**Aflame Sunday Celebration Message – 18 March 2018**

**Minister : Pastor Jimmy S Goh**

**Theme : To Freely Receive, To Freely Give – To ENGAGE & BEAR FRUITS (8)**

# “Freely you have Received, Freely Give”- To Desire *Receiving Spiritually*, so as to *Give Spiritually*.

**~ We are to Be *SeedFull* to Be *FruitFull*, we are to Engage the Communities *Obedientwise* to GOD.**

**We learnt in OT Kings, that Saul was appointed as 1st King of Israel, then GOD Rejected him.**

**~ Kingship was not GOD’s Perfect Will, but GOD’s *Permissive Will*, as Israelites asked for It.**

**1 Samuel 8: 5 – 8, 22 (NLT)**

"Look, you have grown old, and *your sons do not walk in your ways*. Now ***appoint us***

***a king to judge us*** [*and rule over us*] like all the other nations." But their demand displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge and rule over us." So Samuel *prayed to the* LORD.

The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you,

for they have not rejected you, but ***they have rejected*** **ME** from being King over them. Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day –

in that they *have abandoned* (rejected) ME and *served other god* - so they are doing to you also.

And the LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to their request and ***appoint a king for them*.**"

So Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Go, each man to his own city."

**So Saul was chosen from the Least, to lead Israel, then Rejected being *Foolish* & *Rebellious.***

**1 Samuel 13: 13 – 14 (AMP)**Samuel said to Saul, "You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the LORD
your GOD, which HE commanded you, for [*if you had obeyed*] the LORD would have *established your kingdom over Israel forever*. But now *your kingdom shall not endure*. The LORD has sought out for HIMself *a man* (David) after HIS Own Heart, and the LORD has appointed him as leader and ruler
over HIS people, because *you have not kept* (obeyed) what the LORD commanded you."
**1 Samuel 15: 10 – 11 (NLT)**Then the LORD said to Samuel, “I am sorry that I *ever made Saul king*, for he has not been loyal to ME and has ***refused to*** ***obey*** MY *Command*.” Samuel was so deeply moved when he heard this that
he cried out to the LORD all night.

**1 Samuel 15: 23**

“For *Rebellion* *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and *Stubbornness* *is as* *Iniquity* and *Idolatry.*

Because you have rejected the Word of the LORD, HE also has rejected you from *being* king."

**Idolatry is the *Cause* of Disobedience to the Word of GOD, as Iniquity is the *Root* to Rebel.**

**~ 1 Samuel 15: 22 (NLT)**

 “What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your
 obedience to HIS Voice ? Listen ! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and
 submission is better than offering the fat of rams.”

**Idolatry causes Adultery with the World, as Iniquity causes *Craving Lusts to Dominate* flesh.**

**- 1 John 2: 16 – 17 (NLT)**

**Obedience is the Key to be *Holy in Conduct*, which will be What Pleases the LORD our GOD.**

**1 Peter 1: 14 – 16**

As obedient children, *not conforming yourselves to the former lusts*, *as in* your ignorance;

but as HE Who called you is Holy, you also be Holy in *all your conduct*, because it is written,

"BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

**As GOD’s People in CHRIST, Washed by HIS Blood to be HIS Own *Special Holy Possession*.**

**Revelations 1: 5 – 6**

And from JESUS CHRIST, the Faithful Witness, the Firstborn from the dead, and the Ruler
over the kings of the earth. To HIM Who *loved us and washed us* from our sins in HIS Own Blood,
and *has made us* ***Kings and Priests*** to HIS GOD and FATHER, to HIM be Glory and Dominion

forever and ever. Amen.

**~ 1 Peter 2: 9 – 10**

 But you are a chosen generation, a *Royal Priesthood*, a *Holy Nation*, HIS Own special people,

 that you may proclaim the Praises of HIM Who *called you out* of darkness *into* HIS Marvelous

 Light; who once *were* not a people but are now the people of GOD, who had not obtained Mercy

 but now have obtained Mercy.

