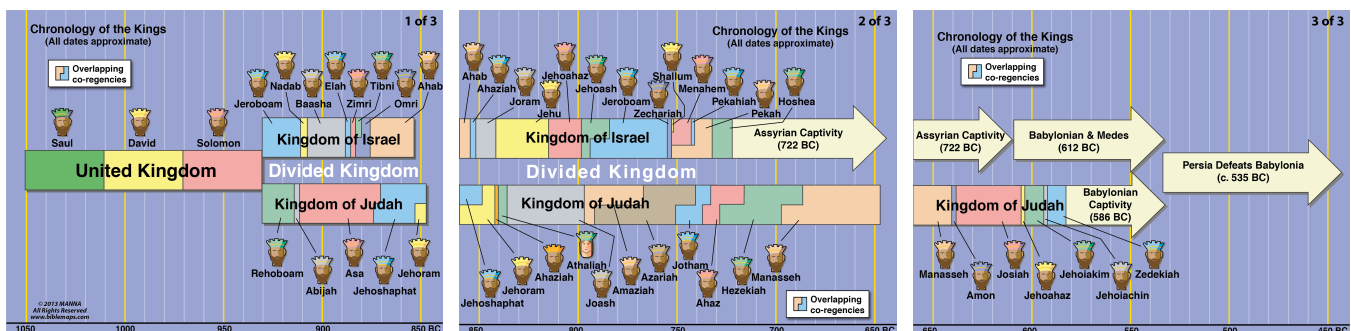


After the northern kingdom of Israel was defeated and carried away into Assyrian captivity, the southern kingdom of Judah continued for another 136 years and a man named _____ reigned for many of those years.

And he did what was _____ in the sight of the LORD, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove _____ before the people of Israel. For he rebuilt the high places that Hezekiah his father had destroyed, and he erected _____ for Baal and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. And he built altars in the _____ of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem will I put my name." And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. And he burned his _____ as an offering and used fortune-telling and omens and dealt with mediums and with necromancers. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to _____. And the carved image of Asherah that he had made he set in the house of which the LORD said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name forever." (2 Kings 21:2-7)

In response? The LORD said by his servants the prophets that he was going to "_____ Jerusalem as one wipes a dish" (21:10-14).

- ★ What do you think? Why would a king in Judah live like this when he knew what had happened to the kingdom of Israel?



After Manasseh, his son _____ reigned for just two years. He walked in wickedness like his father and his own servants conspired against him and put him to death in his house (21:19-26). After Amon, _____ his son began to reign at just eight years old (22:1), but Josiah had a different sort of heart than his father and grandfather (22:2). When he was twenty-six, he launched a major repair project on the temple. During that project, the Book of the Law was found and read to Josiah. When he heard it read, he tore his clothes and immediately knew what must be done.

"Go, _____ of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For _____ is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is _____ concerning us." (22:13)

- ✿ Think about Josiah's reaction. How was it very different from the reactions of Jeroboam (1 Kings 13:4), Ahab (18:17), and other kings that we've noticed throughout this study when they were confronted with hard truths? What should we learn from that?

- ✿ Take a look at 2 Kings 23. What differences did Josiah try to make throughout his kingdom?

- ✿ There are at least two major life-lessons that we can learn from this chapter in Judah's history.

🗣️ We noticed many very good things about Hezekiah in 2 Kings 18-20. And yet, he had a son like Manasseh (2 Kings 21). And yet, after Manasseh and Amon came Josiah. What do you think we can learn from that?

🗣️ We've heard many very good things about Josiah in 2 Kings 22-23. And yet, the wrath of the LORD was rising (2 Chron 36:16; 2 Kings 22:14-20; 23:26-27). What do you think we can learn from that?

- ✿ What have you seen and heard in 2 Kings 21-23 that makes you appreciate Jesus our King even more?