

October 31, 1517

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Introduction

- On October 31, 1517, an Augustine monk named Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses at the main door of the Wittenberg Castle Church
- The world has not been the same since
- We will not be discussing the historic or political influences of the Reformation

Introduction

- We have selected 12 biblical passages which will be studied in this series
- The emphasis of these passages will demonstrate the importance of the Word of God
- At Inste Global Bible College, we are dedicating 2017 to the celebration of the study of the Word of God

Biblical Text

- Before him there was no king like him who turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might,
- according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him.
 - 2 Kings 23:25 (NASU)

Outline

- The Person of the Book of the Covenant-King Josiah
- The Power of the Book of the Covenant-Religious Reformation
- The People of the Book of the Covenant-Judah and Jerusalem

Background

- Prophecy against King Jeroboam
 - 1 Kings 13:1-10 (922-901 BC)
 - King Jeroboam was offering a sacrifice to a pagan god at Bethel
 - A man of God came out of Judah with a word from the Lord to Bethel and King Jeroboam
 - He prophesied that God would raise up King Josiah three centuries later (1 Kings 13:2)
 - All that King Jeroboam had established was now reversed by King Josiah

Background

- Josiah reigned from 640 BC and died in 609
- He was 8 years old when he began to reign
- King Manassas was his grandfather
- Josiah means “God will give or bring”
- He is mentioned in Jesus’ genealogy in Matthew 1
- He reformed Judah a few decades before it went into captivity

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The Person of the Book

- King Josiah
 - Book of the Law (1 K 22:8, 11)
 - תֹּרֶה (tô·rā(h))- law, instruction, teaching, written code, regulation and statute
 - Book of the Covenant (1 K 23:2)
 - בְּרִית (b^{erît})- covenant, agreement, pact, treaty and pledge
 - The book is referred to as the Book of the Covenant because after reading its contents, the king and the people renewed their commitment to the covenant

The Person of the Book

- King Josiah
 - Repentance
 - Upon hearing the word, Josiah tore his clothes
 - This was a sign of grief
 - Josiah recognized the spiritual consequences of not following the Law i.e., God's wrath
 - Josiah feared for himself and for the people

The Person of the Book

- King Josiah
 - Repentance
 - Josiah honored the Lord through His Word
 - Josiah knew that to turn the nation around repentance would begin with him
 - Later the leaders and people followed

The Person of the Book

- King Josiah
 - Transformation
 - Josiah took note that the practice of the nation was not according to God's standard
 - The country was guilty of idolatry and occultism in line with the behavior of the surrounding nations
 - Josiah knew the importance of God's Word to change the nation
 - Josiah himself was greatly changed

The Person of the Book

ILLUSTRATION:

- Study it carefully, think of it prayerfully,
- Till in your heart its precepts dwell;
- Slight not its history, ponder its mystery,
- None can e'er prize it too fondly or well.
- Author Unknown
 - Osbeck, Kenneth W.: Amazing Grace : 366
Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions. Grand
Rapids, Mich. : Kregel Publications, 1990, S. 75

The Power of the Book

- Religious Reformation
 - The nation had become syncretistic
 - A blend, mixture or amalgamation of different religious practices and doctrine
 - At the age of 20, Josiah started by removing all idolatrous influence from inside the temple
 - Vessels made for Baal
 - Canaanite storm and fertility god
 - Vessels made for Asherah
 - She was the consort of the chief pagan god, El, and mother of the gods
 - Vessels made for the host of heaven
 - Divine armies both for Yahweh and the pagan gods

The Power of the Book

- Religious Reformation
 - Josiah started at 20 years old by eliminating all idolatrous influence from inside the temple
 - The vessels were burned to ashes
 - The pagan priests were deposed
 - They had burned incense to Baal, to the sun, moon, constellations and the host of the heavens

The Power of the Book

- Religious Reformation
 - The houses of the male cult prostitutes were destroyed
 - Where women wove hangings for the Asherah
 - The high places where the priests had made offerings were defiled
 - Topheth was destroyed
 - A cult site in the vicinity of Jerusalem where children were burned to Molech
 - Molech was a Caananite god later worshiped by Israel