**As CHRIST’ Chosen People Made *Kings & Priests* for GOD’s Kingdom is our *Spiritual Calling*.
~ In the Jewish Kingdom, *Call Capacity* were either Kings or Priests to worship & serve GOD.**

**Drawing the Line in our Daily *Living & Walking* about this World, as the Kingdom is Within us.**

**- Romans 12: 1 – 2a (MSG)**

**World’s Culture in *Hypocrisy of Lies* is of *Spiritual Source* of the Devil, Deceitful & Seductive.**

**1 Timothy 4: 1 – 2 (AMP)**

But the [Holy] SPIRIT explicitly and unmistakably declares that in later times some will turn *away*

*from the faith*, paying attention instead to ***deceitful*and *seductive spirits*** *and* ***doctrines* *of demons***,

[misled] by the ***hypocrisy of liars*** whose consciences are seared as with a branding iron

[leaving them incapable of ethical functioning].

**More Crtitical Lessons of the Jewish Kings’ Down-lines – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.**

**Uzziah - Very Successful King, in Battles, Building Fortification, Organiser of his Army.**

**2 Chronicles 26: 3a, 4 – 9 (NLT)**

Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem *fifty-two years*.

He did what was pleasing in the LORD’s Sight, just as his father, Amaziah, had done.

Uzziah sought GOD during the days of Zechariah, who taught him to fear GOD. *And as long as*

*the king sought guidance from the LORD, GOD gave him* ***Success*.**

Uzziah declared war on the Philistines and broke down the walls of Gath, Jabneh, and Ashdod.

Then he built new towns in the Ashdod area and in other parts of Philistia.

GOD helped him in his wars against the Philistines, his battles with the Arabs of Gur, and his wars with the Meunites. The Meunites paid annual tribute to him, and his fame spread even to Egypt,

for *he had become* *very powerful*. Uzziah *built fortified towers* in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate,

at the Valley Gate, and at the angle in the wall.

**Uzziah built up Well Trained Army, Organised them under Leadership with 2,600 Clan Leaders**

**Ref - 2 Chronicles 26: 11 – 14 (NLT).**

**Uzziah’s Issue of Pride when was Successful & Powerful, Disobedience to the LORD’s Rules.**

**2 Chronicles 26: 16 – 21a (NLT)**

But when he had become powerful, he also became proud, which led to his downfall.

He sinned against the LORD his GOD by *entering the Sanctuary* of the LORD’s Temple and

personally burning incense on the incense altar. Azariah the high priest went in after him with

eighty otherpriests of the LORD, all brave men. They confronted King Uzziah and said, “It is ***Not for you,***

Uzziah, *to burn incense to the LORD*. That is the work of the priests alone, the descendants of Aaron who are ***Set Apart for this work*.** Get out of the Sanctuary, for you have sinned. The LORD GOD

will not honor you for this !” Uzziah, who was holding an incense burner, *became furious*.

But as he was standing there *Raging at the priests* before the Incense Altar in the LORD’s Temple, *leprosy suddenly broke out on his forehead*. When Azariah the High Priest and all the other priests

*saw the leprosy, they rushed him out*. And the king himself was eager to get out because

the LORD had struck him. So King Uzziah *had leprosy until the day he died*.

**Jotham was a Good King, despite his Father’s Success brought Downfall with Pride not dealt.**

**2 Chronicles 27: 2 – 6 (NLT)**

Jotham did what was pleasing in the LORD’s Sight. He did everything his father, Uzziah, had done, except that Jotham *did not sin* by entering the Temple of the LORD. But the people

continued in their corrupt ways. Jotham rebuilt the upper gate of the Temple of the LORD.

He also did *extensive rebuilding* on the wall at the hill of Ophel. He built towns in the hill country of Judah and constructed fortresses and towers in the wooded areas. Jotham went to war against the Ammonites and conquered them. Over the next three years he received from them an annual tribute of 7,500 pounds of silver, 50,000 bushels of wheat, and 50,000 bushels of barley.

King Jotham *became powerful because he was careful to live in Obedience to* the LORD his GOD.

**Kings - Few Good Kings, Many Bad Kings, But an Ugly King, Before Some Very Good Kings.**

**King Ahaz, Unfaithfulness at End, to Seek Enemy’s help, Worst was he Closed the Temple.**

**2 Chronicles 28: 16, 19 – 25 (NLT)**

At that time King Ahaz of Judah ***asked the king of Assyria for help***. The armies of Edom

had again invaded Judah and *taken captives*.

