

The Book of the Law Found

Key Verse: *“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 which are written in this book.”*
—II Chronicles 34:31

Selected Scripture:
II Chronicles 34:15-33

JOSIAH BECAME THE king of Judah at the young age of eight. His grandfather, Manasseh, and his father, Amon, were both wicked rulers, and he ascended to the throne after Amon was assassinated by his own servants.—II Kings 21:19-24

As a godly individual, in the eighteenth year of his reign, Josiah raised money to repair the Temple, and during this period, the high priest found the Book of the Law. “Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath given me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes. And the king commanded Hilkiah, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan,

and Abdon the son of Micah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king’s, saying, Go, enquire of the LORD for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that is

found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this book.”—II Chron. 34:18-21

Promptly, Josiah sent commissioners to inquire of the Lord for himself as well as for others in Israel and Judah concerning the words of the book, since divine displeasure was upon them because their fathers failed to obey the Lord. Through the Prophetess Huldah, the king learned that many evils and curses, declared in the book as the punishment for such sin, would surely come upon the people because they had forsaken God’s law. The punishments must be inflicted, but the king, who had shown such a loyalty to God, would be preserved from the trouble in that it would not come at such a time and manner as to involve him.—vss. 22-30

Our Key Verse reveals that Josiah then made a covenant to keep God’s commandments as were recorded in the Mosaic Law. In addition, “he caused all that were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand to it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.”—vs. 32

“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.” (Ps. 19:7,8) These scriptural declarations may be understood only by those who have learned to appreciate the Word of God. His instructions deter from sin, encourage toward righteousness, give consolation in trouble, and provide strength as well as courage during this time of general fear. Surely, the result is that the people of God have much advantage every way respecting the present life. There is also the hope, the encouragement, and the prospect we have of the joys that await us if we remain faithful until the end of our course.—Rev. 2:10 ■