

August 11, 2021

Josiah's Heritage

Up to this point our weekly meditations have focused on a particular passage of scripture. For this series of meditations, I would like to focus on a person, King Josiah. Our primary text will be **II Chronicles 34-35** along with the parallel passage of **II Kings 22-23:30**. Before we begin this week's thought, take some time to read these two passages of scripture to become familiar with King Josiah.

Josiah is often referred to as the "boy king," because he began to reign at the age of eight. He was one of several "boy kings." According to **II Kings 11:21-12:2**, how old was Jehoash when he began to reign? How long did he reign and was he a good king or an evil king? Jehoash is called Joash in the parallel passage of **II Chronicles 23-24**. In **II Chronicle 36:9**, how old was Jehoiachin when he began to reign and how long did he reign? Was he a good king or an evil king? Jehoash reigned before Josiah and Jehoiachin reigned after Josiah. Manasseh, who we will read about shortly, was another boy king, starting his reign at the age of twelve.

Before we look at the life of Josiah, let us consider his heritage or family history. Josiah was a king of Judah, a descendant of King David. His great-grandfather was King Hezekiah, a godly king under whom Judah experienced a spiritual revival. In **II Chronicles 29-31** Hezekiah cleansed the land and reinstated the Passover. It was a time of great spiritual prosperity. Then in **II Chronicles 32**, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, came to fight against Judah. Hezekiah turns to the Lord and God gives him a great victory over the Assyrians. **II Chronicles 32:24** then refers to events recorded in **II Kings 20**. Hezekiah is sick unto death and God sent word to Hezekiah through the prophet Isaiah, that he was going to die. Hezekiah humbles himself before the Lord and God extends his life and reign an additional fifteen years. Unfortunately, the extension of Hezekiah's life led to a season of pride, **II Chronicles 32:25**. Why is this important? According to **II Chronicles 33:1**, how old was Manasseh when he began to reign? Was he born before or after God extended Hezekiah's life? Hezekiah was twenty-five when he began to reign. His total reign was twenty-nine years. How old was Hezekiah when he died? Since his life had been extended fifteen years, how old was Hezekiah when the Lord healed him? How old was Hezekiah when Manasseh was born? It is likely that Hezekiah had other sons, but for some reason he chose Manasseh, a son who was born after he was healed of his sickness.

According to **II Chronicles 33:2**, was Manasseh a good king or evil king? According to **II Kings 21:16** and **II Kings 24:3-4**, what did Manasseh do that God would not pardon? Despite his wicked reign, how long did Manasseh reign? What happened to Manasseh in **II Chronicles 33:10-16**? Essentially, Manasseh's life can be divided into two parts. The first was characterized by his wickedness. The second followed a time of repentance and restoration. Amon, Manasseh's son was strongly influenced by his father during the first part of his reign, as a result **II Chronicles 33:22-23** reveal that he was a wicked king who only reigned for two years. Manasseh was forty-one when Amon was born and fifty-seven when his grandson Josiah was born. It is likely that after Manasseh's repentance, it was too late to influence his son for good, but he was able to influence his grandson, Josiah. We must be careful never to

underestimate the influence of a parent or grandparent on the life of a child, whether it be for good or evil. Who are or were some of the greatest influences in your life for good or for evil? What can you do to show your appreciation to those who had a positive influence in your life? As a parent or grandparent, what kind of influence are you having on your descendants?