

## Unnecessary Casualties

Josiah was a good king, a great king, and, to many scholars, the godliest king of Judah. The scriptures describe him in II Kings 23:25, “And like unto him was there no king before him, that 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; neither after him arose there *any* like him.”

His reign is detailed in II Kings 22, 23 and II Chron. 34, 35. He began his reign when only eight years old and reigned in Jerusalem for thirty-one years. He was a revivalist.

He was humble.

He was radical toward sin. He despised and destroyed.

He restored respect toward the ministry.

He led them in a phenomenal Passover celebration. They had great church!

He had a fatal flaw. His zeal got him in trouble.

I write here to emphasize how his insistence became his demise. Read the account:

2Ch 35:20 After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by Euphrates: and Josiah went out against him.

2Ch 35:21 But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? *I come* not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have war: for God commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from *meddling with* God, who is with me, that he destroy thee not.

2Ch 35:22 Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.

2Ch 35:23 And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away; for I am sore wounded.

2Ch 35:24 His servants therefore took him out of that chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had; and they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died, and was buried in *one of* the sepulchres of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

2Ch 35:25 And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah: and all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations to this day, and made them an ordinance in Israel: and, behold, they *are* written in the lamentations.

Josiah should have listened.

He had no business engaging in this war.

He refused to stay out of the fight.

His insistence was his demise.

God is not obligated to defend us in battles we persist to engage in without His orders.

-RWT

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