

2 KINGS CHAPTER 22

¹ Josiah *was* eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name *was* Jedidah, daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath. ² And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the ways of David his father; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

³ And it came to pass in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, in the eighth month, that the king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah the son of Meshullam the scribe, to the house of the Lord, saying, ⁴ "Go up to Hilkiyah the high priest, and take account of the money that is brought into the house of the Lord, which they that keep the door have collected of the people. ⁵ And let them give it into the hand of the workmen that are appointed in the house of the Lord." And he gave it to the workmen in the house of the Lord, to repair the breaches of the house, ⁶ *even* to the carpenters, builders, and masons, *and* also to purchase timber and hewn stones, to repair the breaches of the house. ⁷ Only they did not call them to account for the money that was given to them, because they dealt faithfully.

⁸ And Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord." And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. ⁹ And he went from the house of the Lord to the king, and reported the matter to the king, and said, "Your servants have collected the money that was found in the house of the Lord, and have given it into the hand of the workmen that are appointed in the house of the Lord." ¹⁰ And Shaphan the scribe spoke to the king, saying, "Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.

¹¹ And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes. ¹² And the king commanded Hilkiyah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achobor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, ¹³ "Go, inquire of the Lord for me, and for all the people, and for all Judah, and concerning the words of this book that has been found; for the wrath of the Lord that has been kindled against us *is* great, because our fathers did not heed the words of this book, to do according to all the things written concerning us."

¹⁴ So Hilkiyah the priest went, and Ahikam, Achobor, Shaphan, and Asaiah, to Huldah the prophetess, the mother of Shallum, son of Tikvah, son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; and she dwelt in Jerusalem in Masena; and they spoke to her. ¹⁵ And she said to them, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Say to the man that sent you to Me, ¹⁶ "Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon them that dwell in it, *even* all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read, ¹⁷ because they have forsaken Me, and burnt incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me with the works of their hands; therefore My wrath shall burn forth against this place, and shall not be quenched. ¹⁸ And to the king of Judah that sent you to inquire of the Lord—thus shall you say to him; "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: '*As for* the words which you have heard; ¹⁹ because your heart was tender, and you were humbled before *Me*, when you heard all that I spoke against this place, and against the inhabitants of it, that it should be utterly destroyed and accursed, and you tore your clothes, and wept

before Me; I also have heard, says the Lord. ²⁰ It shall not be so. *Therefore*, behold, I *will* add you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your tomb in peace, and your eyes shall not see *any* among all the evils which I bring upon this place."''