### 2 Kings

## Chapter 23

1Thereafter, the king sent for all the elders of Judah and JeruSalem and had them brought to him.  
  
2Then the king went to the Temple of Jehovah with the men of Judah and JeruSalem (the Priests, the prophets, and all the people, both the small and the great), and he read all the words of the scroll of the Sacred Agreement that had been found there.  
  
3And as the king was standing next to one of the columns, he promised Jehovah that they’d all return to Him and obey His Commandments, proclamations, and Laws with their whole hearts and souls, and that they would reestablish His Sacred Agreement that was written about in the scroll.  
  
And thereafter, he made all the people who were there affirm that they also agreed with his promise.  
  
  
4Next, the king had the High Priest HelkiAh, as well as all the other lesser priests and those who guarded the doors, go into the Temple Sanctuary of Jehovah and drag out all the objects for BaAl worship, the things for the groves of sacred poles, and the objects of worship of the things in the skies.  
  
Then he burned it all outside of JeruSalem in the Cedar (Kidron) Valley, and he had the ashes carried off to BethEl.  
  
  
5Following that, he had all the idolatrous priests (those who had been appointed by the kings of Judah and who burned incense in the high places around the cities of Judah and JeruSalem, as well as those who burned incense to BaAl, or to the sun and the moon, or to the Zodiac and the mighty things in the sky) [killed and] incinerated!  
  
6And he had the carvings of the groves of sacred poles carted out of the Temple of Jehovah and out of JeruSalem to the Cedar (Kidron) Wadi, where he had them burned and ground into dust, which was thereafter scattered among the tombs in the graveyards.  
  
  
7Following that, he had the rooms in the Temple of Jehovah where male prostitutes were kept and where women wove robes for the worship of the sacred poles, demolished.  
  
  
8Then he brought back all the Priests from the cities of Judah (from GabaA all the way to BeerSheba), and they went up to the high places where [the people] had burned incense, and they desecrated [those places].  
  
He also demolished the high place that was located next to the entrance of the gate of JoShua (who was the city’s mayor), which was to the left of the city’s main gate.  
  
  
9Thereafter, [the king] forbade the Priests who had served at the high places to ever be allowed to approach the Altar of Jehovah in JeruSalem or to ever again share in eating the fermentation-free bread among their brothers!  
  
  
10Next he defiled Topheth, which is the place [of worship] in the valley of the sons of Hinnom where people took their sons and daughters to be burned in a fire before [the image of] Moloch.  
  
11And he incinerated the horses that the kings of Judah had offered to the sun, which were kept inside the compound near the entrance to Jehovah’s Temple, in the treasury room of Nathan MelEch.  
  
He also burned the Chariot of the Sun, 12the altars that were on the roof of the upper room of Ahaz (which had been built by the kings of Judah), and he demolished the altars that had been built for ManasSeh inside two of the Temple courtyards.  
  
Then he had the dust and ashes thrown into the Cedar (Kidron) Wadi!  
  
  
13The king also had the temple that stood in front of JeruSalem (on the right side of Mount MosOath) that King Solomon had built to Astarte (the disgusting thing of the Sidonians), to Chemosh (the disgusting thing of MoAb), and to Moloch (the disgusting thing of the sons of AmMon) desecrated.  
  
14He also broke up all the monuments and the groves of sacred poles, and he had the areas where they once stood covered with dead men’s bones.  
  
  
15After that, he went to the high altar in BethEl that [King] JeroBoam [I] (son of NaBat) built to lead IsraEl into sin, and he had it torn down, its stones crushed into fine dust, and its grove of sacred poles incinerated.  
  
  
16And when JosiAh noticed the tombs where the people of that city were buried, he had the bones taken from the tombs and burned on [JeroBoam’s] altar so as to defile it – just as the [prophecy] of Jehovah that the man of God spoke (on the holiday that JeroBoam had called for when he built the altar) was finally fulfilled!  
  
