

One Last Hurrah, One More Heartbreaker **II King 22, 23**

Reforms of a nation can't prevent its destruction. II Kgs. 22:1-23:27

- ◆ An explicit chronology for Josiah's actions are in II Chron. 33:1,3,8; also note there the Law is discovered after most of the reforms are done.
- ◆ Over a dozen reforms are enacted to eradicate pagan idolatry, but the ½ century of sins under Manasseh demands divine judgment (23:26,27) as the prophetic word (Huldah) confirms the written word's judgments.
- ◆ Only three kings had epitaph: "no king like him . . . nor did any like him arise after him"—Josiah in 23:25 (for turning to Lord and the Law), Hezekiah (for trusting God, 18:5), and Solomon (for wisdom, I Kgs. 3:12)

Righteousness of a king can't prevent his death. II Kgs. 23: 28:30

- ◆ Josiah decides to deter Neco's attempt to aid Assyria, as Babylon is about to take control of the Middle East. Why does he jump into this?
- ◆ Was Neco lying (as Rabshakeh in II Kgs. 18:25) or did God summon this non-Hebrew (as in Gen. 20:3, 41:21, Dan. 4:31,32) to war, which would then usher in the 1st of four kingdoms soon after spoken of in Dan. 2:37?
- ◆ Consider the rare war-time death of a godly king, plus note his disguise recalls Ahab, who ignored God's word and died similarly, I Kgs. 22:28-35.



What a heartbreak for this young godly king to die at 39. Jeremiah laments him in II Chron. 35:25. Things go to pot soon after he is gone!

Megiddo will again be the site for a Davidic King to engage armies in a bid for power, see Rev. 16:16.