

Lesson 13: King Josiah to the End of the Kings

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study **2 Kings 22-23**– Good King Josiah in the southern kingdom of Judah
- 2) Learn of Judah’s captivity because they never wholeheartedly turned from their sins and see the end of the time of the kings.

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Lesson Review Visual Aids – one for teacher from lesson 4
- Overview of Old Testament – one for teacher from previous lessons
- Josiah Visual Aids – one for teacher to show to class
- King Josiah Activity Sheets – one set per student printed back to back
- Map of Captivities – one for teacher to show
- Matching Game – printed on cardstock or construction paper so students can’t see through paper to read names - one for every two students cut out before class
- Scissors – to cut out matching game

Optional:

- King Josiah Visual Aid – one for teacher to show to class

Snack:

- 12 Small Pieces of Fruit (to represent divided kingdom) 12 for each student
- Napkins one per student
- Water/Cup one per student

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied).

*Have Bibles for those who need them and Lesson Review Visual Aid Sheet to show students.

Show the lesson review visual aid sheet.

Can anyone remember what we have studied so far? Look at each picture name what happened and what we learned from that lesson.

Lesson 1: Israelites wanted a king and rejected God – we learned we should be content

Lesson 2: Saul is anointed – we learned that we need to watch how people try to influence us and to be a positive influence on others.



Lesson 3: Saul is rejected by God for being disobedient. – we studied that Saul disobeyed God’s commands and was punished for his actions. We learned that we need to obey God to please Him.

Lesson 4: David is anointed and chosen by God. – we learned that it is not what you look like that matters but it is what your heart is like that does. David was a man after God’s own heart.

Lesson 5: God, through David, conquers Goliath. David stood up for God and we learned so should we. We don’t fight physically but we use the sword of the Spirit – the Word of God. We learned we can stand up for God when we trust in Him and study His Word so we can use it effectively to cut down the arguments of others.

Lesson 6: Saul seeks David’s life. God rescues David from Saul numerous times and we learned that we can and should trust in God to take care of us even in troubled times.

Lesson 7: Saul died for his disobedience and David becomes king. We learned that God will punish the guilty and exalt the humble. We need to be humble and obedient like David.

Lesson 8: David was kind to Mephibosheth – Jonathan’s son. We learned we need to be kind by doing loving acts for others, regardless if they are our enemies.

Lesson 9: David plans and Solomon builds the temple for the Lord. We learned that we need to dedicate our time and effort to God and that today, Christians are the temple of the Lord.

Lesson 10: God blessed Solomon with wisdom. We learned that we need to pray for and gain Godly wisdom through studying God’s Word.

Lesson 11: Solomon turns from God and so does his descendants and because of that sin the kingdom was divided with Rehoboam in the south and Jeroboam in the north. We learned that sin divides!

Lesson 12: The northern tribes were taken as captives because they would not turn back to God. Hezekiah the king in the south helps the people of Judah return to God but later in his life becomes selfish and prideful. God, through Isaiah, prophesies that Judah will be taken captive as well.

2) Old Testament Overview

2 minutes

Show students the sheet. (No need to read it)

Ask students: **Which books of the Old Testament have we have studied so far?** (Genesis up until 2 Kings and some of Chronicles as well).

Say: **You have studied so much of the Bible already! Look how many books we have been learning from. God is pleased when we study His Word. Today we will finish 2 Kings as well as the similar books in 1 and 2 Chronicles. Next quarter we will begin to look at the prophets of the Old Testament as we begin the time of the prophets.**

