

# Investigating God's Word...

**YEAR SIX**

**II Kings 22-25,  
II Chronicles 34-36,  
Isaiah, Jeremiah,  
Lamentations**

**Sunday School Curriculum**

*Winter Quarter*

# Lesson Sequence

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## *Winter Quarter*

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter.

The central goal of the ***Investigating God's Word...*** curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

Week One	Isaiah 1-23
Week Two	Isaiah 24-39
Week Three	Isaiah 40-51
Week Four	Isaiah 52-66
Week Five	II Kings 22, II Chronicles 34:1-28
Week Six	II Kings 23:1-30, II Chronicles 34:29-35:27
Week Seven	II Kings 23:31-24:17, II Chronicles 36:1-10
Week Eight	II Kings 24:18-25:30, II Chronicles 36:11-23
Week Nine	Jeremiah 1-14
Week Ten	Jeremiah 15-29
Week Eleven	Jeremiah 30-40
Week Twelve	Jeremiah 41-52
Week Thirteen	Lamentations

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Spring Quarter: Acts 15-28



### Suggested Schedule

<b>Welcome</b> <i>Proverbs 19:2</i>	<b>2-3 min.</b>
<b>Drill Time</b> <i>Deuteronomy</i>	<b>5 min.</b>
<b>W.O.W!</b> <i>Purge</i>	<b>5 min.</b>
<b>Historical Context</b> <i>Timeline</i>	<b>2-3 min.</b>
<b>Bible Investigation</b> <i>II Kings 22,</i> <i>II Chronicles 34:1-28</i>	<b>25-30 min.</b>
<b>Lesson-At-Home</b> <i>Hebrews 9:14</i>	<b>2-3 min.</b>

# Lesson Five

## *II Kings 22, II Chronicles 34:1-28*

### Overview

These parallel texts introduce us to the new king of Judah, King Josiah. Josiah begins ruling God's people at just eight years old, reigning for thirty-one years. He is compared to King David (the highest compliment given to kings of Israel) and described as a man who followed God's ways. By the age of sixteen, Josiah was already seeking the LORD. By the age of twenty, he was making major reforms in Judah, purging the nations of carved idols, Asherah poles, and the Baals. Josiah even had the false priests of Baal put to death.

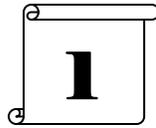
In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, he turned his attention to the repairing of God's temple. Years of misuse had so degraded the LORD's temple that major reconstruction had to be done. During this renovation, Hilkiah the priest discovered the lost Book of the Law, what was probably the Book of Deuteronomy. He has Shaphan bring it to the king and read it to him. Josiah's immediate response to the Book of the Law was great anguish. He feared that the LORD's judgment was coming on Judah for their neglect of His Law. Josiah was right—and a prophetess confirmed the fact that the LORD was angry with His people. They would be punished for their sins, yet Josiah would be spared because of his humble, repentant response to God's Law.

### Preparation

Read and meditate on II Kings 22 and II Chronicles 34 this week.

### Teaching Encouragement

Today's lesson revolves around the theme of purging or cleansing. Josiah was moved by His love for God to purge the idols from the land of Judah. Upon the purging and repairing of the temple, Josiah receives the Law of God. His response to the Book of the Law was humility and repentance. These pictures of cleansing lead us to the need for our own hearts to be purged of sin. Show the children that while our world needs to be purged of its idols and its evil, they too need their individual hearts washed and cleansed by the blood of Christ. Teach them that the only right response to the Law of God is humility and repentance, with the acknowledgement that we deserve God's displeasure! Also, use this text to share how seeking God early in life can lead to lifelong obedience in Christ!



## Welcome

**Greet the students. Welcome visitors. To prepare the students for class today, read Proverbs 19:2.**

<sup>2</sup> It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way.

