

# LET GOD ARISE!

*Revival  
Prayer Guide #10  
Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis*



## **Humble Ourselves before God: Revival under Josiah** 2 Chronicles 30.1-9

### **Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness**

*Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, trans. John Wesley*

Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness  
My beauty are, my glorious dress  
'Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,  
With joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in Thy great day  
For who aught to my charge shall lay?  
Fully absolved through these I am,  
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

Lord, I believe Thy precious blood  
Which at the mercy seat of God  
Forever doth for sinners plead  
For me, e'en for my soul, was shed.

Lord, I believe were sinners more  
Than sands upon the ocean shore,  
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,  
For all a full atonement made.

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**Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis,**  
*(Ph.D., U of Iowa) is the  
Director of World  
Impact's Urban Ministry  
Institute. He also serves  
as World Impact's Vice  
President of Leadership  
Development.*

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**Josiah as a young king follows the ways of the Lord, and of his father David**

2 Chron. 34.1-7 - Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. [2] And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father; and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. [3] For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father, and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, and the carved and the metal images. [4] And they chopped down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and he cut down the incense altars that stood above them. And he broke in pieces the Asherim and the carved and the metal images, and he made dust of them and scattered it over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. [5] He also burned the bones of the priests on their altars and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. [6] And in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, and as far as Naphtali, in their ruins all around, [7] he broke down the altars and beat the Asherim and the images into powder and cut down all the incense altars throughout all the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

**We are to remain on the path of the Lord, even as Josiah did, swerving neither to the right nor the left**

Deut. 5.32 - You shall be careful therefore to do as the Lord your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

Deut. 17.11 - According to the instructions that they give you, and according to the decision which they pronounce to you, you shall do. You shall not turn aside from the verdict that they declare to you, either to the right hand or to the left.

Josh. 1.7 - Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.



*Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV)*

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Josh. 23.6 - Therefore, be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left,

Prov. 4.27 - Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.

**Josiah's revival prompted from discovering and becoming acquainted afresh with the Word of the Lord, the holy Scriptures**

2 Chron. 34.14-21 - While they were bringing out the money that had been brought into the house of the Lord, Hilkiyah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord given through Moses. [15] Then Hilkiyah answered and said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord." And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan. [16] Shaphan brought the book to the king, and further reported to the king, "All that was committed to your servants they are doing. [17] They have emptied out the money that was found in the house of the Lord and have given it into the hand of the overseers and the workmen." [18] Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, "Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read from it before the king. [19] And when the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his clothes. [20] And the king commanded Hilkiyah, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, [21] "Go, inquire of the Lord for me and for those who are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that has been 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."

**Our response to the Law of the Lord is the key either to our blessing or our weakness**

Ezra 7.10 - For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.



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Ps. 1.2 - but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Isa. 5.24 - Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom go up like dust; for they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Isa. 30.9-14 - For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the Lord; [10] who say to the seers, “Do not see,” and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, [11] leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.” [12] Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, “Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, [13] therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; [14] and its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern.”

Jer. 8.8 - How can you say, ‘We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us’? But behold, the lying pen of the scribes has made it into a lie.

**Josiah both hears and obeys the word of the Lord, and makes a covenant to obey him**

2 Chron. 34.29-33 - Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. [30] And the king went up to the house of the Lord, with all the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the Levites, all the people both great and small. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the Lord. [31] And the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord and to keep his



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commandments and his testimonies and his statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book. [32] Then he made all who were present in Jerusalem and in Benjamin stand to it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers. [33] And Josiah took away all the abominations from all the territory that belonged to the people of Israel and made all who were present in Israel serve the Lord their God. All his days they did not turn away from following the Lord, the God of their fathers.

### **The people of Israel covenant to follow the Lord**

Deut. 29.10-15 - You are standing today all of you before the Lord your God: the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, all the men of Israel, [11] your little ones, your wives, and the sojourner who is in your camp, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water, [12] so that you may enter into the sworn covenant of the Lord your God, which the Lord your God is making with you today, [13] that he may establish you today as his people, and that he may be your God, as he promised you, and as he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. [14] It is not with you alone that I am making this sworn covenant, [15] but with whoever is standing here with us today before the Lord our God, and with whoever is not here with us today.

### **Josiah keeps the Passover with the people of Israel**

2 Chron. 35.1-6 - Josiah kept a Passover to the Lord in Jerusalem. And they slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the first month. [2] He appointed the priests to their offices and encouraged them in the service of the house of the Lord. [3] And he said to the Levites who taught all Israel and who were holy to the Lord, “Put the holy ark in the house that Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, built. You need not carry it on your shoulders. Now serve the Lord your God and his people Israel. [4] Prepare yourselves according to your fathers' houses by your divisions, as prescribed in the writing of David king of Israel and the document of Solomon his son. [5] And stand in the Holy Place according to the groupings of the fathers’



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houses of your brothers the lay people, and according to the division of the Levites by fathers' household. [6] And slaughter the Passover lamb, and consecrate yourselves, and prepare for your brothers, to do according to the word of the Lord by Moses.”