Overview of the Old Testament up to the Time of Kings	
The Law (The first five books of the Bible tell the beginning of the Jewish (Israelite) nation and the beginning of Creation of all nations.)	
Genesis:	This book describes Creation, the first rebellion against God, and God's choosing of Abraham and his family as God's people - the Israelites.
Exodus:	God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and led them to the wilderness of Sinai. There the great Moses the law to govern the new nation.
Leviticus:	God set up laws for the Israelites. Many of the laws were about being holy and worshipping God.
Numbers:	Because of their rebellion and disobedience, the Israelites had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years before entering the promised land.
Deuteronomy:	Just before his death, Moses made three emotional farewell speeches, reminding the nation of the promises and warning them about disobedience.
Books of History: The next twelve books continue the history of the Israelites. They record the life of Moses and established a kingdom that lasted almost 500 years.	
Judges:	After Moses' death, Joshua commanded the armies that conquered much of the territory in the promised land of Canaan.
Judges:	The new nation had a series of failures. God established leaders called "judges" to help rule the people and bring them back to God.
Ruth:	The story of love and loyalty between two widows almost not brought to an otherwise dark period of the time of judges.
1 Samuel:	David became a leader between the time of the judges and the time of the kings. He opposed Israel's first king - Saul, after his own father, had tried to prevent God's next king, David, from taking the throne.
2 Samuel:	David - a man after God's own heart, brought the nation together. But after committing adultery and murder, he suffered terrible and national failures.
1 Kings:	Jeroboam became the next king. At his death, a civil war tore apart the nation. Later kings were mostly evil. The prophet Elijah had dramatic

3) King Josiah's Reign and Activity Sheets

30-35 minutes

*Show visual aid pictures while you read from the Bible.

Have students turn to **1 Kings 13** while you introduce today’s king – King Josiah.

Do you remember that after King Solomon the kingdom was divided and that Solomon’s servant Jeroboam became the king of the 10 northern tribes? We are going to go back and read what God said was going to happen to the false gods that Jeroboam had sinfully set up. This prophecy included the king we will be discussing today – King Josiah.

Read **1 Kings 13:1-10**

What did God say would happen to the altar Jeroboam had set up? King Josiah would burn the dead bodies of the false priests who were participating in the false worship on the altar were Jeroboam was.

What happened to Jeroboam when he tried to arrest the prophet? His hand withered.

Who did he go to for help – his false gods or the true God? Our true God.

What does that say about his trust in his false gods? He knew they wouldn't or couldn't help. He knew they were fake and useless.

Now in the last few weeks we studied that after Jeroboam and Rehoboam there were other kings including King Hezekiah. After King Hezekiah, the temple walls in Jerusalem were destroyed and the treasures in the temple were taken away. Let's read how that happened in 2 Kings 14:8-14.

Read **2 Kings 14:8-14** and show map of Judah and Israel to help students remember where each of the kingdoms were located.



We read that King Amaziah from Judah (the southern tribe) arrogantly went to fight against King Jehoash from Israel and was beaten. After winning, King Jehoash went to Jerusalem, tore down the temple walls and took all the gold, silver and articles from the temple. This is important for us to know as we begin to discuss King Josiah.

King Josiah who became a king at age 8! Remember king Hezekiah from last time? He had an evil son Manasseh who was the worst, most evil king Judah ever had! After Manasseh his son Ammon ruled for a very short time. Then Josiah, whom we are learning about today, became king and was considered one of the best kings of Judah.

Now that we have looked at the background of Josiah and the Israelite people. Let's see what we can learn about Josiah and the kingdom of Judah.

Turn to and read **2 Kings 22:1-2**

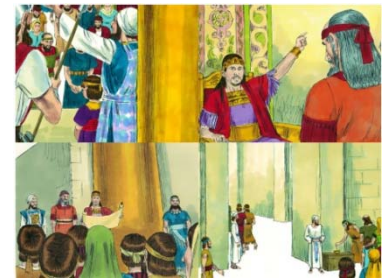
How old was Josiah when he became king? 8 years old! Josiah became king at age 8. At age 26 he completed the greatest reformation in history.

Can you imagine being a king at the age of 8? Let students answer.

In 2 Chronicles 34:1-3 it says that even at age 8, Josiah followed God just like King David had done.

So how was Josiah able to handle ruling a kingdom at age 8? He followed God!

Imagine what great things you can do when you follow God, just like Josiah!



Read **2 Kings 22:3-5**

Remember I said that the temple was damaged and the treasures taken during the time of King Amaziah? Josiah was starting to repair the temple from the damage caused years ago from the two kingdoms fighting.