**Say:** *What is zeal? [Passion; great excitement.] It is great to be really excited and passionate about something. The problem comes when we don't think first—when we don't have knowledge. Where do we gain knowledge so we won't miss the way? In the Bible! Let's learn more so we can become passionate thinkers.*



## Drill Time

*Now, let's move on to DRILL TIME, our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?*

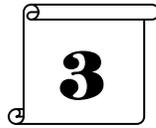
**Today's questions:** *What is the fifth book of the Bible? What does the word "Deuteronomy" mean? Who wrote the Book of Deuteronomy? How does the Book of Deuteronomy end? What are the first five books of the Bible called?*

**Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.**

**Answers:**

1. Deuteronomy.
2. Second law, or second giving of the Law.
3. Moses.
4. With the death of Moses.
5. The Pentateuch.

**Say:** *The Book of Deuteronomy is really just a series of farewell messages from Moses, Israel's leader. It is addressed to a new generation of Israelites who would one day enter the Promised Land. It is called Deuteronomy, because it is the second major time Moses goes over the Law of God with the people. Moses needed to remind the Israelites about their duty to always be obedient to God, their deliverer.*



## W.O.W!

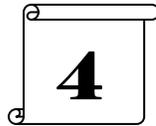
Our *W.O.W!* (*Word of the Week*) this week is **PURGE**. Write it on the board. Who can define this word for me? Allow answers.

To *PURGE* something is to clean it out. For example, a person might *PURGE* his computer of unnecessary information in order to clean it up (so it can run faster). You can probably tell just by looking at the word *PURGE* that it has to do with making something *PURE* or clean.

In the Bible, Jesus *PURGED* the temple of those who were robbing from people and turning the temple into a den of thieves. He cleaned out the temple twice!

You and I also need to be *PURGED*. We need to be cleaned up from our sin. So, to *PURGE* also means to free a person from the guilt of sin. Who *PURGES* us from our sin? [Jesus!]

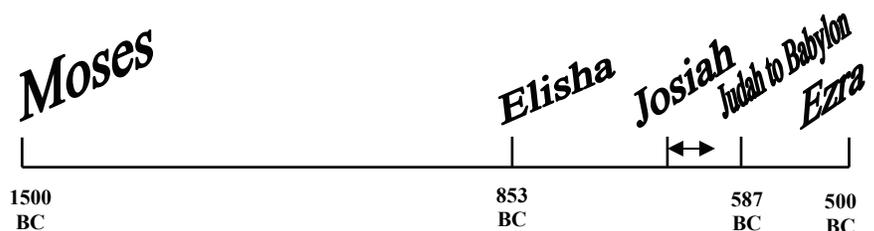
Watch for our *Word of the Week* as we study the life of another one of Judah's kings. Will he *PURGE* something, or does HE need to be *PURGED*?

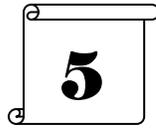


## Historical Context

Put this timeline on the board. Josiah reigned between the years 640 BC and 609 BC.

*When Josiah reigned in Judah*





## Bible Investigation

**Have your students open their Bibles to II Chronicles 34.**

**Introduction:** *We return again to our study of the kings of Judah. Who remembers the name of the last king of Judah that we studied at the end of last quarter? [Amon.] Amon did terrible evil in the sight of the LORD. He only ruled for two years, and then he was assassinated. Who will rule Judah now? What kind of king will he be? Will he follow God?*

*Let's find out. Read II Chronicles 34:1.*

<sup>1</sup> Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years.

