

REHOBOTH OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Devotionals for 21 Day Fast

OWN THE PURSUIT

DAY 9: Monday, January 24th— **Priority**

The king took his place of authority beside the pillar and renewed the covenant in the LORD's presence. He pledged to obey the LORD by keeping all his commands, laws, and decrees with all his heart and soul. He promised to obey all the terms of the covenant that were written in the scroll
(2 Chron. 34:31NLT)

Reformation through the Pursuit of God

Josiah the Reformer

Josiah was eight years old when he became king of Judah. "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left" (vs 2, NIV). Doing what was right meant turning back the hearts of his people to the true God of Israel. So Josiah tore down the altars and the Asherah poles, crushed the idols to powder, cut to pieces all the incense altars throughout Israel, and executed the priests of the false gods. Then he set about to repair the temple of the Lord his God.

Reformation through the Pursuit of God

In the rebuilding process, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord that had been given through Moses. That, Shaphan the Secretary, took to Josiah and read from it to him. It was the first time the Book of the Law was being read for about 60 years. When the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his robes. He was in grief when he realized his nation and himself had not walked in the way of the Lord. In his pursuit of God, Josiah had to repent for his sins and that of his people. He acknowledged that the Lord's anger was poured out because those who had gone before them had not kept the Word of the Lord; they had not acted in accordance with all that was written in the book (vs 21).

Sorrowful repentance was not enough however. Josiah told his advisors to enquire of the Lord for his people and himself about what was written in the book that had been found. There was a continual seeking of God to know His Word. Josiah went up to the temple with the people of Judah including the priests and the prophets, and "He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the Lord" (vs 30, NIV). The people and he renewed their covenant to follow the Lord and to keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all their hearts and souls (vs 31), and he reintroduced a celebration of the Passover.

God said that because Josiah's heart was responsive and sorrowful, and because he had humbled himself before Him (God) that he the Lord had heard he and he would gather him to his ancestors in peace. He (Josiah) would not see the disaster that God was going to rain down on the nation and its people. Pursuing God means turning from wrong and doing the right. It leads to salvation and opens the door to the favor of God. This pursuit at times needs to be done in a corporate and public setting; when God's people as a group seek His face, seek to hear from Him, and seek to celebrate him.

Think About

Review your last week and ask yourself, "Did my schedule reflect that seeking God is my priority?" If you say no, why was that so?

Perhaps you will say that you were under a lot of pressure. Well, pressure reveals your true priorities. When you are under pressure only the essential gets done. **How can you ensure that time with God gets priority treatment? What is one step you can take today to slow down and live more attentively to the voice of Jesus?**

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GO DEEPER

LIFE APPLICATION

He is certainly able to turn your captivity as he turns the sun when it has reached the southern tropic.

**HIS WORDS ARE
"TRUSTWORTHY AND TRUE."**

Devotional Text

2 Chronicles 34:1-33

It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply.