

**August 18, 2021**

## **Josiah's Reign**

Josiah came to the throne of Judah at the tender age of eight. **II Chronicles 34:1-7** chronicle the first eighteen years of his reign, from age eight through age twenty-six. Verse 2 is a descriptive summary of his early reign. Notice three things in this verse of Scripture.

First, Josiah “did that which was right in the sight of the Lord.” Josiah’s primary concern was obeying the Lord. Verse 3 tells us that Josiah “began to seek after the God of David” in the eighth year of his reign or at the age of sixteen. Four years later he begins to purge Judah and Jerusalem. One might ask, “What did Josiah do for the first eight years of his reign?” What do most boys between the ages of eight and sixteen do? He went to school. He was instructed in the ways of the Lord. Although the Bible doesn’t specifically state anyone by name, there is no doubt that Josiah had godly teachers instructing and influencing his life. In **II Kings 11:21** and **II Kings 12:2**, how old was Jehoash when he began to reign? Who influenced and instructed him that he might do right in the sight of the Lord? According to **II Chronicles 34:9**, who was priest during Josiah’s reign? Most likely he had a strong influence in the early years of Josiah’s life.

Second, Josiah “walked in the ways of David his father.” David wasn’t literally Josiah’s father. Amon was his father. The phrase “David his father” simply means he was of the house and lineage of David. He was a direct descendant of David. According to **Matthew 1:1**, who else was a “son of David?” Read down through the list of the names in Matthew 1 and see if you can find Josiah’s name. Who is the last man listed in this genealogical list? According to **Luke 2:4**, why did Joseph travel to Bethlehem as opposed to some other city? Every king of Judah is identified as good or evil based upon whether or not he walked in the ways of David his father or not. Keep in mind that the northern kingdom of Israel was not ruled by the offspring of David. All the northern kings were wicked and ungodly kings. Not one of them could claim affiliation to David’s godly heritage. In the Davidic covenant, God promised David that his seed would sit upon the throne forever (**II Samuel 7:8-17, Psalm 132:11**). This promise is ultimately fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and His throne is eternal.

The Scripture says he “walked in the ways of David his father.” What does it mean to walk in the way? Essentially, he followed the pattern of David’s life. The Bible says David was a man after God’s own heart. According to **Acts 13:22**, what does that mean? At what age should a person begin to do the will of God? **Ephesians 6:1-3** indicates it begins at a very young age. Consider **II Timothy 3:14-15**. The word child in verse 15 means a babe. You are never too young to consider and obey the Word and Will of God.

Third, Josiah turned not “to the right hand, nor to the left.” The Hebrew word translated decline means to turn off (the path) or to depart. Josiah had a single focus. He was not distracted by worldly things. What are some things that distract people today and keep them from following wholly after the Lord? It is a known fact that we follow after things we see. When I am driving down the road, I must be careful not to look around, but to keep my focus on

the road ahead. If I don't, I will quickly drift out of my lane in the direction I am looking. The same is true of a person walking or riding a bike. How does this principle apply to us spiritually? What things in your life have a tendency to become a distraction or to get you off course? What can you do to keep yourself "in the way?"