The LORD was humbling Judah because of King Ahaz of Judah, for he *had encouraged* *his people to sin and had been Utterly Unfaithful to* the LORD. So when King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria arrived,

he attacked Ahaz instead of helping him. Ahaz took valuable items from the LORD’s Temple,

the royal palace, and from the homes of his officials and *gave them* to the king of Assyria *as Tribute*.

But this *did not help him*.

Even during *this time of trouble*, King Ahaz *continued to Reject* the LORD. He *offered sacrifices to the gods of* Damascus who had defeated him, for he said, “Since these gods helped the kings of Aram,

they will help me, too, if I sacrifice to them.” But instead, *they led to his ruin and the ruin of all Judah*. The king *took the various articles from* the Temple of GOD and *broke them into pieces*.

He ***shut the Doors*** of the LORD’s Temple ***so that no one could worship there***, and he set up altars to pagan gods in every corner of Jerusalem. He made pagan shrines in all the towns of Judah for offering sacrifices to other gods. In this way, *he aroused* the Anger of the LORD, the GOD of his ancestors.

**King Hezekiah, the Son of the Ugly King Ahaz, was A Good King - *Not Effected* by *Bad Daddy*.**

**2 Chronicles 29: 1 – 5, 10 – 11 (NLT)**

Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became the king of Judah, and he reigned in Jerusalem *twenty-nine years*. His mother was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah. He did

***What was*** ***Pleasing in*** the LORD’s Sight, just as his ancestor David had done.

In the very first month of the first year of his reign, Hezekiah ***Reopened the doors of*** *the* Temple

of the LORD and ***Repaired*** *them*. He summoned the priests and Levites to meet him at the courtyard east of the Temple. He said to them, “Listen to me, you Levites !

***Purify yourselves***, and ***Purify the Temple*** of the LORD, the GOD of your ancestors.

***Remove All*** *the defiled things* from the Sanctuary.

But now I *will make* ***A Covenant*** *with* the LORD, the GOD of Israel, so that his fierce Anger *will*

Turn *Away* from us. My sons, do *Not Neglect* your duties any longer !

The LORD has *Chosen* you to stand in HIS Presence, to Minister to HIM, and to

*Lead the people in Worship and Present Offerings* to HIM.”

**Place of Worship was Holy Ground for the LORD’s Presence, *Work of Cleansing* the Temple.**

**2 Chronicles 29: 15b – 16, 17b – 19 (NLT)**

Then they began ***to Cleanse* the Temple** of the LORD, just as the king had commanded. They were careful to *Follow All* the LORD’s Instructions in their work. The priests went into the Sanctuary of the Temple of the LORD *to Cleanse It*, and they took out to the Temple courtyard *All the defile*d *things*

*they found*. From there the Levites carted it all out to the Kidron Valley.

So the entire task was completed *in sixteen days*. Then the Levites went to King Hezekiah and

gave him this Report:

“We *have Cleansed* the entire Temple of the LORD, the Altar of Burnt Offering with All its Utensils, and the table of the Bread of the Presence with all its Utensils.

We have also recovered *All the Items* discarded by King Ahaz *when he was unfaithful and*

*closed the Temple*. They are now in front of the Altar of the LORD, *Purified and Ready for use*.”

**After Cleansing & Purifying of All the Entry Room, Sanctuary, Altars & Utensils - Worship !**

**2 Chronicles 29: 21, 25 – 33, 36 (NLT)**

They brought seven bulls, seven rams, and seven male lambs as a burnt offering, together

with seven male goats as a Sin Offering for the kingdom, for the Temple, and for Judah.

The king commanded the priests, who were descendants of Aaron, to sacrifice the animals

on the Altar of the LORD.

King Hezekiah then stationed the Levites at the Temple of the LORD with cymbals, lyres, and harps.