For back then, the man of God had looked towards this very graveyard and asked:  
  
 17‘What are these tall rocks that I see?’  
  
And when the men of the city [heard] the man of God (who had come from Judah) foretell that all these things would happen to the altar in BethEl, they said:  
  
 18‘Leave him alone, and may no man ever move his bones!’  
  
So his bones were thereafter placed with the bones of the prophets of Samaria.  
  
  
19Well after that, [the king] went throughout the cities of Samaria, and he had all the temples on the high places that the kings of IsraEl had built to provoke Jehovah to anger, torn down.  
  
JosiAh removed them all, along with all the things that were built for worship in BethEl.  
  
20And thereafter, he sacrificed all the priests of the high places on their own altars, and he incinerated their bones upon them!  
  
  
Then he went back to JeruSalem, 21and he told all the people that they would have to observe the Passover of their God Jehovah, just as it had been written about in the scroll of His Sacred Agreement... 22For the Passover really hadn’t been celebrated there since the time of the Judges, yes, not during the time of any of the previous kings of Judah!  
  
23So it was in the 18th year of King JosiAh’s reign that the Passover to Jehovah was once again celebrated in JeruSalem.  
  
24Then King JosiAh had all the witches, fortunetellers, objects for providing omens, idols, and all the other disgusting things and practices that were taking place in the land of Judah and JeruSalem removed, so that the words of the Law that was written in the scroll that HelkiAh the Priest had found in the Temple of Jehovah could be followed once again.  
  
  
25Never before had there been any king like him that had turned towards Jehovah and to the Law of Moses with so much of his whole heart, strength, and soul.  
  
And after him, no one like him ever arose again.  
  
26However, none of this turned Jehovah from His rage and great anger against Judah over the things that ManasSeh had done.  
  
27For Jehovah had said:  
  
 ‘I will indeed remove Judah from before My face the same as I removed IsraEl... I will throw this city of JeruSalem that I chose away, along with the Temple where I said that I’d put My Name.’  
  
  
28Well, the rest of the things that JosiAh said and did have been written about in the scrolls of The Days of the Kings of Judah.  
  
  
29However after that, PharaOh Necho [II] (the king of Egypt) attacked the king of Assyria at the EuPhrates River, and JosiAh joined in the war against [PharaOh].  
  
So when [PharaOh] Necho saw [King JosiAh] at MegidDo, he killed him... 30Then [the king’s] servants brought his dead body back from MegidDo to JeruSalem, and they buried him in his tomb in the city of David.  
  
Then the people of the land anointed JehoAhaz (JosiAh’s son), and he started reigning in place of his father.  
  
  
31JehoAhaz was 23 years old when he started his reign, and he only ruled in JeruSalem for three months! The name of his mother was AmiTal, and she was the daughter of JeremiAh of LobNa.  
  
32For thereafter, he followed in the paths of his ancestors and acted wickedly in the eyes of Jehovah. 33Then PharaOh Necho attacked him at DebLatha (in the land of HaMath) and removed him from [his throne] in JeruSalem, and he required the whole land to pay him a tribute of 4 tons (3,600kg) of silver and 4 tons (3,600kg) of gold.  
  
34Then he put EliAkim (another son of JosiAh) on [the throne] of Judah in place of his father, changing his name to JehoiAkim, and he had JehoAhaz carried off to Egypt, where he eventually died.  
  
35So thereafter, JehoiAkim had to tax all the people of the land (which was assessed by how much they each owned) so as to pay what the PharaOh had required, and he sent all the silver and gold to PharaOh Necho.  
  
  
36JehoiAkim was 25 years old when he started his reign, and he ruled from JeruSalem for 11 years. His mother’s name was JelDaph, and she was the daughter of PhadaEl of RoUma.  
  
37But he also acted wickedly in the eyes of Jehovah, and he did all the bad things that his ancestors had done.