

Part 1: King Josiah

Scene 1: Josiah is crowned king.

Narrator: At the time this account begins, which was about 700 years before Jesus came, a nation called Israel, which was God's chosen people, was ruled by wicked kings. *The narrator tells the wicked king or kings to laugh wickedly.*

As a result, the whole nation was not doing right. They were not obeying God's commands. *The narrator tells the crowd to pretend to be angry.*

And the temple, called the house of the Lord, was falling apart. The people quit caring about God, so they quit caring about his house. *The narrator tells the crowd to point and laugh at the temple.*

Then wicked King Amon died. *The narrator tells King Amon to do so. Perhaps have the crowd carry him off.*

At that point in 640 BC, his young son, Josiah, became king. *The narrator can stick a crown on Josiah.*

Josiah: I was just eight years old when I became king. Can you imagine being a king when you're eight? Pretty cool, huh?

Narrator: The Bible records that Josiah lived righteously, meaning he did what was right in God's sight. He stayed on God's good path. *Read 2 Kings 22:1a, 2.*

Josiah: Even though I was younger than you, I decided I wanted to be a good king and follow the King of kings. It was a choice I made in my mind to follow him and do what he said.

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Scene 2: Josiah orders the house of the Lord to be restored. The book of the law is found.

Narrator: A number of years went by, and King Josiah continued to live Righteously. At one point, he decided on a project.

Josiah: Hmmm, the temple's in bad shape. We need to get it repaired.

Narrator: King Josiah sent his scribe, Shaphan, to the house of the Lord with these instructions:

Josiah: Go up to Hilkiah the high priest and have him count the money the people have given for the house of the Lord. Give it to the carpenters and builders so they can buy wood and stone to repair all the damages.

Shaphan the Scribe: Very well, good king. It shall be done. *The narrator tells Shaphan and the servants to go off to the temple.*

Narrator: So off went Shaphan and other faithful servants to God's house. When they got there, Shaphan found Hilkiah the priest. Hilkiah said:

Hilkiah: I've found the Book of the Law, God's Word! Take it and read it! *The narrator tells him to pass an imaginary book, and everyone acts excited.*

Narrator: This was quite exciting—a real treasure! It was especially exciting because the people didn't have their own copy of God's Word back then and copies were rare. So Shaphan and the servants took the precious book back to King Josiah. *Do so.*

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Scene 3: Josiah hears the book of the law and sends his team to Huldah, the prophetess.

Narrator: When they got back home, Shaphan read to King Josiah from God's Word. When King Josiah heard it, he tore his clothes and wept, showing how terribly upset he was.

Josiah: *The narrator tells Josiah to pretend to tear a shirt and cry, then say:* Our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book and done what is written in here. They haven't lived right!

Narrator: You see, Josiah realized that everything they needed to know about how to live righteously was in God's Word, but they hadn't been reading it. It was a scary and horrible feeling to know God's Word had just been sitting there, not being used.

Josiah: Shaphan, go and ask Huldah the prophetess what's to be done. *The narrator tells Shaphan and the servants to go off.*

Narrator: So, Shaphan and the others went off to Huldah the prophetess. She said:

Huldah: Those who haven't followed and obeyed God's Word will be very sorry. But as for you, King Josiah, you genuinely want to *do right* and obey God. God knows that, and God won't let you see all the trouble that'll come on this place. *Your life* will be peaceful, and the trouble will come *after* you die.

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Scene 4: Josiah reads the Word and makes a commitment, along with the rest of the people.

Narrator: King Josiah gathered all his kingdom at the house of the Lord. All the people were there, both great and small. And King Josiah said:

Josiah: I'm going to read in your hearing all the words of the Book of the Law which has been found in the house of the Lord. *The narrator tells Josiah to pretend to silently do so.*

Narrator: So King Josiah read the Book of the Law. When he finished, he stood by a pillar and said:

Josiah: I'm making a promise, a covenant, before the Lord, to follow God and obey his commandments with all my heart and all my soul and to do everything written in this book.

Crowd: *The narrator tells the crowd to cheer and say:* Me, too! Me, too!

Narrator: *Hold up the* **KING JOSIAH POSTER**. And that's exactly what King Josiah did. He chose to *do right* all the days of his life. He read God's Word and obeyed God's commands. This doesn't mean he perfectly obeyed every time, of course, but in his heart, he desired to do right, and in his actions, God helped him to grow in obedience.