He obeyed *All the Commands* that the LORD had given to King David through Gad, the king’s seer, and the prophet Nathan. The Levites then took their positions around the Temple with the instruments of David, and the *priests took their positions with the trumpets*. Then Hezekiah ordered *that the*

*Burnt Offering be placed on the Altar*. As the *Burnt Offering was presented*,

***Songs of Praise*** to the LORD were begun, accompanied by the trumpets and other instruments of David, the former king of Israel. The entire ***Assembly Worshiped*** the LORD as the singers sang and

the trumpets blew, until All the Burnt Offerings were finished. Then the king and everyone with him ***Bowed Down* *in Worship***. King Hezekiah and the officials ordered the Levites ***to Praise***the LORD with the ***Psalms written*** by David and by Asaph the seer. So they ***Offered Joyous Prais***e and ***Bowed Down in Worship***. Then Hezekiah declared, “Now that you have *Consecrated* yourselves to the LORD, *Bring your Sacrifices and Thanksgiving Offerings* to the Temple of the LORD.” So the ***people brought their Sacrifices and Thanksgiving Offerings***, and ***All Whose Hearts were willing*** brought

Burnt Offerings, too. The people brought to the LORD 70 bulls, 100 rams, and 200 male lambs for

Burnt Offerings.

They also brought 600 cattle and 3,000 sheep and goats as Sacred Offerings.

And Hezekiah and All the people Rejoiced because of What GOD had done for the people,

***for everything had been accomplished so quickly***.

**King Hezekiah invited Judah & All Israel (10 Tribes) to Come Back to the Temple in Jerusalem**

**- To Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Passover Lamb.**

**2 Chronicles 30: 6 – 13, 15, 18 – 20, 23 – 24 (NLT)**

At the king’s command, runners were sent throughout Israel and Judah. They carried letters that said:

“O people of Israel, return to the LORD, the GOD of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, so that

HE *will return to the few of us who have survived the conquest of the Assyrian kings*. Do not *be like*

*your ancestors and relatives who abandoned* the LORD, the GOD of their ancestors, and

became an object of derision, as you yourselves can see.  ***Do Not be Stubborn***, as they were, but ***Submit* yourselves to the LORD.**  Come to HIS Temple, which HE has ***Set Apart as Holy Forever*.**

Worship the LORD your GOD so that HIS fierce Anger will turn away from you.

“For if you return to the LORD, your relatives and your children will be treated Mercifully by their captors, and they will be able to Return to this land. For the LORD your GOD is Gracious and Merciful.

If you return to HIM, HE will *not continue to tur*n HIS Face from you.”

The runners went from town to town throughout Ephraim and Manasseh and as far as the territory

of Zebulun. But most of the people just laughed at the runners and made fun of them. However,

some people from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and went to Jerusalem.

At the same time, GOD’s Hand was on the people in the land of Judah, giving them ***All* *One Heart to*** ***Obey*** the orders of the king and his officials, who ***were following the* Word of the LORD**.

So a huge crowd assembled at Jerusalem in midspring to celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread.

On the fourteenth day of the second month, one month later than usual, the people slaughtered

the Passover lamb. This shamed the priests and Levites, so they *Purified themselves* and brought

Burnt Offerings to the Temple of the LORD.

Most of those who came from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun *had Not Purified* *themselves*. But King Hezekiah *Prayed for them*, and they were *Allowed to eat the Passover Meal* anyway, even though this *was contrary* to the requirements of the Law. For Hezekiah said,

**“May the LORD, Who is Good, *pardon those who decide to follow* the LORD, the GOD of their ancestors, even though *they are not properly cleansed for the Ceremony*.”**

**And the LORD *listened* to Hezekiah’s prayer and *healed the people*.**

The entire assembly then decided to continue the Festival *another seven days,* so they

*celebrated joyfully for another week.* **King Hezekiah** ***Gave the people*** 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep and goats ***for Offerings***, and ***the officials donated*** 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep and goats.

Meanwhile, *many more priests purified themselves*.

