

**Matthew 1:10-11**

(10) **Hezekiah** was the father of **Manasseh**, Manasseh the father of **Amon**, and Amon the father of **Josiah**.

**2 Kings 20:21**

(21) So Hezekiah slept with his fathers...

*Remember that Hezekiah was the great prayer warrior.*

*In review:*

**POD:** The Christian who places his confidence in the Lord will be strengthened by the Lord.

**POD:** The believer who trusts in the Lord will possess the confidence to do the right thing at the right time.

**POD:** Effective prayer requires the believer to be **completely open** with the Lord.

**POD:** The believer who builds a case for the Lord to answer his prayer by appealing to the essence and accomplishments of God can expect great answers from the Lord.

**POD:** The believer's realization of who he is in Christ provides a spiritual audacity in the intimacy of prayer before the face of God.

- *God is where everyone's confidence should be. Confidence in people will fail you every time.*
- *At the end of the day you must live your life as unto the Lord – so better to place your trust in Him.*

(21) So Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and **Manasseh** his son became king in his place.

**MANASSEH:**

- Began his reign at age 12.
- Reigned 55 years.

**2 Kings 21:1-20**

(1) Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Hephzibah.

(2) He did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel.

(3) For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.

*All those people who should have been destroyed by Joshua when they entered the land – Manasseh walked according to their abominations.*

(6) He made his son pass through the fire (child sacrifice), **practiced witchcraft** and **used divination**, and **dealt with mediums and spiritists....**

*Instead of consulting the Lord...*

...He did much evil in the sight of the LORD provoking Him to anger.

(18) And Manasseh slept with his fathers and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza, and Amon his son became king in his place.

Note the difference between Manasseh & Hezekiah in their burial.

### 2 Chronicles 32:33

(33) So Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the upper section of the tombs of the sons of David; and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem honored him at his death. And his son Manasseh became king in his place.

➤ Uzziah was buried in the field of the grave which belonged to the kings (honorable)!

Yet Manasseh was buried in his own garden.

➤ Those who fail to execute God's plan will not be honored or missed.

➤ I don't know whether you've been to a funeral of someone who failed to execute the USL

- People try to eulogize him into heaven
  - Preach him into heaven
  - Pray him into heaven
  - Yet their attempts fall short

*The Christian who executes the responsibilities of the church age believer priesthood is a spiritual value to fellow believers and when they are gone people will miss that value!  
Not only in death but "gone" in relocation also.*

**POD:** The believer who executes the unique spiritual life for the glory of God will be honored by the Lord and missed by those who benefited from his life.

### AMON:

- Began his reign at age 22.
- Reigned 2 years.

(19) **Amon** was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah.

(20) He did evil in the sight of the LORD, as Manasseh his father had done.

### JOSIAH:

- Began his reign at age 8.
- Reigned 31 years
- Does right in the sight of the Lord

### 2 Chronicles 34:1-7, 29-31

(1) Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem.

(2) He did right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of his father David and did not turn aside to the right or to the left.

*Josiah walked the line.*

(3) For in the eighth year of his reign (age 16) while he was still a youth, he began to seek [DARASH - to seek, to inquire]...

- Josiah began to seek the Lord on his own initiative.
- He turned to the Lord for counsel.
- He sought the Lord through prayer!

...the God of his father David...

At 16 he begins to seek the Lord - inquire of the Lord  
...and in the twelfth year (20 years old) he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the

- It is a wonderful thing to see a teenager take unilateral initiative to execute the spiritual life.
- Josiah's grandfather and dad did evil in the sight of the Lord so what occurred here?
- Children are sponges – they soak up everything
- Josiah witnesses the results of sin & understands that is not the solution.
- His answer was found in the God of his father David.
- There was someone to look up to in his family line.

## Asherim, the carved images and the molten images.

*It took four years of spiritual growth to know what it is that God wanted him to do.*

### Application

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ it takes time to know what it is that God wants us to do (Operational Will of God). It takes time to learn where it is that God wants us to be (Geographical Will of God). God reveals what it is that He wants us to do in His Word, therefore studying His Word is of paramount importance. As we study His Word we will be taught what to do, reproved, corrected, and instructed in righteousness. This takes time and prepares us to do what God wants us to do.

(4) They tore down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and the incense altars that were high above them he chopped down; also the Asherim, the carved images and the molten images he broke in pieces and ground to powder and scattered it on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them.

(5) Then he burned the bones of the priests (priests of the fertility cults) on their altars and purged Judah and Jerusalem.