2 Chron. 35.16-19 - So all the service of the Lord was prepared that day, to keep the Passover and to offer burnt offerings on the altar of the Lord, according to the command of King Josiah. [17] And the people of Israel who were present kept the Passover at that time, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days. [18] No Passover like it had been kept in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet. None of the kings of Israel had kept such a Passover as was kept by Josiah, and the priests and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. [19] In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah this Passover was kept.

### **Josiah dies for failure to listen to the Word of the Lord**

2 Chron. 35.20-27 - After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Neco king of Egypt went up to fight at Carchemish on the Euphrates and Josiah went out to meet him. [21] But he sent envoys to him, saying, “What have we to do with each other, king of Judah? I am not coming against you this day, but against the house with which I am at war. And God has commanded me to hurry. Cease opposing God, who is with me, lest he destroy you.” [22] Nevertheless, Josiah did not turn away from him, but disguised himself in order to fight with him. He did not listen to the words of Neco from the mouth of God, but came to fight in the plain of Megiddo. [23] And the archers shot King Josiah. And the king said to his servants, “Take me away, for I am badly wounded.” [24] So his servants took him out of the chariot and carried him in his second chariot and brought him to Jerusalem. And he died and was buried in the tombs of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. [25] Jeremiah also uttered a lament for Josiah; and all the singing men and singing women have spoken of Josiah in their laments to this day. They made these a rule in Israel; behold, they are



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written in the Laments. [26] Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and his good deeds according to what is written in the Law of the Lord, [27] and his acts, first and last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

**Revival is merely the result of consistent, humble obedience to the revealed Word of God**

Josh. 1.8 - This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Ps. 19.11 - Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Matt. 7.24 - Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Luke 11.28 - But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

John 5.24 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 8.31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, [32] and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Rev. 1.3 - Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.



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**We must humble ourselves under God's Word which is his standard of both faith and discipleship**

Prov. 29.18 - Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.

Isa. 8.20 - To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.

John 12.48 - The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

Gal. 1.8 - But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

1 Thess. 2.13 - And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

**God acknowledges and blesses the humble of heart**

Psalm 18.27 - For you save a humble people, but the haughty eyes you bring down.

Ps. 25.9 - He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

Ps. 34.2 - My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

Ps. 147.6 - The Lord lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

Ps. 149.4 - For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.



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Prov. 11.2 - When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

Isa. 66.2 - All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

Zeph. 2.3 - Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord.

**Like Josiah, revival comes when in humility we both hear the word of God and keep it**

James 1.22-25 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. [23] For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. [24] For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. [25] But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Rom. 2.13 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.

Col. 3.17 - And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

James 4.17 - So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

1 John 2.3 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.



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1 John 3.7 - Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

3 John 1.11 - Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. ■

WOULD YOU describe yourself as a humble person?

Of all the Christian virtues, humility may very well be one of the most misunderstood and misevaluated characteristics of the Christ-formed life. In many of our conservative Christian contexts, humility is understood in terms of a kind of non-assertive doormat personality that allows anything and everything to be tolerated within its sphere of life. Others view humility in terms of a kind of demure and pensive sobriety that never smiles, laughs, or challenges anything. Perhaps worst of all are the notions of humility that make any kind of aggressiveness or assertiveness as patently prideful and wrong; only the truly meek in personality are truly humble, so they say. Yet, in light of these and other misconstrued ideas about what it means to be humble, how are we to understand it from a biblical point of view? Can one truly be both aggressive and humble? Is it possible to be completely assertive, even boastful (in the biblical sense), and still be characterized in terms of the virtue of humility?

Josiah, king of Judah, during his reign reveals a dimension of revival in the Hebrew Scriptures that shows the power of humility in authentic spirituality.

As one who even as a young person showed a remarkable ability to act decisively regarding the will of God he knew, Josiah reveals an assertiveness that is indicative of true biblical submission and humility. To begin with, he began his reign with a commitment to eliminate every vestige of idolatry and



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immorality among the people of God. The writer speaks clearly of his early reigning years, even as an eight-year-old child, who would reign two decades longer:

*2 Chron. 34.1-7 - Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. [2] And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father; and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. [3] For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father, and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, and the carved and the metal images. [4] And they chopped down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and he cut down the incense altars that stood above them. And he broke in pieces the Asherim and the carved and the metal images, and he made dust of them and scattered it over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. [5] He also burned the bones of the priests on their altars and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. [6] And in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, and as far as Naphtali, in their ruins all around, [7] he broke down the altars and beat the Asherim and the images into powder and cut down all the incense altars throughout all the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem.*

Josiah brought transformation, change, dynamic cleansing in the kingdom of God. His twelfth year was rooted in David-like courageous action for the Lord: he purged high places, destroyed idol images, chopped down Baal and incense altars, eliminated ungodly priests. He purged the land of all its idolatrous practices, and stirred his heart to reinvigorate the nation with the worship and service to Yahweh, God of David and Abraham.

The key to Josiah's prepared heart for revival is revealed in his response to the discovery of the Book of the Lord in the Temple.