**King Hezekiah was Generous to Provide the People to Offer Sacrifices, Abundance *Left Over*.**

**2 Chronicles 30: 9 – 12a, 20 – 21 ; 30: 23 – 26 (NLT)**

“Where did All this come from ?” Hezekiah asked the priests and Levites. And Azariah the High Priest, from the family of Zadok, replied, “Since the people began bringing their gifts to the LORD’s Temple,

we have *had enough to eat and plenty to spare*. The LORD has blessed his people, and ***All this is left over***.” Hezekiah ordered that storerooms be prepared in the Temple of the LORD. When this was done, **the people *faithfully brought all the Gifts*, *Tithes,* and other items *Dedicated******for use in the Temple.***

In this way, King Hezekiah ***handled the distribution*** throughout all Judah, *doing What was pleasing and Good in* the Sight of the LORD his GOD. In all that he did in the service of the Temple of GOD and

in his efforts to follow GOD’s Laws and Commands, Hezekiah ***Sought*** his GOD **Wholeheartedly.**

As a result, *he* ***was Very Successful.***

The *entire assembly* of Judah rejoiced, including the priests, the Levites, all who came from the

land of Israel, the foreigners who came to the Festival, and all those who lived in Judah. There

was Great Joy in the city, for Jerusalem had *not seen a* *Celebration like this one since the days*

*of Solomon*, King David’s son.

**After Celebrations, Praise & Worship, Work to Demolish Enemy’s Strongholds - Idolatry.**

**~ To Institute Daily, Weekly & Annual Sacrifices - Devotions to GOD, to Obey HIS Word.**

**2 Chronicles 31: 1 – 2 (NLT)**

When the festival ended, the Israelites who attended went to all the towns of Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh, and they *smashed all the sacred pillars*, *cut down the Asherah poles*,

and *removed the pagan shrines and altars*. After this, the Israelites returned to their own towns

and homes. Hezekiah then organized the priests and Levites into divisions to offer the Burnt Offerings and Peace Offerings, and to ***Worship and Give Thanks and Praise to*** the LORD at

the Gates of the Temple.

**People Blessed & Rejoicing, Began Bringing First Fruits, Tithes & Offering to the Store House**

**~ Reference - 2 Chronicles 31: 5 – 13.**

**2 Chronicles 31: 20 – 21 (NLT)**

In this way, King Hezekiah handled the distribution throughout all Judah, ***Doing What was***

***Pleasing* *and Good in the Sight of* the LORD his GOD**.

In all that he Did in the service of the Temple of GOD and in his efforts to *Follow* GOD’s Laws

and Commands, Hezekiah ***Sought*** his GOD ***Wholeheartedly*.** As a result, he was *Very Successful.*

**Our Success *IS IN* Our Walk with the LORD - When we Sought & Follow HIM Wholeheartedly**

**~ Enemy do threaten, Intimidate & Attack, when Successful in following GOD Wholeheartedly**

**~ Deadly Sicknesses do come upon one who is Successful in following GOD Wholeheartedly**

**The LORD healed Hezekiah from deadly illness, as he cried out & pleaded tearfully to HIM.**

**2 Kings 20: 1 – 7 (NLT)**

About that time Hezekiah *became deathly ill*, and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to visit him.

He gave the king this message: “This is what the LORD says: Set your affairs in order, for you are

going to die. You will not recover from this illness.” When Hezekiah heard this, he turned his face

to the wall and prayed to the LORD, “Remember, O LORD, how I have always been faithful to YOU and have *served* YOU *single-mindedly*, always doing what pleases YOU.” Then he broke down and *wept* bitterly. But before Isaiah had left the middle courtyard, this message came to him from the LORD:

“Go back to Hezekiah, the leader of my people. Tell him, ‘This is what the LORD, the GOD of your ancestor David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. I will heal you, and *three days*

*from now you will get out of* *bed and go to* the Temple of the LORD. I will add fifteen years to your life, and I will rescue you and this city from the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for MY Own Honor and for the sake of MY servant David.’” Then Isaiah said, “Make an ointment from figs.”

So Hezekiah’s servants spread the ointment over the boil, and Hezekiah recovered !

**The LORD Gave Hezekiah A Sign of the Shadow, to Move Backward on the Sundial - 10 *Marks*.**

**- Reference: 2 Kings 20: 8 – 10**

**Hezekiah Acted Foolishly to Expose to an Enemy Judah’s Treasury, Armoury, Whole House.**

**- Reference: 2 Kings 20: 12 – 19**

**Manasseh – Son of Excellent King, was Evil & Very Wicked, Killing brought a Curse on Judah.**

**2 Kings 21: 1 – 7, 9, 16 (NLT)**

Manasseh was *twelve years old* when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years.