Read **2 Kings 22:8-11,13-20**

What did Hilkiyah the High Priest find while cleaning and repairing the temple? The book of the Law (Part of the Old Testament Bible!)

What did King Josiah do when he found out what it said? He tore his robes and inquired of God

What was God's response? He confirmed he would remove Judah but not during Josiah's time because he wept and humbled himself when he found out.

Hand out the activity sheet to each student. Let them do the first two activities – the maze and finding the objects. Then continue with the rest of the story about King Josiah.



Read **2 Kings 23:1-4, 12-30**

During the repair of the temple, the book of the law was found and read before Josiah. Josiah tore his robes in distress because the book warned of the terrible punishments for forsaking the Lord and Josiah knew that his father and grandfather had done that.

What did Josiah do after he found out? Josiah tore down the worship centers that were not authorized by God. Remember that King Hezekiah had closed down some of the illegal worship places, but Josiah tore down even more.

Josiah destroyed what was left of the altar at Bethel, where Jeroboam made the golden calf (2 Kings 23:15-18). This was almost exactly 300 years after the man of God from Judah had foretold that a king named Josiah would be born and come to burn the bones of the priests upon Josiah's altar to defile it (2 Kings 13:1-3). God's Words are always right and come true!

During Josiah's reign, Israel observed the greatest Passover since the Exodus.

What were some of the good things king Josiah did? Followed God, removed false worship, fulfilled prophecy, brought Judah back to worshipping God including partaking of the Passover, repaired God's temple, remained faithful even at a very young age, etc.

What can we learn from king Josiah? We can follow God and do great things even at a young age. When we learn of sin in our lives, we should be sad and change our ways and turn to God. We should be busy doing the work of the Lord like Josiah did – repairing God's temple, preparing for the Passover, ensuring the law was read and followed, destroying false worship, etc. Now today we might not need to repair a temple, but we can serve God by putting song books away, helping whenever something for the church needs to be done, talking to others in the church to encourage them, tell others about Jesus, obeying God and our parents, reading the Bible, praying and worshipping God acceptably – just like king Josiah did! If you did all those wonderful things imagine what God would bless you with?

Later we see that King Josiah was killed when he, without God's approval, went up to fight against the king of Egypt.

Next quarter we are going to talk about the prophets – they were the people that spoke the words of the Lord and warned and predicted of the things to come. During the time of Josiah there were 4 prophets – Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk and Jeremiah.

Have students finish their activity sheets. Ask students if they have any questions while they work.

4) Consequences of Sin – End of the Time of the Kings

5 minutes

*Have map ready to show students

Do you remember the story of the good Samaritan in the New Testament? Can anyone raise their hand and tell me what the story is about? The story is about the man who helped another man who had been robbed and beaten when no one else would help. **Samaritans are what became of the 10 northern tribes that used to be called Israel in the divided kingdom. After they were taken captive, some stayed in the area and intermarried with the Assyrian people who took over. The rest were taken away into other areas and remained there. So when we hear of the Samaritans they were the remnant (meaning the small number of people who remained), that were left from**



the 10 tribes, but who intermarried with other cultures and so were never really considered “pure/true Israelites” by the Jews ever again. That is why we see in the New Testament they were called the Samaritans and not Jews.

Now let’s see what happened after king Josiah.

Read **2 Kings 21:12-15** and **24:2-4**

What did God say would happen to Judah? Judah would be wiped out because of all their sins.

After Josiah, there were only 4 kings after him who ruled each for a very short time (22 years in total) until Judah was taken captive by the Babylonians in 586 BC. That was the end of Judah and the time of the kings. From then on Israel was ruled by governors or other nations. Show map of where Israel was taken and where Judah would be taken into captivity.

5) Matching Game – The Time of the Kings

10 minutes

Hand out one set of cards to every two students, either let them pick who they want to pair up with or you decide.

Have students shuffle and place cards face down and play a game. Each student gets a turn to flip over two cards, if the two cards match, the student keeps the cards, if they don’t match, the student has to flip the cards back over. Then the other student gets a turn. Continue playing until all the cards have been matched.

