

## Faith During Faithless Times

A Study of II Kings

Part IV—Lost and Found

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*2 Kings 22:8-13 (ESV)*

*8 And Hilkiyah the high priest 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, and he read it. 9 And Shaphan the secretary came to the king, and reported to the king, "Your servants have emptied out the money that was found in the house and have delivered it into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of the LORD." 10 Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, "Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king. 11 When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes. 12 And the king commanded Hilkiyah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Micaiah, and Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, 13 "Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."*

### KEY VERSE

*2 Kings 23:25 (NLT)*

*25 Never before had there been a king like Josiah, who turned to the LORD with all his heart and soul and strength, obeying all the laws of Moses. And there has never been a king like him since.*

Josiah at 16—

*2 Chronicles 34:3 (NLT)*

*3 During the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, Josiah began to seek the God of his ancestor David. Then in the twelfth year he began to purify Judah and Jerusalem, destroying all the pagan shrines, the Asherah poles, and the carved idols and cast images.*

—Blaise Pascal was sixteen when he came up with some ideas that are still used today by mathematicians.

—Alexander the Great was ruler of Macedonia at sixteen, victorious general at eighteen, king at twenty.

— Francis Asbury (1745-1816) was converted at fourteen in England and began preaching at sixteen.

—Jeff Bezos, who is now worth \$160 billion, was working the grill at McDonald's at age 16.

*1 Kings 13:1-5 (NIV)*

*1 By the word of the LORD a man of God came from Judah to Bethel, as Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make an offering. 2 He cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD: "O altar, altar! This is what the LORD says: 'A son named Josiah will be born to the house of David. On you he will sacrifice the priests of the high places who now make offerings here, and human bones will be burned on you.'" 3 That same day the man of God gave a sign: "This is the sign the LORD has declared: The altar will be split apart and the ashes on it will be poured out." 4 When King Jeroboam heard what the man of God cried out against the altar at Bethel, he stretched out his hand from the altar and said, "Seize him!" But the hand he stretched out toward the man shriveled up, so that he could not pull it back. 5 Also, the altar was split apart and its ashes poured out according to the sign given by the man of God by the word of the LORD.*

## PURSUIT OF GOD

*Deuteronomy 4:29 (ESV)*

*29 But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

### WHY SHOULD GOD BE THE OBJECT OF OUR PURSUIT?

**1. We are \_\_\_\_\_ without God.**

*Isaiah 53:6 (NIV)*

*6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

**2. A life absent of God is at best \_\_\_\_\_, and at worst unbearable.**

*Job 8:14 (TLB)*

*14 A man without God is trusting in a spider's web. Everything he counts on will collapse.*

"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

— George Washington

### **3. In Christ alone can we obtain peace and find \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Ephesians 2:12 (NIV)*

*12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.*

### **HOW DO WE SEEK GOD?**

#### **• Scriptures**

*John 5:39 (NCV)*

*You carefully study the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. They do in fact tell about me,*

#### **• Supplication**

*1 Samuel 12:23 (NLT)*

*“As for me, I will certainly not sin against the LORD by ending my prayers for you. And I will continue to teach you what is good and right.*

#### **• Sanctuary**

*Psalms 122:1 (NLT)*

*I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”*

#### **• Soul**

*Lamentations 3:25 (NKJV)*

*The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him.*

ANSWERS:

1. LOST
2. INCOMPLETE
3. HOPE