His mother was Hephzibah. He *did what was evil* in the LORD’s Sight, *following the detestable* *practices* of the pagan nations that the LORD had driven from the land ahead of the Israelites.

He rebuilt the pagan shrines his father, Hezekiah, had destroyed. He constructed altars for Baal and

set up an Asherah pole, just as King Ahab of Israel had done. He also bowed before all the powers of the heavens and worshiped them. He built pagan altars in the Temple of the LORD, the place where the LORD had said, “MY Name will remain in Jerusalem forever. He built these altars for all the powers of *the heavens* in both courtyards of the LORD’s Temple. Manasseh also ***sacrificed his own son***

***in the fire***. He ***practiced sorcery and divination, and he consulted with mediums and psychics.*** He did much that was evil in the LORD’s Sight, arousing HIS anger. Manasseh even made a carved image of Asherah and set it up in the Temple, the very place where the LORD had told David and his son Solomon: “MY Name will be honored forever in this Temple and in Jerusalem - the city I have chosen from among all the tribes of Israel.”

But the *people refused to listen*, and Manasseh *led them to do even* *more evil than the pagan nations* that the LORD had destroyed when the people of Israel entered the land.

Manasseh also *murdered many innocent people* until Jerusalem was filled from one end to the other

*with innocent blood*. This was in addition to the sin that he caused the people of Judah to commit, *leading them to do evil in* the LORD’s Sight.

**Amon - Downline of Evil of his father, followed his Idolatry Worship and was *Assassinated.***

**2 Kings 21: 19a, 20 – 24 (NLT)**

Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem ***two years*.**

He did what was evil in the LORD’s Sight, just as his father, Manasseh, had done. He ***followed the*** ***example of his father, worshiping the same idols his father had worshiped.*** He *abandoned* the LORD, the GOD of his ancestors, and he refused to follow the LORD’s ways. Then Amon’s own officials conspired against him and assassinated him in his palace. But the people of the land

*killed all those who had conspired against* King Amon, and *they made his son* Josiah the next king.

**Josiah - Son of an Evil King, *Did Not Follow* his Ways, but his Ancestor who *worshiped* GOD.**

**2 Kings 22: 1a, 2 – 6 (NLT)**

Josiah was *eight years old when he became king*, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years.

He *did What was Pleasing in the* LORD’s Sight and *followed the example of his ancestor* David.

He did not turn away from *doing what was right*.  In *the eighteenth year of his reign*, King Josiah sent Shaphan son of Azaliah and grandson of Meshullam, the *court secretary*, to the Temple of the LORD.

He told him, “Go to Hilkiah the high priest and have him count the money the gatekeepers have

*Collected from the people* at the LORD’s Temple. Entrust this money to the men assigned

to supervise the restoration of the LORD’s Temple. Then they can use it to pay workers ***to***

***Repair*** **the Temple.** They will need to hire carpenters, builders, and masons.

Also have them buy the timber and the finished stone needed *to repair the Temple.*

**On Repairing the Temple, the Priest found the Scroll of the Written Law & Read to Josiah.**

**2 Kings 22: 10 – 13 (NLT)**

Shaphan also told the king, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a scroll.” So Shaphan read it to the king. ***When the king heard what was written in the Book of the Law,*** he tore his clothes in despair.

Then he gave these orders to Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Acbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the court secretary, and Asaiah the king’s personal adviser: “Go to the Temple and ***speak* to the LORD for me and for the people and for all Judah. *Inquire about the Words written in this scroll that has been found.*** For the LORD’s great anger is burning against us because our *ancestors have not obeyed the Words in this scroll.* We have not been doing everything it says we must do.”

**As Josiah humbled to the LORD, *Curse of Desolation* was Delayed to Reign by Future Kings.**

**2 Kings 22: 16 – 20 (NLT)**

‘This is what the LORD says: I am going to bring disaster on this city and its people. All the Words

written in the scroll that the king of Judah has read will come true. For *my people have abandoned* ME and offered sacrifices to pagan gods, and I am very angry with them for everything they have done.