The Power of the Book

- Religious Reformation
 - Josiah removed the horses dedicated to the sun
 - He burned the chariots devoted to the sun
 - He broke in pieces the pagan altars on the roof
 - He defiled the high places which Solomon had built for:
 - Ashtoreth- consort of Baal
 - Chemosh- national deity of the Moabites
 - Milcom- an Ammonite god

The Power of the Book

- Religious Reformation
 - Asherim were cut down-
 - Often sacred trees were designated as symbols of that fertility goddess; sometimes wooden poles were erected
 - The altar at Bethel erected by Jeroboam was pulled down and burned
 - But the bones of the man of God who prophesied against Jeroboam were left alone

The Power of the Book

- Religious Reformation
 - The priests of the high places were sacrificed on the altars and killed
 - Judah and Jerusalem were now cleansed
(2 Ch 34:5)

The People of the Book

- Judah and Jerusalem
 - King Josiah assembled the leaders and the people of God (2 Chro 34:29-32)
 - Gathered the elders of Judah and Jerusalem (the political leaders)
 - He gathered the priests and the Levites (the religious leaders)
 - Brought the people together from the greatest to the least

The People of the Book

- Judah and Jerusalem
 - King Josiah assembled the leaders and the People of God
 - The King read the word of the Book of the Covenant to all
 - The King made a vow to follow the covenant personally
 - King Josiah challenged the people to stand with him

The People of the Book

- Judah and Jerusalem
 - Celebration and Worship (2 Chr. 35:1-19)
 - They celebrated the Passover in Jerusalem
 - King Josiah set the priests in their office and encouraged them in the service of the Lord
 - The priests slaughtered the Passover lamb and consecrated themselves according to the word of the Lord by Moses
 - The king and the officials contributed willingly lambs, young goats and bulls offerings for the people, priests and Levites

The People of the Book

- Judah and Jerusalem
 - Celebration and Worship (2 Chr. 35:1-19)
 - The Passover was the reminder of God as Redeemer and Covenant Keeper
 - The celebration was a reaffirmation of allegiance only to the Lord
 - The Passover was a remembrance of the past and a blessing to the present and the future
 - God is trustworthy!

The People of the Book

- Judah and Jerusalem
 - Celebration and Worship (2 Chr. 35:1-19)
 - There had not been celebrated a Passover like it in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet; nor had any of the kings of Israel celebrated such a Passover as Josiah did with the priests, the Levites, all Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem (2 Chr. 35:18) NASU

Outline

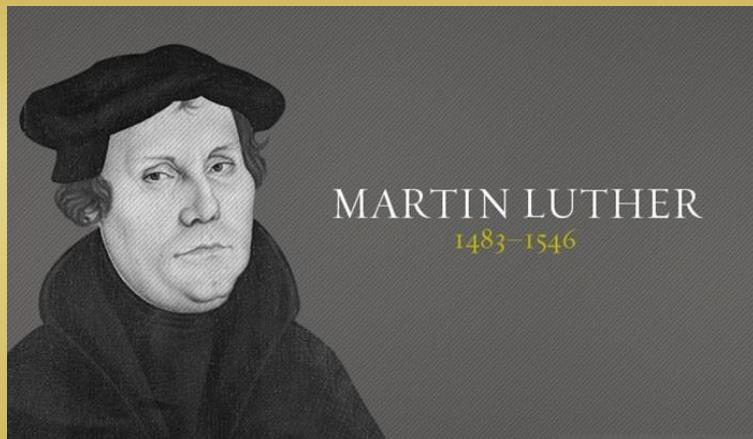
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Conclusion

- King Josiah truly impacted his generation
- His reforms were short-lived
- In the midst of God's grace there is a warning: 2 Kings 23:26–27 (ESV) ²⁶ Still the LORD did not turn from the burning of his great wrath, by which his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked him. ²⁷ And the LORD said,

Conclusion

- “I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city that I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.”
- The final result was that Judah just like Israel (northern kingdom) went into exile.
- Let’s pray



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