people were still there, worshipping the spot, the area where these altars, these shrines were located and Josiah destroys them, makes them places where they could no longer worship their false gods by! You see, as Josiah destroyed these places of worship, he also desecrated these areas with dead men's bones so they could not be used as places of worship ever again.

3. Josiah had a positive influence upon the nation. It is as II Chronicles 34:33 tells us, **“Thus Josiah removed all the abominations from all the country that belonged to the children of Israel, and made all who were present in Israel diligently serve the Lord their God. All his days they did not depart from following the Lord God of their fathers.”** If this is true revival, then it was short lived as we will see next time, but he did what he could and it was up to the people to respond accordingly. Many of them spoke empty words because their lives did not reflect what they said they believed!

VERSES 15-18

1. We are now going back some 300 years in history when Jeroboam set up this altar in Bethel, this golden calf to worship God. Remember the story from I Kings chapter 13, again some 300 years prior to this incident, there was a prophet of God who came from Judah to warn the first king of the Northern Kingdom, Jeroboam, of the coming judgment because of the idolatry he was leading the nation in. Keep in mind that Jeroboam set up this golden calf in Bethel, as I have said and he also set one up in Dan to worship God by, and God was not pleased with his actions. You see, Jeroboam did not want his people traveling to Jerusalem to worship God at the temple because he thought he might lose them, so he comes up with this solution, thinking God will honor it, but He doesn't and He won't!

Listen to what is said 300 years prior to this time, as God calls Josiah by name, before he is even born. In I Kings 13:1-2 we read, **“And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the Lord, and said, ‘O altar, altar! Thus says the Lord: “Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.””**”

Here we see that prophecy come to pass, just as the Lord had said through this prophet. And what I want you to also notice is that this reform, this revival has now moved up into the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Yes, many were in captivity by the Assyrians at this time, but there were still some in the land and it looks like the Assyrians were not much of a threat to what Josiah was doing here. Keep in mind that the Babylonians were rising to power and the Assyrians were on the decline with their power.

2. Now there is more to this story if you remember. You see, this prophet is then told by God to return straight home, and he disobeys God's command and thus he is killed by a lion. This prophet is then buried in this place and Josiah says to leave his bones alone. (I Kings 13:31). Josiah was careful to honor the gravestone of this prophet of God!

#### VERSES 19-20

1. These priests were most likely not from the Levitical priesthood as we read of in verses 8 and 9 of II Kings chapter 23. There they were removed from service. These priests are put to death. And keep in mind that in Samaria, all kinds of people became priests and thus, Josiah did away with them. Notice again that reform was coming also to the Northern Kingdom of Israel, they had no king, many of the people were in captivity, but those that were left behind, they were benefiting from this godly king!

VERSES 21-23

1. Here we see Josiah reestablish the Feast of Passover. In fact, it was not practiced for many years. What was the big deal about Passover? Keep in mind that Passover spoke of the Lord redeeming His people and thus, by neglecting this feast they neglected to remember what the Lord had done, their redemption from Egypt by the blood of the Lamb. For us, it would be like forgetting to celebrate Communion, the Lord's Supper, which remembers the work of Jesus for us, our redemption by His shed blood!

2. Listen again to what J. Vernon McGee had to say about this and how it relates to us today. He wrote,

Today we are trying to have religion without Christ. The deity of Christ is ridiculed in seminaries and in pulpits. The value of Christ's death is rejected and spurned. The efficacy of Christ's blood is hooted down as something evil—even by some men in the pulpit.

My friend, the only thing that can save our nation is revival. Somebody asks, "Can it come?" Yes, I believe it can come. There is a "sound of going in the tops of the mulberry trees" today. A flood tide came in the sixteenth century, which was led by the Reformers Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli. Wycliffe and John Knox in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries were the Reformers before the Reformation. In the seventeenth century came another spiritual awakening known as the Puritan movement. In the eighteenth century, a time of darkness and deism, came another great spiritual awakening led by Wesley and Whitfield.



In the nineteenth century there was a mighty turning to God in Oxford, and the missionary movement resulted. Toward the end of the century great revivals were led by Moody and Finney. In the twentieth century (hear me now very carefully) there has been no great world-sweeping, earth-shaking revival. There have been a few local revivals. The twentieth century is quickly drawing to an end. Look around you today. When we had a depression in this country, we did not turn to God as a nation. We were plunged into World War II and saw the spilling of American blood that had not been equaled. That experience apparently did not teach us a thing. There was no revival. Since then we have had the Korean and the Vietnam wars. Neither did they bring us back to God.

Many people seem to think that if they get out and protest, things will change. But what we need is some real deep conviction on the inside. We need to recognize our coldness and indifference. When was the last time you confessed your coldness and indifference to the Lord? Have you told Him today that you love Him? He is your Savior, my friend, and I am convinced that even in this dark hour, as has happened in the past, we can have a revival. The story of Josiah encourages me. It was in the darkest hour in the life of his nation that revival came.