MY Anger *will burn against this place*, and *It will not be quenched*.’

“But go to the king of Judah who sent you to seek the LORD and tell him: ‘This is what the LORD, the GOD of Israel, says concerning the message you have just heard: You *were sorry and humbled* *yourself before* the LORD when you heard what I said against this city and its people - ***that this land*** ***would be cursed and become desolate.*** You tore your clothing in despair and *wept before* ME ***in* repentance.**

And I have indeed heard you, says the LORD. So I *will not send the promised* *disaster until after*

*you have died and been buried in peace*. You will not see the disaster I am going to bring on this city.’ ” So they took her message back to the king.

**Josiah Read what was Written to the People, then *All to Renew the Covenant* with the LORD.**

**2 Kings 23: 1 – 6 (NLT)**

Then the king summoned all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. And the king went up to the Temple of the LORD with all the people of Judah and Jerusalem, along with the priests and the prophets - all the people from the least to the greatest. There the king read to them the entire Book of the Covenant that had been found in the LORD’s Temple. The king took his place of authority beside the pillar and *Renewed the Covenant* in the LORD’s Presence. He ***pledged to obey*** **the LORD *by keeping all***

**HIS Commands, Laws, and Decrees with all his heart and soul.**

In this way, he *confirmed all the terms of* *the Covenant that were written in the scroll*, and

*all the people pledged themselves to the Covenant.* Then the king instructed Hilkiah the high priest and

the priests of the second rank and the Temple gatekeepers to ***Remove*** from the LORD’s Temple

all the articles that were used to worship Baal, Asherah, and all the powers of the heavens.

The king had all these things burned outside Jerusalem on the terraces of the Kidron Valley, and

he carried the ashes away to Bethel. He *did away with the idolatrous priests*, who had been appointed by the previous kings of Judah, for they had offered sacrifices at the pagan shrines throughout Judah and even in the vicinity of Jerusalem. They had also offered sacrifices to Baal, and to the sun, the moon,

the constellations, and to all the powers of the heavens. The king ***Removed*** the Asherah pole from the LORD’s Temple and took it outside Jerusalem to the Kidron Valley, where he burned it.

Then *he ground the ashes of the pole to dust* and threw the dust over the graves of the people.

**King Josiah Ordered Full Cleansing of All Idolatry Worship by Ancestors of Judah & ex Kings**

**Reference - 2 Kings 23: 10 – 19 (NLT)**

**~ 2 Kings 23: 20 (NLT)**

 He executed the priests of the pagan shrines on their own altars, and he burned human bones

 on the altars to desecrate them. Finally, he returned to Jerusalem.

**As in the Reign of Hezekiah, the Festivals of Unleavened Bread & Passover were Celebrated.**

**2 Kings 23: 23 – 27 (NLT)**

But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah’s reign, this Passover was celebrated to the LORD

in Jerusalem. Josiah also *got rid of the mediums and psychics, the household gods, the idols,*

*and every* *other kind of detestable practice*, both in Jerusalem and throughout the land of Judah.

He *did this in obedience to* the Laws written in the scroll that Hilkiah the priest had found in the

LORD’s Temple. Never before had there been a king like Josiah, who turned to the LORD with

*All his heart and soul and strength*, *obeying All* the Laws of Moses.

And there has never been a king like him since.

Even so, the LORD was very angry with Judah because of ***All the wicked things Manasseh had***

***done to provoke* HIM.** For the LORD said, “I will also banish Judah from MY Presence just as

I have banished Israel. And I *will reject my chosen city of Jerusalem* and the Temple where

MY Name was to be honored.”

**Ending Kings after Josiah were All as Unfaithful & Did Evil in GOD’s Sight, the Curse came.**

**2 Chronicles 36: 14 – 21 (NLT)**

Likewise, all the leaders of the priests and the people became *more and more unfaithful*.

They followed all the pagan practices of the surrounding nations, desecrating the Temple of the LORD that had been consecrated in Jerusalem. The LORD, the GOD of their ancestors,

*repeatedly sent HIS prophets to warn them*, for HE had compassion on HIS people and HIS Temple.

