### 2 Chronicles

## Chapter 34

1JosiAh was only 8 years old when he started his reign, and he ruled in JeruSalem for 31 years.  
  
2He did what was upright before Jehovah and he followed in the ways of his ancestor David… He didn’t deviate to the right or to the left!  
  
  
3It was in the 8th year of his reign (while he was still a boy) that he started searching for Jehovah, the God of his ancestor David... And in the 12th year of his reign, he started cleansing Judah and JeruSalem of the high places [of worship], the sacred poles, the shrines, and the molded images.  
  
4He totally destroyed the things that were there before his face… The altars and high places of the BaAls, as well as all those who were in charge of them!  
  
He cut down the sacred poles and carved images, and he had the molded images crushed into a fine powder and the dust was thrown on the tombs of those who had sacrificed to them... 5He also incinerated the bones of the priests on their own altars, and he totally cleaned up Judah and JeruSalem.  
  
6Then he did the same things throughout the cities of ManasSeh, Ephraim, SimeOn, and NaphTali, and all the places around them. 7He tore down the altars and the sacred poles, and he cut the idols into fine pieces... And after beating down all the high places throughout the land of IsraEl, he returned to JeruSalem.  
  
  
8It was during the 18th year of his reign that he called for a cleansing of the land and of the Temple. So he sent ShaPhan (son of EseliJa), MaAsa (the city mayor), and the City Recorder JoAh (son of JoAhaz) to repair the Temple of his God Jehovah.  
  
9And thereafter, they went to the High Priest HelkiAh, and gave him the money that had been collected by the Levites at the gates, which had been donated to the Temple by those from ManasSeh, Ephraim, the governors, and all the rest of Judah, BenJamin, IsraEl, and the people of JeruSalem.  
  
10He in turn gave it to those who were in charge of doing the work in the Temple of Jehovah, to repair and fortify it. 11So they paid the builders and contractors that bought blocks of cut stone and wooden beams for the roof, since all of that had been destroyed by the kings of Judah.  
  
12Now, the overseers that were in charge of the men who supervised the construction were Jeth and ObadiAh (Levites who were descendants of MeraRi), as well as ZachariAh and MosShaloam (descendants of KoHath).  
  
Then all the Levites, including the musicians and singers, kept an eye on the project, 13while the Levite scribes, gatekeepers, and judges watched over the laborers and their foremen.  
  
14Well, it was while they were delivering the money that had been collected for the Temple of Jehovah that the High Priest HelkiAh found a scroll of the Law of Jehovah that [had been written] by the very hand of Moses!  
  
15And HelkiAh said to ShaPhan (the scribe):  
  
 ‘We’ve found the scroll of the Law in the Temple of Jehovah!’  
  
So HelkiAh gave the scroll to ShaPhan, 16and he carried it to the king, who started off by saying:  
  
 ‘All your servants have been paid for doing their work.  
  
 17‘They also melted down the silver that was found in the Temple of Jehovah and used it to pay the overseers and laborers.’  
  
18Then the Scribe ShaPhan said this to the king:  
  
 ‘This scroll was given to me by HelkiAh the Priest.’  
  
And then he read it before the king.  
  
19Well when the king heard the words of the Law, he started ripping his clothes!  
  
20Then he gave orders to HelkiAh, AchiKam (son of ShaPhan), AbDon (son of MichaiJah), ShaPhan (the scribe), and his personal servant AsaiAh, saying:  
  
 21‘Go and ask Jehovah about the things that are written in this scroll that was found, on behalf of myself and everyone who’s left in IsraEl and Judah... For Jehovah’s rage must surely be burning against us, because we’ve ignored what our ancestors told us about the words of Jehovah when they passed on the things that are written about in this scroll.’  
  
22So HelkiAh and the others whom the king had called went to see the Prophetess HulDah (the wife of SelLem, son of ThekoE and grandson of Aras, the one who was in charge of guarding the Commandments). She lived in JeruSalem, in the second section. And they told her everything that had happened.  
  
23Then she told them:  
  
 ‘This is what Jehovah the God of IsraEl has said:  
  
 ‘Tell the man who sent you to me 24that Jehovah says [He is] calling down evil upon this place because of the things that are written in this scroll that was read before the king of Judah.  
  
 25‘For they have abandoned Me and burned incense to foreign gods to make Me angry over these things that they made with their hands! So My rage is burning against this place, and it won’t be extinguished!’  
  
 26‘And say this to the King of Judah that sent you to search for Jehovah… Tell him that Jehovah the God of IsraEl says:  
  
 27‘Because you felt shame in your heart over the words that you heard, and because you humbled yourself before Me when you heard what I said about this place and those who live here, and because you were humbled and ripped your clothes then wept before Me... I have listened to you.’  
  
 ‘And Jehovah said:  
  
 28‘{Look!} I will count you among your ancestors and send you to your tomb in peace, so your eyes won’t see any of the bad things that I will bring upon this place and upon those who live here.’  
  
Well thereafter, they brought the message back to the king, 29and then the king gathered all the elders of Judah and JeruSalem, 30and they went to the Temple of Jehovah, along with all the people of Judah and JeruSalem (including the Priests and Levites)… All the people from the least to the greatest.  
  
Then he read all the words of the scroll of the Sacred Agreement that was found in the Temple of Jehovah.  
  
31The king got up on the podium and proposed a sacred agreement there before Jehovah… That they would obey His Commandments, testimonies, and orders with their entire hearts and lives, so as to observe the words of the Agreement that were written in the scroll.  
  
32Then he asked all those in JeruSalem, Judah, and BenJamin to ratify this agreement with the Temple of Jehovah, the God of their ancestors.  
  
33Thereafter, JosiAh removed all the disgusting things from the land that the sons of IsraEl had made, and he decreed that everyone in JeruSalem and IsraEl would start serving Jehovah as their God.  
  
And throughout the rest of his life, he didn’t turn aside from following Jehovah, the God of his ancestors.