**Huldah -The Prophetess**

2 Chronicles 34:23-28

*Then Huldah answered them, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'Tell the man who sent you to Me, "Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants, all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah, because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore, My wrath will be poured out on this place and not be quenched.'"' But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, in this manner you shall speak to him, 'Thus says the Lord God of Israel: "Concerning the words which you have heard — because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words against this place and against its inhabitants, and you humbled yourself before Me, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you," says the Lord. "Surely I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place and its inhabitants."'" So, they brought back word to the king.*

One of the last kings of the nation of Judah was named Josiah. He began his reign in about 641 B.C. and ruled for 31 years. He was only 8 years old when he ascended to the throne. His father, Amon, was a very wicked king and sought to bring every pagan and idolatrous practice he could into the nation of Judah. His grandfather was Manasseh, a king that started badly, but when corrected by God did what was right. His great grandfather was Hezekiah, an exceptionally good and righteous king. Josiah was born with his father was sixteen years of age and there were still in Jerusalem many people who knew of Hezekiah and Manasseh. These people in the court would have had a chance to help him learn the ways of God while he was young. He spent the first eight years of his reign learning to rule. At age sixteen he began to investigate the difference between paganism and Jehovah God. Four years later he began the purge of paganism. When he was 26, he started the restoration of the Temple of God. In the process of cleaning out the rubbish, they discovered the book of the Law written by Moses. (2 Chronicles 34)

The impact of the word of God was enormous. The priest Hilkiah gave the book to the king’s counselor, who read it to him. *Thus, it happened, when the king heard the words of the Law, that he tore his clothes. Then the king commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying, "Go, inquire of the Lord for me, and for those who are left in Israel and Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the Lord, to do according to all that is written in this book."* Here is where Huldah enters the picture. *So Hilkiah and those the king had appointed went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum … (She dwelt in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter.) And they spoke to her to that effect.* (2 Chronicles 34:19-22)

From our text you can see that she predicts a bleak future. 1. God is going to bring calamity on Judah and its inhabitants. 2. God will bring every curse predicted in the past on them. 3. This will happen because the people and their leaders have forsaken God. 4. It will also happen because they have worshipped false Gods and used their hands to do evil. Huldah further says that because of the determination of the king to do right, none of this will happen while Josiah rules. He will rule in peace and the people will be spared. This is a hard thing for any king who wants good for his people to hear.

Josiah reigned as king for thirteen more years. In that time, he gave himself the task of trying to build the country again in the love of God. He began by gathering all the elders, the priests, Levites and all the people. He read to them the law of the covenant and made them make a covenant to follow God and to keep His commandments. He removed every idolatrous abomination from the country and made all the people of Israel diligently serve God. He restored the Ark of the Covenant to the Temple of God. He commanded and prepared the Passover observance and contributed 33,000 sheep and cattle from his own herds. For the balance of his life, the nation was blessed.

At age 39, He was killed in battle in a war with Egypt. Within 5 years of his death, the nation of Judah was right back in the same condition it was before Josiah began to reign. Evil was dominant, and idolatry resurged in the nation. Soon, the calamity prophesied by Huldah occurred and the nation ceased to exist. What happened? It you see the story with wise eyes you first will see that the love of truth, the determination to obey God and keep his commandments was the desire of King Josiah. As long as he was alive, the people would submit. We he died, they went right back to their preferred idolatrous and sinful lifestyle. Josiah, as promised, did not see the calamity, but his unrepentant subjects faced a complete upheaval of their lives.

David in Psalm 33 teaches us some critical truths. Psalm 33:12 - *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord…*  *The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. From the place of His dwelling, He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works. No king is saved by the multitude of an army; A mighty man is not delivered by great strength. A horse is a vain hope for safety. Neither shall it deliver any by its great strength. Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine*(*vss. 13-19)****.*** How do we want God to deal with our nation? What we value tells the truth. Huldah tells us. Do right and God will preserve us. Serve evil and sin, and calamity will be the result.