United Kingdom	Divided Kingdom
Israel	Judah
Solomon	David

Once they have played a game, try to sort the cards putting the right kings and names under the correct kingdom. For example:

What king belonged under which kingdom?

What kings belonged under the United Kingdom? The Divided Kingdom?

What were the names given to the Divided Kingdoms? (Judah and Israel)

What king belonged to which part of the divided kingdom?

If time, they can play the matching game again.

6) Learning from the Time of the Kings

5 minutes

Say: **What did we learn today?** Let students answer. Discuss importance of obedience, doing right even at a young age, and the importance of removing sin because of its far reaching affects.

Who are the kings we have studied specifically? Saul, David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Jeroboam, Hezekiah, and Josiah.

What was Solomon’s sins? Accumulated wealth, horses/chariots, and wives.

What was Rehoboam (Solomon’s son’s sins)? Not heeding wise advice and being mean to his people instead of being willing to serve them. Allowing the people to worship false gods.

What was Jeroboam’s sin? Turned the people away and disobeyed God by being unfaithful and building false idols - the golden calves to keep the people from wanting to worship God at the temple.

What did King Hezekiah do? Followed God but then became prideful and selfish.

What did King Josiah do? Followed God all through his life as well as:

- 1) Was predicted as the king who would tear down the false altars of the northern kingdom
- 2) Repaired the temple
- 3) During his reign the Book of the Law was found
- 4) Got rid of idolatry and brought back true religion
- 5) Defiled and destroyed the altar at Bethel (the one that Jeroboam set up with the false golden calf)
- 6) Killed at Megiddo by the king of Egypt – Pharaoh Neco

The United Kingdom had lasted 120 years: Saul 40 years, David 40 years, and Solomon 40 years. After the death of Solomon, the kingdom divided with the Northern Kingdom (Israel) lasting a little over 200 years before being destroyed by the Assyrians in 721 BC. The Southern Kingdom (Judah) lasted a little over 300 years before being destroyed by Babylon about 586 BC. Both because they disobeyed God and the nation did not remain faithful to Him. In Judah there were a few good kings occasionally but overall, both the North and South turned from God which led them to punishment for their sins.

Optional questions to ask:

What did you like best about today's Bible reading?

What questions do you have about today's lesson?

I encourage you to read 2 Kings 21 - 25 at home this week which will conclude the book.

7) Optional: Memory Verse

2-5 minutes

For this quarter, each week have the students go to **Psalm 47:7** in their Bibles and read the verse allowed as a class 2 times. Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: "For God is the King of all the earth" a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Point up when you say "GOD", pretend to put a crown on your head as you say "KING", make a circle shape with hands as you all say "EARTH", etc. and then go through verse as a class with gestures.

Psalm 47:7 says:

For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

8) Optional – Snack: 12 Small Pieces of Fruit (to represent divided kingdom) 5 minutes

Hand out a few pieces to each student, ensuring you check for allergies first. Say, **this snack is to remind us that because Solomon and his descendants did not follow God, the kingdom was divided. How was the kingdom divided? Raise your hand if you remember?** 10 tribes became the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and 2 tribes (Judah and Benjamin) became the Southern Kingdom (Judah). **Count out and separate your fruit into the different tribes before snacking to remind you of how the kingdom was divided because of sin and how that reminds us of how sin divides people from God, their family, and others today.**

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands if needed. Review with students by asking them questions from the lesson again and discuss any questions they have while snacking. What did they like best about today's Bible reading? What questions do they have about today's lesson?

9) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Thank You Lord for all You provide us. God, help us to trust You as You rule over us. Help us to totally obey You and walk in Your ways. Forgive us when we sin and help us to remain faithful to You so we do not divide our families, others and our relationship with You because of our sins. Help us to take the time to devote and dedicate our lives to You for You are worthy, good, awesome and loving towards us. Give us wisdom Lord so we can serve others and You just like King Josiah did, even now at our young age. In Jesus' name, amen.