**Discussion:** *How old was Josiah when he became king? [Eight years old.] Can you imagine being a ruler of a country at just eight years old? And he ruled for thirty-one years. Let's see if these were good years for Judah.*

**Read verse 2.**

<sup>2</sup> He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

**Discussion:** *The author of the Book of II Chronicles tells us three great things about Josiah. What are they? [He did what was right in the eyes of God; he was like David; he walked straight!] Remember that the highest compliment a king of Israel could receive was to be compared favorably to King David! When it says that Josiah did not turn aside to the right or left, what does that mean? [He walked the straight and narrow!] Yes, he stayed true to following the ways of God.*

**Application:** *What about you? Will we be able to say this about you after you have lived a long time? Will you live a life that does not turn to the right or left? What do you need to be able to lead this kind of life? Allow discussion.*

*Let's keep reading. Read verse 3.*

<sup>3</sup> In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David. In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images.

**Discussion:** *There's our Word of the Week! What did Josiah begin to PURGE Jerusalem of when he was just twenty years old? [Idols, carved images, Asherah poles.] If you listened carefully, you noticed that Josiah began to seek the LORD when he was just sixteen years old! So the reason Josiah PURGED these unclean idols from Jerusalem was because he was seeking the LORD!*

**Application:** *It is my hope and prayer that you also begin to seek the LORD while you are young. Then, you will have great opportunity to continue to serve the LORD when you are older!*

*Let's continue. Read verses 4-5.*

<sup>4</sup> Under his direction the altars of the Baals were torn down; he cut to pieces the incense altars that were above them, and smashed the Asherah poles, the idols and the images. These he broke to pieces and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. <sup>5</sup> He burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and so he purged Judah and Jerusalem.

**Discussion:** *There's our Word of the Week again! Josiah continued to cleanse the land of all of the idols that Manasseh and Amon had set up for the people. He even PURGED the land of the priests of Baal, much like during the time of Elijah.*

*Let's read more. Read verses 6-7.*

<sup>6</sup> In the towns of Manasseh, Ephraim and Simeon, as far as Naphtali, and in the ruins around them, <sup>7</sup> he tore down the altars and the Asherah poles and crushed the idols to powder and cut to pieces all the incense altars throughout Israel. Then he went back to Jerusalem.

**Discussion:** *Did Josiah just PURGE Jerusalem, the capital city? No! He also brought his reforms to the surrounding towns. What a Godly leader Josiah was! The LORD was using him to bring cleansing to His people.*

*Now we go a few years into the future. Read verses 8-11.*

<sup>8</sup> In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, to purify the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan son of Azaliah and Maaseiah the ruler of the city, with Joah son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the temple of the LORD his God. <sup>9</sup> They went to Hilkiah the high priest and gave him the money that had been brought into the temple of God, which the Levites who were the doorkeepers had collected from the people of Manasseh, Ephraim and the entire remnant of Israel and from all the people of Judah and Benjamin and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> Then they entrusted it to the men appointed to supervise the work on the LORD's temple. These men paid the

workers who repaired and restored the temple.<sup>11</sup> They also gave money to the carpenters and builders to purchase dressed stone, and timber for joists and beams for the buildings that the kings of Judah had allowed to fall into ruin.

**Discussion:** *Now that all of the evil idols were removed from Judah, Josiah turned his attention to repairing and PURGING the LORD's temple. Isn't it sad that previous kings of Judah had allowed the temple to fall apart? This just shows how much they were focused on the worship of everything else but God!*

*Let's read more. Read verses 12-13.*

<sup>12</sup> The men did the work faithfully. Over them to direct them were Jahath and Obadiah, Levites descended from Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, descended from Kohath. The Levites—all who were skilled in playing musical instruments—<sup>13</sup> had charge of the laborers and supervised all the workers from job to job. Some of the Levites were secretaries, scribes and doorkeepers.

**Discussion:** *Were the men doing good work on the temple of the LORD? [Yes!] They all were honoring the LORD with their hard work. Do you?*

*Let's continue. Read verses 14-15.*

<sup>14</sup> While they were bringing out the money that had been taken into the temple of the LORD, Hilkiyah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD that had been given through Moses.<sup>15</sup> Hilkiyah said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the LORD." He gave it to Shaphan.

