

A Scroll Is Found

2 Kings 22:1 – 23:28

2 Chronicles 34:1 – 35:19

by Don Falkos

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Josiah king of Judah sought the Lord and followed the example of Israel's great king, David. Josiah rid Judah of pagan idols and altars and shrines. He did the same in the regions that had been the northern kingdom of Israel. He destroyed the altar of Jeroboam's golden calf at Bethel, fulfilling a three-hundred-year-old prophecy.

Josiah commissioned the repair of the Lord's Temple. He intended to restore what earlier kings of Judah had allowed to fall into ruin. Gifts poured in from Jerusalem and from all Judah and from the remnant of Ephraim. While the restoration work was underway, Hilkiah the priest found a scroll that had been hidden away in the Temple. The scroll contained the Law of the Lord as given to the people of Israel through Moses. When it was read to Josiah, the king was distraught. "Our ancestors did not follow what is written in this scroll."

A prophetess sent God's message to the king. "Time and again my people have abandoned me in favor of false gods. They will suffer all the curses written in this scroll. But because you have humbled yourself and served me, I will hold back these events. They will not occur during your lifetime."

Josiah took his place of authority beside one of the pillars at the entrance to the Temple, and he read the newly discovered scroll to the people. Josiah dedicated himself to the Law of the Lord. And the people did the same. The king announced, "We will celebrate the Lord's Passover as commanded in this scroll." And what a celebration it was! Nothing like it had been seen since the time of the prophet Samuel.