

What surprises you? In our culture today I guess I'm surprised if I see honesty in politicians - I never know if what they are saying is true. I always wonder when a salesperson tells me something about a product if it is true or a huge exaggeration. When I am trying to find the right mechanic to work on my car I find it really hard to believe everything that I am told. So when we study 2 Chronicles and the stories of the kings of Judah it is a huge surprise when a godly king comes along after his father has been evil. That is the case with King Josiah. His grandfather Manasseh and his father Amon were two of the most evil kings in Judah. On top of that Josiah is only 8 years old when he becomes king. So when we read that Josiah was a godly king who obeyed God, it is an incredible surprise. Let's look at these verses together.

Manasseh and Amon had been so wicked that God's Law was hidden by someone to keep it from being destroyed. So when a copy of the OT Law was found this was a monumental discovery. They brought it to King Josiah and read it to him.

Tearing clothes was a sign of deepest mourning and grief. What was Josiah grieving over? He was grieving over the disobedience and sin of the people of Israel.

God said that Josiah had a TENDER and HUMBLE heart when he listened to God's Word. God's Word took root in Josiah's heart and then he took the next step in leading the nation of Israel in revival.

Verse 2 sums up Josiah's reign by saying he did what was RIGHT in God's eyes and that he did not turn away from God in any direction. In spite of having an evil grandfather, and father, Josiah sought after God. I love the fact that Josiah was RESPONSIVE to God's Word because his heart was tender and humble before God. He was open and Receptive to God's Word. When he saw sin and disobedience in himself or the kingdom he grieved over it; and then he took steps of obedience to follow and obey God's Word. He made a public declaration in front of the nation that he would Follow ONLY God and Obey His commands with all his heart and soul. No wonder he did what was right in God's eyes.

[illegible]