**Discussion:** *What do you think this Book of the Law was? Allow answers. Most likely, it was the Book of Deuteronomy! If the rulers of Judah were following God, they would have been reading from the Book of Deuteronomy for years. Yet, this Book of God's Law had been lost. Can you imagine the Bible being lost for years? Now the Book of the Law has been found! What will Josiah do about it?*

*Let's find out. Read verses 16-19.*

<sup>16</sup> Then Shaphan took the book to the king and reported to him: "Your officials are doing everything that has been committed to them.<sup>17</sup> They have paid out the money that was in the temple of the LORD and have entrusted it to the supervisors and workers."<sup>18</sup> Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king.<sup>19</sup> When the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his robes.

**Discussion:** *Why did Josiah tear his robes when Shaphan read him the Book of Deuteronomy? [Tearing of the clothes is a sign of great grief and anguish.] So why was Josiah so upset! [The Book of Deuteronomy tells what will happen to the people if they do not follow God’s laws.] Josiah wanted to follow God so deeply that he was terribly saddened at how far Judah had strayed from the Law of God. He didn’t even know this book existed!*

*Let’s continue. Read verses 20-21.*

<sup>20</sup> He gave these orders to Hilkiyah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Abdon son of Micah, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king’s attendant: <sup>21</sup> “Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for the remnant in Israel and Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the LORD’s anger that is poured out on us because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written in this book.”

**Discussion:** *Now that Josiah has read God’s Law, he realizes that all of Israel and Judah deserved God’s wrath. Why? [Because they have totally abandoned God’s law!] Josiah now wants to seek God’s prophet to find out what will happen to Judah for this great disobedience. What do you think God will say?*

*Let’s see. Read verses 22-25.*

<sup>22</sup> Hilkiyah and those the king had sent with him went to speak to the prophetess Huldah, who was the wife of Shallum son of Tokhath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the Second District. <sup>23</sup> She said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Tell the man who sent you to me, <sup>24</sup> ‘This is what the LORD says: I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people—all the curses written in the book that has been read in the presence of the king of Judah. <sup>25</sup> Because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods and provoked me to anger by all that their hands have made, my anger will be poured out on this place and will not be quenched.’”

**Discussion:** *Will Judah get what they deserve from the LORD? [Yes!] Judah deserves the anger from God. They deserve all of the curses that are found in the Book of Deuteronomy.*

**Application:** *Do you know that you and I also deserve the wrath and punishment of God? We too disobey God’s commands. We too seek after other idols. Without God’s mercy found only in Jesus Christ, you and I will be judged just like the people of Judah.*

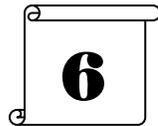
*But, what about Josiah? Will God bring His wrath on him, or will he receive mercy?*

Tell the students that II Kings 22 is a parallel passage that they can read on their own.

*Let's finish our reading. Read verses 26-28.*

<sup>26</sup> Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says concerning the words you heard: <sup>27</sup> Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before God when you heard what he spoke against this place and its people, and because you humbled yourself before me and tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the LORD. <sup>28</sup> Now I will gather you to your fathers, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place and on those who live here.'" So they took her answer back to the king.

**Conclusion:** *So, the LORD is having mercy on Josiah. Why? [Because his heart was humble towards God.] Josiah responded to God's Law the same way we must—with a heart PURGED of idolatry and pride. Only Jesus can PURGE us of our pride, that's for sure! We will continue the story of King Josiah of Judah next time...*



## Lesson-At-Home

**Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Hebrews 9:14) together.**

### **Hebrews 9:14 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

**Say:** *That word “cleanse” in our verse is the same as the word PURGE. The blood of Christ PURGES our hearts and minds so that we can serve the LORD! So just as Josiah PURGED the land of sin, Jesus PURGES our hearts of sin. Isn't that amazing?*

**Review the verse.**

**Direct the students' attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today's lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.**

**Close in prayer and dismiss the students.**