But the people mocked these Messengers of GOD and despised their Words. They scoffed at

the prophets until the LORD’s Anger could *no longer be restrained* and nothing could be done.

So the LORD brought the king of Babylon against them. The Babylonians killed Judah’s young men,

even chasing after them into the Temple. They had *no pity on the people*, killing both young men and young women, the old and the infirm.

**GOD handed *all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar.***The king took home to Babylon all the articles, large and small, used in the Temple of God, and the treasures from both the LORD’s Temple and from the palace of the king and his officials.

Then *his army burned* the Temple of GOD, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, burned all the palaces, and completely destroyed everything of value. The *few who survived were taken as exiles to* Babylon, and they became servants to the king and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. So the Message of the LORD *spoken through Jeremiah was fulfilled*. The land finally enjoyed its Sabbath rest, *lying desolate until the* *seventy years were fulfilled*, just as the prophet had said.

**As was Recorded, Jeremiah’s Message to Zedekiah was fulfilled, Destruction by Babylonians.**

**Jeremiah 27: 1 – 6 (NLT)**

This Message came to Jeremiah from the LORD early in the reign of Zedekiah son of Josiah, king of Judah. This is what the LORD said to me: “Make a yoke, and fasten it on your neck with leather straps. Then send messages to the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Sidon through their ambassadors who have come to see King Zedekiah in Jerusalem. Give them this message for their masters:

‘This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, the GOD of Israel, says: With MY Great Strength and Powerful Arm I made the earth and all its people and every animal. I *can give these things of mine to anyone I choose*. Now I will give your countries to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, who is MY *servant*. I have put everything, even the wild animals, under his control.”

**JESUS Fulfilled the Prophecy of HIM as the Temple of the Living GOD – the Resurrection.**

**Matthew 24: 1 – 3**

Then JESUS went out and departed from the Temple, and HIS disciples came up to show HIM the buildings of the temple. And JESUS said to them, "Do *you not see all these things* ? Assuredly,

I say to you, *not one stone shall be left here upon another*, that shall not be thrown down."

Now as HE sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us,

when will these things be ? And what *will be* the Sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age ?"

**John 2: 19 – 21**

JESUS answered and said to them, "Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and will YOU raise it up in Three Days ?"

But HE was speaking of the temple of HIS Body.

**John 11: 25b – 26**

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in ME, though he may die, he shall live.

And whoever *lives and believes in ME shall never die*. Do you believe this ?"

**RECORD Table of JUDAH’s KINGs Reign, Year & Rating**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year BC** | **KING** | **Age** | **Reign** | **Excellent/Bad/****Ugly & Evil** | **Reputation** |
| **792** | **UZZIAH** | **16** | **52** | **Good** | **Began Well & Good,****Pride / Sad End** |
| **750** | **JOTHAM** | **25** | **16** | **Good** | **Obedient / Well Pleasing the LORD** |
| **735** | **AHAZ** | **20** | **16** | **Ugly & Evil** | **Enemy Defeated / Closed Temple** |
| **715** | **HEZEKIAH** | **25** | **29** | **Excellent** | **Opened Temple / Passover / Reform** |
| **697** | **MANASSEH** | **12** | **55** | **Ugly & Evil** | **Rebuilt Pagan / Son Sacrificed /****Kill** |
| **642** | **AMMON** | **22** | **2** | **Bad** | **Assassinated by Own officials** |
| **640** | **JOSIAH** | **8** | **31** | **Excellent** | **Rebuilt Temple / Covenant / Passover** |
| **609** | **JEHOAHAZ** | **23** | **3 mths** | **Bad** | **Defeated by Egypt /** **Prisoner (Egypt)** |
| **609** | **JEHOIAKIM** | **25** | **11** | **Bad** | **Puppet (Egypt), Bounded (Babylon)** |
| **598** | **JEHOIACHIN** | **18** | **3 mths** | **Bad** | **Defeated / Bounded /** **Exile (Babylon)** |
| **597** | **ZEDEKIAH** | **21** | **11** | **Bad** | **Temple / Jerusalem Destroyed** |