(6) In the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, Simeon, even as far as Naphtali, in their surrounding ruins,

(7) he also tore down the altars and beat the Asherim and the carved images into powder, and chopped down all the incense altars throughout the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

➤ Now with the idols eradicated, Josiah returns to the capitol and restores the worship of the Lord.

- He issues orders to restore the temple.
- The books of Moses are discovered which were lost in the previous reigns because his father and grandfather abandoned the teaching of the Lord.
- He is struck with grief because he realizes that Judah will eventually be judged by God for their disobedience.

This is so awesome . . . what does He do?

- He refuses to give up and become fatalistic because of the impending judgment!

**He turns to the Word . . .**

(29) Then the king sent and gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.

(30) The king went up to the house of the LORD and all the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, the Levites and all the people, from the greatest to the least; and **he** (the king) **read** in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.

(31) Then 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 with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant written in this book.

➤ He is committed to doing all the Lord wanted him to do; malleable.

➤ That's the attitude we should have - just being willing to do the will of the Lord.

➤ In the 18<sup>th</sup> year of his reign, He follows protocol in celebrating Passover. One of the greatest ever recorded.

### **2 Chronicles 35:17-25**

(17) Thus the sons of Israel who were present celebrated the Passover at that time, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days.

(18) There had not been celebrated a Passover like it in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet; nor had any of the kings of Israel celebrated such a Passover as Josiah did with the priests, the Levites, all Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

- Throughout Josiah's reign, Judah did not turn from following the Lord.
- The people followed his lead!
- BUT - - He makes a mistake -

(19) In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign this Passover was celebrated.

(20) After all this, when Josiah had set the temple in order, Neco king of Egypt came up to make war at Carchemish on the Euphrates, and Josiah went out to engage him.

- ❖ The king of Egypt moves his forces through Judah to help the Assyrians against the Babylonians at Carchemish (west of Haran).
- ❖ Josiah attempts to help the Babylonians by setting up a delaying action at Megiddo.
- ❖ The King of Egypt asked Josiah to stay out of the way.
- ❖ It was God's will for Josiah to stay out of the way.
- ❖ Josiah refused to listen and was mortally wounded in Megiddo.
- ❖ He's returned in a chariot to Jerusalem where he dies of arrow wounds.

### **Was he remembered??? Of course-**

(21) But Neco sent messengers to him, saying, "What have we to do with each other, O King of Judah? I am not coming against you today but against the house with which I am at war, and God has ordered me to hurry. Stop for your own sake from interfering with God who is with me, so that He will not destroy you."

(22) However, Josiah would not turn away from him, but disguised himself in order to make war with him; nor did he listen to the words of Neco from the mouth of God, but came to make war on the plain of Megiddo.

(23) The archers shot King Josiah, and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am badly wounded."

(24) So his servants took him out of the chariot and carried him in the second chariot which he had, and brought him to Jerusalem where he died and was buried in the tombs of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

*Definitely missed!  
He did what God wanted him to do as a leader.  
Doesn't mean he was without sin.*

*He led Israel because he was focused on what the Lord wanted him to do as it was revealed in the Word of God.*

*He was at the wrong place at the wrong time – doing the wrong thing!*

*His trust had shifted away from God to a foreign power for his country's protection.*

(25) Then Jeremiah chanted a lament for Josiah. And all the male and female singers speak about Josiah in their lamentations to this day. And they made them an ordinance in Israel; behold, they are also written in the Lamentations.

### **Matthew 1:11**

(11) Josiah became the father of **Jeconiah** and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

### **JEHOAZ (JEHOAHAZ):**

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- Josiah's literal son.
- Reigned 3 months.
- Did evil in the sight of the Lord.
- Deported to Egypt by Neco.

### **ELIAKIM:**

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- His name is changed by King of Egypt to Jehoiakim.
- Reigns 11 years with Judah as an Egyptian vassal.
- Nebuchadnezzar in his 1<sup>st</sup> attack captures Jerusalem and takes Jehoiakim with him to Babylon.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> attack 597 BC
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> attack 586 BC

### **JEHOIACHIN:**

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- Reigned 3 months.
  - King Nebuchadnezzar launches a 2<sup>nd</sup> attack in 597BC takes him captive along with 10,000.

### **ZEDEKIAH:**

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- Jehoiachin's uncle.
- Reigns until Nebuchadnezzar 3<sup>rd</sup> attack (586 BC).
- 586 BC – when temple is finally destroyed.

This brings us down to Judah's Babylonian captivity.

## **Class Slides**

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All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.