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*2 Chron. 34.14-21 - While they were bringing out the money that had been brought into the house of the Lord, Hilkiyah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord given through Moses. [15] Then Hilkiyah answered and said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord." And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan. [16] Shaphan brought the book to the king, and further reported to the king, "All that was committed to your servants they are doing. [17] They have emptied out the money that was found in the house of the Lord and have given it into the hand of the overseers and the workmen." [18] Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, "Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read from it before the king. [19] And when the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his clothes. [20] And the king commanded Hilkiyah, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, [21] "Go, inquire of the Lord for me and for those who are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that has been 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."*

Josiah understood the struggling condition of the people of God because of their persistent disobedience and neglect of the Scriptures. The revivals that Josiah spawned grew out of a profound humility before the Lord, a trembling at his word, a willingness to acknowledge the power of God's Scriptures to ensure God's best and deepest in our lives. Here then is one of the master keys of biblical revival. Keeping the Word of the Lord becomes both the cause and the effect of genuine revival before the Lord.

The discovery and hearing of the book completely transformed and challenged Josiah the king, who was deeply touched by its finding. He reasoned quickly and directly that the reason behind the judgment they faced in the nation was the failure of their fathers to keep the word of the



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Lord according to what was written in the book of the Lord. He remedied this disobedience with decisive and immediate action. Josiah kept the Passover, restored the true worship of God, and ended idolatry among the people of God. In a climactic act of obedience to the Lord, Josiah went into the house of God, gathering the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem, with the priests, Levites, and all the people regardless of importance. He read the Book of the Covenant to them, the same that had been found in the house of the Lord, and made a covenant before the Lord to keep his commandments with a wholehearted obedience according to the words in the Book. He exhorted those in Jerusalem to affirm the same commitment, and took away all the idolatrous abominations from the territory of Israel. As the chronicler says of Josiah, “All his days they did not turn away from following the Lord, the God of their fathers.”

Josiah embodies a true humility that is rooted in immediate, radical response to the Word of God, the covenant of God written there, and the purpose of the Lord unfolding there regarding the Kingdom of God. The truly humble are creative in responding to God, they act on what God has revealed, and assert their unequivocal commitment to obey the will of the Lord as revealed in the living and written Word of God.

For those who desire revival today, we cannot understand it in terms of emotional refreshment, manifestation of signs and wonders, or special visitations of the Spirit alone. We must understand revival as a courageous and costly obedience to the Word of the Lord, a discovery of that Word, a renewal proclamation of it in the midst of the people of God, and an aggressive, intentional, and deliberate move to eliminate everything that that Word demands cleansing from, and implementation of all its decrees. Revival’s result is nothing more than full obedience to the will of God revealed in the Word of God.



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This view of humility will eliminate for some that revival will result in wild-eyed emotional outbursts and weird spiritualizations that have nothing to do with the truth. Rather, real revival always results in a deep commitment to embrace and obey the Word of God as revealed in the Scriptures and the Son of God. Let us banish all views of revival that would make us think that truth, revelation, and the Scriptures would be eclipsed or undermined. Truth comes to the fore in genuine revival, and the Word of God is rediscovered, readmitted, and reckoned upon as it truly is, the living Word of the Lord.

*Those who pray for revival are simultaneously praying for a rediscovery of the power of the living Word of God in the midst of his people.*

This is the kind of revival that a dry and moralistic evangelicalism needs today, and one which the cities of America long for. Are we truly humble enough to allow the Holy Spirit to so touch our hearts that we make ourselves available to God to obey him radically, joyfully, and vigorously until all idols are smashed, all abominations are eliminated, and all commands are revisited that we may glorify him who gave us his Word?

This is the kind of humility we need today, the kind reflected in the great Zinzendorf hymn “Jesus Thy Blood and Righteousness,” that understands that only through the Blood of Jesus Christ do we have any real relationship with God. His redemption has eliminated all boasting, and we are now set free to obey him without condition or qualification. We are asserting his lordship in our humility. This radical commitment to Jesus and his word is the kind of humility that can transform our Christian communities into outposts of the Kingdom of God.

Tell me—are you open to the God-kind of humility, to the Spirit’s purpose to transform you into a truly humble person?

The choice is yours. ■



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### Example of Returning to the Lord: Josiah

*2 Chron. 34.20-21 - And the king commanded Hilkiah, Abikam the son of Shaphan, Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, [21] "Go, inquire of the Lord for me and for those who are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that has been 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."*

### Biblical Principle of the Month

Revival is prompted from a deep humility that through the power of the Holy Spirit produces a new reverence for the Word of God, with a commitment to see it obeyed in the most radical way. Revival produces an unconditional commitment of the people of God to live true to the kingdom story that God has given to it, to fulfill in every way the purpose and plan outlined for us according to the Word of God. As we humble ourselves before God, the Word of God takes on its true place, and we obey it for what it truly is—the living Word of Almighty God.

*James 4.6 - But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."*

*James 4.10 - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.*

*1 Pet. 5.5-6 - Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." [6] Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.*



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