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru The Bible, Vol. II, p. 356

VERSES 24-25

1. Here we see Josiah remove those who consulted in mediums and spiritists, removed the idols all because he loved the Lord and wanted to do all that the Lord had spoken in His Word! Many in the church today are no different than what was going on in Judah; they are seeking the dead for their answers to life's problems. In Isaiah 8:19-20 we are told, **“And when they say to you, ‘Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,’ should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”**

The Living Bible puts these verses like this, **“So why are you trying to find out the future by consulting witches and mediums? Don't listen to their whisperings and mutterings. Can the living find out the future from the dead? Why not ask your God? ‘Check these witches’ words against the Word of God!’ he says. ‘If their messages are different than mine, it is because I have not sent them; for they have no light or truth in them.’”**

The church today is letting in all kinds of Eastern religious practices, New Age practices and it sees nothing wrong with it. Folk's, if you are looking to these doctrines of demons to live by, understand that there is no light in them, only darkness and thus, don't go down that path!

2. Now as great as a king Josiah was, as much reform that he brought to the nation, understand that it was just too little and too late for the nation. Yes, in Jeremiah 7:5-7 we are told, **“For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings, if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor, if you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, or walk after other gods to your hurt, then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.”**

You see, through the prophet Jeremiah, who was a prophet during this period of time, the Lord promised his people that if they truly turned to Him that they would dwell in the land securely. The problem was, they did not truly turn to Him. In Jeremiah 3:10 we are told, **“And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah has not turned to Me with her whole heart, but in pretense,’ says the Lord.”** You see, it was not really a true revival, they had not truly turned to the Lord as a nation, not that individuals did not turn to Him, but the nation as a whole and thus, judgment was at the door for the Southern Kingdom of Judah and we will see that in the next two verses!

#### VERSES 26-27

1. The sins of Manasseh had permeated the land so much that they would never fully recover from them. Now here’s the thing about Josiah. Through the prophetess Huldah, he knew that judgment was coming, and yet he still tried to bring the people back to God. It is as Morgan wrote, “From consultation with Huldah he knew that there would be no deep note or lasting value in their reformation. That fact, however, did not give him the right to refuse to follow the light which had come to him.”

We may see things as very dark; we know that the judgment of God is coming. May we not just throw our hands up in the air and say, “What is the use?” We are to follow the light that God has given to us and shine for Him no matter how dark things may be!

VERSES 28-30

1. It seems that Josiah stuck his nose where it did not belong, and it cost him his life. Pharaoh Necho II, king of Egypt, is coming up to make an alliance with Assyria to fight off the up and coming Babylonians. And Pharaoh Necho II warns Josiah not to get involved in this battle, it did not concern him. And in II Chronicles 35:22 we read, **“Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight in the Valley of Megiddo.”** Yes, even godly kings and people can do foolish things, and that is what we see here with Josiah. And thus, Josiah is killed in this battle

2. J. Vernon McGee tells us regarding this story,

This story might be a message for another nation I know about. I am afraid that we have meddled enough throughout the world today. We need to recognize that the *only* message that America has for the world is not democracy but the Word of God. We were blessed when we were sending out God's Word. Today we are sending out propaganda and we have become an immoral nation. God is not in the things we do as a nation, and we are no longer being blessed.

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru The Bible, Vol. II, p. 357

We, as Christians, need to learn this principle. There are certain things that are not our concern and we are not to get involved with them. And God will let you know what you are to do and what you are to avoid. Learn the lesson from Josiah, he did not heed God's warning and it cost him his life!

#### VERSES 31-34

1. One of the sons of Josiah, Jehoahaz, also called Shallum in Jeremiah 22:11 and in I Chronicles 3:15, was now the king in the Southern Kingdom of Judah and he did evil before the Lord and reigned only 3 months before he was taken captive by Pharaoh Necho II and lead away to Egypt where he eventually died. Pharaoh Necho II then places another son of Josiah on the throne, Eliakim, but changes his name to Jehoiakim. All this took place after Pharaoh Necho II defeated and killed Josiah and now he was dominating the land of Judah, it was kind of a vassal kingdom and more importantly, a buffer zone against the growing Babylonian Empire!

VERSES 35-37

1. Now we are on a downward spiral away from God and there is no turning back, captivity is getting very close, the Babylonian power is increasing! But for now, it was Pharaoh Necho II that put the kingdom under tribute and Jehoiakim was nothing more than a vassal king, a puppet king who imposed very heavy taxes on the people to pay off the Egyptians!

2. And make no mistake about it, Jehoiakim was very evil. In Jeremiah 26:20, 23 we are told that Jehoiakim slew Urijah the prophet. And in Jeremiah 36:22-24 we see how ungodly this man was as we are told, **“Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month, with a fire burning on the hearth before him. And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe’s knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth. Yet they were not afraid, nor did they tear their garments, the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words.”**

In other words, this king burned a scroll of God's Word and in response to this we see Jeremiah say, **“And you shall say to Jehoiakim king of Judah, ‘Thus says the Lord: ‘You have burned this scroll, saying, ‘Why have you written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and cause man and beast to cease from here?’” Therefore thus says the Lord concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: ‘He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night. I will punish him, his family, and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring on them, on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah all the doom that I have pronounced against them; but they did not heed.’”** Jeremiah 36:29-31. Judgment was coming!

3. And that is where we will close tonight and next time we will finish up the book of II Kings as the Southern Kingdom of Judah will fall to the Babylonians and be lead away into captivity because of their idolatry and their refusal to repent and return to the Lord!