



¹ Now behold, there came a man of God from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD, while Jeroboam was standing by the altar to burn incense. ² He cried against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar, thus says the LORD, 'Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and human bones shall be burned on you.'" ³ Then he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the LORD has spoken, 'Behold, the altar shall be split apart and the ashes which are on it shall be poured out.'"

(1 Kings 13:1-3)

³² For the thing shall surely come to pass which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria."

(1 Kings 13:32)

(300 years later...)

¹ Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem; (2 Kings 22:1)

Josiah's Reformation

2 KINGS 23:1-30

Josiah's Reformation

- A singular, exclusive commitment to the worship of Yahweh

Josiah's Reformation

➤ Observations:

- 1) not just destruction, but defilement, of pagan shrines (contact with human bones)
- 2) included Jeroboam's altar at Bethel and the high places of the cities of Samaria
- 3) the Passover signaled the completeness of Josiah's reforms

²⁶ However, the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath with which His anger burned against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him. ²⁷ The LORD said, "I will remove Judah also from My sight, as I have removed Israel. And I will cast off Jerusalem, this city which I have chosen, and the temple of which I said, 'My name shall be there.'"

(2 Kings 23:26-27)

²⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Josiah and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? ²⁹ In his days Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt went up to the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates. And King Josiah went to meet him, and when *Pharaoh Neco* saw him he killed him at Megiddo. ³⁰ His servants drove his body in a chariot from Megiddo, and brought him to Jerusalem and buried him in his own tomb. Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah and anointed him and made him king in place of his father.

(2 Kings 23:28-30)

Josiah's Reformation

- ### ➤ The best king ever who accomplishes the best reformation ever is not able to avert the just wrath of God

Josiah's Reformation

➤ Implications

- the king, and the law, are powerless to purify the idolatrous heart
- the execution of God's wrath is certain by which He is vindicated and righteousness is restored

Josiah's Reformation

➤ *Jesus: like Josiah, yet much better!*

- Josiah foreshadows Jesus as the king who embodies the heart of torah (Deut. 6)
- Jesus does what the law could never do – secure final atonement and new life (i.e. a new, better covenant)