



## CELL GUIDE

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<b>TOPIC</b> One King To Rule Them All	<b>SPEAKER</b> CS Mark Tan
<b>THEME</b> Old Testament Kings of Judah - Lessons	<b>DATE</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2020

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

In this sermon, CS Mark Tan covered on the life of King Josiah, the last good king of Judah, and the lessons we can learn from him. He was the last king in a lineage of kings dating back 400 years from the time the Hebrews asked Samuel to give them a king. By the time King Josiah ascended the throne, Israel had experienced disaster upon disaster under the reign of his predecessors.

## ONE KING TO RULE THEM ALL

King Josiah's grandfather, King Manasseh, was one of the vilest kings in Judah. He was largely responsible for turning Judah towards idol worship which then remained deep-seated. King Josiah was only eight years of age when he became king. At that time, the kingship of Judah had been tainted for decades from idol worshipping. How then did King Josiah choose to rule over Judah?

### READ THE WORD

Instead of following in his father's footsteps, King Josiah chose to stand up against the prevailing laws and culture of the land by walking righteously and taking strength and direction from the Book of the Law which was discovered during the restoration of the temple. King Josiah recognised that the Book of the Law contained the keys to life - all the wisdom necessary for us to survive in the world - and read it. (2 Chron 34:1-3, 8, 14, 18)

The Bible has been protected and passed down to us. In this age, it is easily available and accessible. However, it is of no use to us if we do not recognise its importance in our lives and read it daily.

### RECOGNISE ITS AUTHORITY

King Josiah tore his clothes in response to the reading of the Word (2 Chron 34:19), having recognised the law of God and realised how far he and his people had fallen from God and the judgement they were therefore under. He found the words of the covenant in the Book of the Law which were laws that the kings and the people were subject to under the Almighty God.

The duty of the king was to keep a personal copy of the Word, read it all the days of his life and learn to fear the Lord by keeping the law so that his heart would not become proud and cause him to turn away from the straight and narrow path set out before him. (Deut 17:18-20)

The laws also apply to us as we are called to be Priests and Kings. Many of us hold positions of authority whereby we are responsible for others e.g. teachers, parents. Hence, it is important that we recognise the Bible as the true source of authority in our lives. The Bible reminds us daily that we are leaders under the lordship of Christ. This is the only way we can survive the pressures to conform, to be approved and to perform. It was true for King Josiah and is still relevant for us now.

### RECEIVE THE RHEMA

The Logos is what you read from the Bible (Matt 7:24, Acts 6:7). Rhema is what you receive from the Holy Spirit for your life or a given situation. It comes from what is already spoken and written in the Logos. The Logos and Rhema are inseparable and in alignment with each other.

King Josiah found the Logos in the temple but sought the Rhema through Huldah in the temple (2 Chron 34:22). The Rhema was revealed to him where God pronounced judgement on the people of Judah. God showed that He was a jealous God and would not share His glory with another. He would not let their sins go unpunished as He especially hated idolatry and the worship of other gods. God acknowledged Josiah's sincerity and humility in turning to Him and blessed him by allowing Josiah to die in peace (2 Chron 34:24,26). The Rhema drew King Josiah closer to God's heart.

God has placed His Holy Spirit in us who speaks His words of life to us. God speaks His Rhema to us after we read His Word and approach Him in prayer. Wait upon Him to hear and seek His voice. The Holy Spirit will convict and bring clarity to our situations in the same way He did for King Josiah.

### RESPOND WHOLEHEARTEDLY

King Josiah responded wholeheartedly to the Word he received from the Book of the Law. He made a covenant to walk after the Lord with all his heart and soul. He got rid of the abominations in the land and made all his people serve the Lord. During his reign, the people did not turn away from following the Lord (2 Chron 34:29-33). All of King Josiah's accomplishments despite his youth were achieved because of his wholehearted commitment to God. This is what God desires of us too.

We may not necessarily participate in idol worship in today's context but anything that replaces God or tells us that we do not need God in our lives is an idol.

## CONCLUSION

While good kings can turn the hearts of the people to God for a while and improve the spiritual state of the nation, bad kings will do the opposite and ruin the nation. However, even if the king was good, the people were still quick to turn away and incur the wrath of God. Judah was still destroyed after King Josiah's reign despite him being a good king.

God promised David a king who would achieve what all the kings in the Old Testament could not achieve and who would rule forever. This king showed the perfectness of God and paid the price for our idolatry and high places. He brings about the promise of new creation and delivers us. He is the one in whom we place our hope and from whom we receive our inheritance as sons and daughters of the King. This king is Jesus Christ. In the face of such a king, our only response is to worship and bow down to Him. He calls us to tear down our idols and respond wholeheartedly unto Him. Will you do it?

*One king to rule them all – Jesus Christ.*

# QUESTIONS

1. The speaker outlined four stages a reader can take when approaching the Word of God – reading the Word, recognising the authority of the Word, receiving the Rhema Word, and responding wholeheartedly to the Word of God. Which of these stages do you identify with most in your own reading of the Word?

2. Knowing that the Word is the primary means through which God reveals Himself to us, and that the Word is God's authority over our lives, how will you change the way that you approach the Word of God?

3. God desires all of us and all of our obedience, not a partial compliance where we yield some parts of our lives but choose to maintain control over others. What are some things today that hinder you from responding to God with wholehearted obedience and commitment? What are some actions you can take to tear down your high places and re-establish your altar to the Lord?