



“REVIVING DISCOVERY”


2 Kings 21:1, 2<sup>NKJV</sup> 

“Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. ..And he did evil in the sight of the LORD”

2 Kings 21:19, 20<sup>NKJV</sup> 

“Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. ...And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done.”

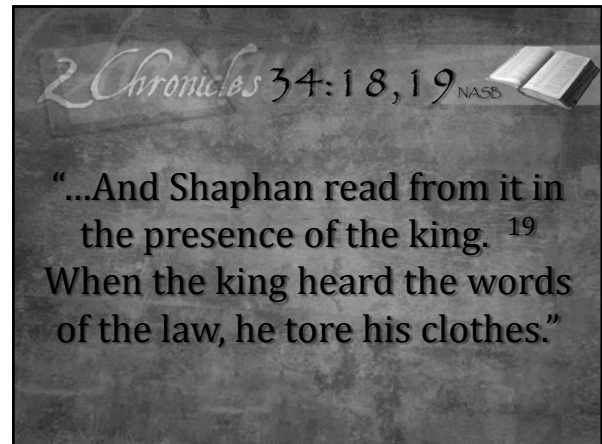
- What did they do that was so wrong?
- Manasseh rebuilt the high places of pagan worship (2 Kings 21:3)
  - He built altars to the host of heaven in the courts of the temple (21:4)
  - He caused his sons to pass through the fire (21:6)
  - He practiced soothsaying (*Ibid.*)
  - He used witchcraft (*Ibid.*)
  - He consulted spiritists and mediums (*Ibid.*)
  - Amon came along and followed his dad's footsteps.

2 Chronicles 34:1, 2<sup>NKJV</sup> 

“Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> And he did *what was right* in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of his father David; *he did not* turn aside to the right hand or to the left.”

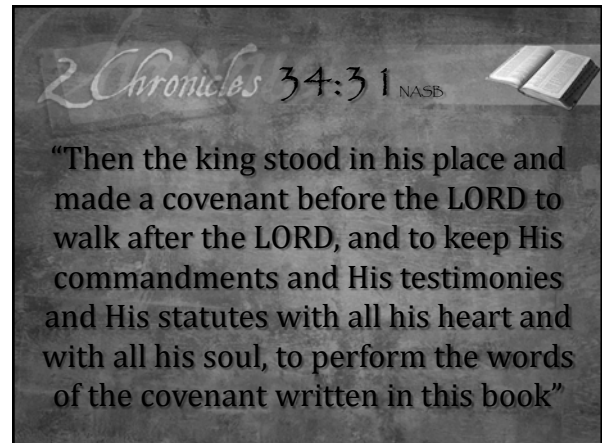
#### What did he do that was so right?

- In the 8<sup>th</sup> year of his reign he began to seek the God of his father David (2 Chronicles 34:2).
- In the 12<sup>th</sup> year he began to purge the idolatry of the kingdom (34:3-7)
  - ❖ They tore down the high places
  - ❖ Smashed the molded, wooden, and carved images
  - ❖ They broke down the altars to Baal
  - ❖ He burned the bones of the false priests
  - ❖ He purged the land and the temple of all that defiled
- In his 18<sup>th</sup> year he sought to restore the temple (34:8)
- When the money was delivered, Hilkiah sent back the book of the Law that had been found in the run-down temple.



#### Why did the king tear his clothes?

- When the Law of God was read to him he realized just how wicked the people had become under the previous leaders.
- He realized that every day of their lives was an affront to God.
- He said, "...great is the wrath of the LORD which is poured out on us because our fathers have not observed the word of the LORD, to do according to all that is written in this book."—2 Chronicles 34:21
- Notice that his discovery is one that led to revival on an even higher level.




#### So what does Josiah's story mean for us today?

- Many of us have followed the Lord much of our lives.
- Some of us have come to Him later in life.
- When we came to the Lord there was more than likely that first-love experience that drew us close to the Lord.
- But perhaps over time we have allowed our love to grow cold.
- Perhaps we have allowed our zeal for the Lord to wane.
- Maybe the we too have allowed the book of the Law to become hidden from our eyes.
- I think it's time that we rediscover the first-love that we had for Christ. You and I need a "Reviving Discovery".

#### How does this "Reviving Discovery" occur?


- We have to get back to the basics of our Christian walk.
  - ❖ First we have to evaluate our lives and ask ourselves, "Am I walking with Christ according to His Word?"
  - ❖ The apostle Paul told us...

*2 Corinthians 13:5* NKJV 


**“Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? -- unless indeed you are disqualified.”**

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  - ❖ The apostle Paul told us...
  - ❖ If we are not willing to make that examination we may never realize how from grace we might have fallen.
- How do we work through this process of examination?
  - ❖ Jesus give us the answer in Revelation.

*Revelation 2:2* NKJV 

**“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;”**

*Revelation 2:3* NKJV 


**“and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary”**

*Revelation 2:4* NKJV 

**“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”**

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- We have to get back to the basics of our Christian walk.
  - ❖ First we have to evaluate our lives and ask ourselves, “Am I walking with Christ according to His Word?”
  - ❖ The apostle Paul told us...
  - ❖ If we are not willing to make that examination we may never realize how from grace we might have fallen.
- How do we work through this process of examination?
  - ❖ Jesus give us the answer in Revelation.
  - ❖ Jesus says that even though we do all the right things it does mean that we are saved.
  - ❖ We are not and cannot be saved unless we come back to our first love. How do we come back or renew our commitment?

*Revelation 2:5* NKJV 


**“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.”**

**Steps to Revival**

1. Remember where we have fallen.
  - You and I have to travel back in our minds and recall when we left the side of God.
  - We have to seek the face of God while He may be found (Isa 55:6).
  - We must realize that cold formalism or legalism is not the same as a relationship with God.
  - A relationship is born out of spending time with someone. This is also true with Christ.
2. Repent of our sins
  - We must confess our sins to God
  - We must confess our sins to those we have wronged
  - Once we have repented do not go back to those sins

*Hebrews 4:15* NKJV 

**“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”**

*Revelation 2:7* NKJV 

**“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”**