

The Kid King

In the bible there were lots of kings and queens. Sometimes there would be good kings who loved God and sometimes there would be bad kings who would not even try to do things God's way. After lots of years of very bad kings, there was finally a good king in the land of Judah. His name was Josiah. Like most kings, Josiah was once the prince and when his father died, he became the king. Josiah's father died when Josiah was only 8 years old so that's when he became the king. Because he was just a kid, he had people who helped him make important decisions. Even though Josiah was just a kid, he knew his father had been a bad king. He could see that his father and his grandfather were not doing things God's way and he wanted to change that.

One day Josiah called for Hilkiah to do a very special job. Hilkiah was the high priest in Judah while Josiah was king. Josiah wanted Hilkiah to fix up the temple. After many years of bad kings, the temple hadn't been being taken care of like it should have been and it need to be fixed up a little. Josiah had Hilkiah use the money in the temple and pay people to do the job. He wanted him to find people who were good at building and stonework and pay them to fix the temple so the job would be done the right way.

One day while they were working in the temple, Hilkiah found a scroll hidden in the wall. Hilkiah gave the rolled-up paper to Shaphan who worked for the king and Shaphan took it to King Josiah. Josiah unrolled the scroll and started to read what was written. It was a part of the bible that had been missing for a very long time. It was a list of rules that God wanted His people to follow. When Josiah read the rules, he became very sad because he didn't know about these rules. He had been trying so hard to get his people to follow God's rules, but they weren't following the rules he didn't know about. His people had been breaking lots of the new rules. Josiah was so sad that he cried out and ripped his clothes. He went to Hilkiah and told him to gather all the priest and pray to God that He would not punish them for breaking all these extra rules. Hilkiah and the other priest went and prayed and when he came back, he had good news and bad news. The bad news was, God was going to punish the people for their wicked living. The good news was, God could see Josiah's heart and how sad he was when we found out they had been doing wrong, and for that, God would not punish the people as long as Josiah was the king.

Josiah immediately went and gathered all the people in his kingdom and had someone read the lost scroll with all the rules to the people. Then he made a promise to God that he and his people would follow the rules from then on and that's what they did as long as Josiah was the king.