

The Lost Book

2 CHRONICLES 34:14-21

Finding what was lost

Josiah, the grandson of Manasseh and the son of Amon, two of the most wicked kings of Judah.

In the eighth year of his reign – at age 16 – he began to seek the Lord.

In the twelfth year of his reign – at age 20 – he began to cleanse Judah and Jerusalem of idolatry.

In the eighteenth year of his reign – at age 26 – he finished cleansing the land of idolatry and began to repair the house of God.

Finding what was lost

In bringing out the money given for the repairs, *“the book of the law”* was found. It was given to Shaphan the scribe who then read it to the king who then tore his clothes in great distress and anguish.

How had this book of the law been lost for so many years? Why hadn’t anyone cared?

What was expected? Deuteronomy 31:9-13; Proverbs 7:1-3

What about us today?

The Bible is being lost in the world!

- We live today in a godless world - even if they believe in God they then don’t give place in their lives to His word.
- Satan, who is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4), is diligently attacking the word of God.
- There are places where the Bible is banned and others where its distribution is limited. There are others where it’s freely available and simply neglected and its truths are becoming lost. Proverbs 14:34.
- Who’s at fault?
- 2014 Pew research study, 42% of those who consider themselves Christians say reading the Bible is “essential.”

The Bible is being lost in the church!

- God’s word has gone missing in the pulpit; not only in denominations but in the Lord’s church.
- In many (if not most) places the gospel message focusing on the scriptures has been replaced with an entertaining, fleshly, human focus saturated with human wisdom.

The Bible is being lost in the church!

- The message is clear:
 - *“Devote yourself to the public reading of scripture, to exhortation, to teaching”* (1 Timothy 4:13; ESV)
 - *“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction”* (2 Timothy 4:2)

The Bible is being lost in the church!

- The message is clear:
 - We can't "*shrink from declaring ... anything that was profitable*" (Acts 20:20) which is the "*whole purpose (counsel; ASV; ESV) of God*" (Acts 20:27). "*Do not omit a word*" (Jeremiah 26:2).
 - Not just reading for reading sake (Acts 13:27) but reading with understanding and application (Nehemiah 8:3, 8; James 1:23-24).
 - Do we really believe in the "*power*" of God? Romans 1:16; Isaiah 55:11

The Bible is being lost in the home!

- The home is from God and defined by His word. Genesis 2:18ff; Matthew 19:6; Ephesians 5:22-25; 6:1-4
- God intended for His word to be an integral part of daily life for the family. Ephesians 6:1-4; Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- The home is where God's word is to take root and establish His standards of morality. Ephesians 4:17ff; 5:3-7
- The reading of God's word must be a priority in our homes! Matthew 6:33
- The impact can last a lifetime. 2 Timothy 3:14-15

The Bible is being lost in our hearts!

- What are our hearts filled with? Colossians 1:9 ("to cram" Strong); Colossians 3:16-17 ("Exceeding abundantly")
- Maintaining a healthy appetite. Matthew 5:6; 1 Peter 2:2
- Bound around our neck. Proverbs 3:3

The Bible is being lost in our hearts!

- Stirred up. 2 Peter 1:13-14
- Is our heart "*set*"? Ezra 7:10
- Just not paying attention. Proverbs 7:24; 2 Peter 1:19; Isaiah 48:17-18; 2 Chronicles 20:3
- It's a matter of time and discipline. Ephesians 5:15-16; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Timothy 4:7

What can happen if we "find" our Bibles?

In the days of Josiah: 2 Chronicles 34:19-33

- Hearts will be convicted. (verse 19)
- Hearts were humbled. (verse 27)
- Commitments made (verse 31)
- Obedience rendered (verse 32)
- Repentance demonstrated (verse 33)
- Service rendered (verse 33)
- Faithfulness attained (verse 33)

What about today? What about now?