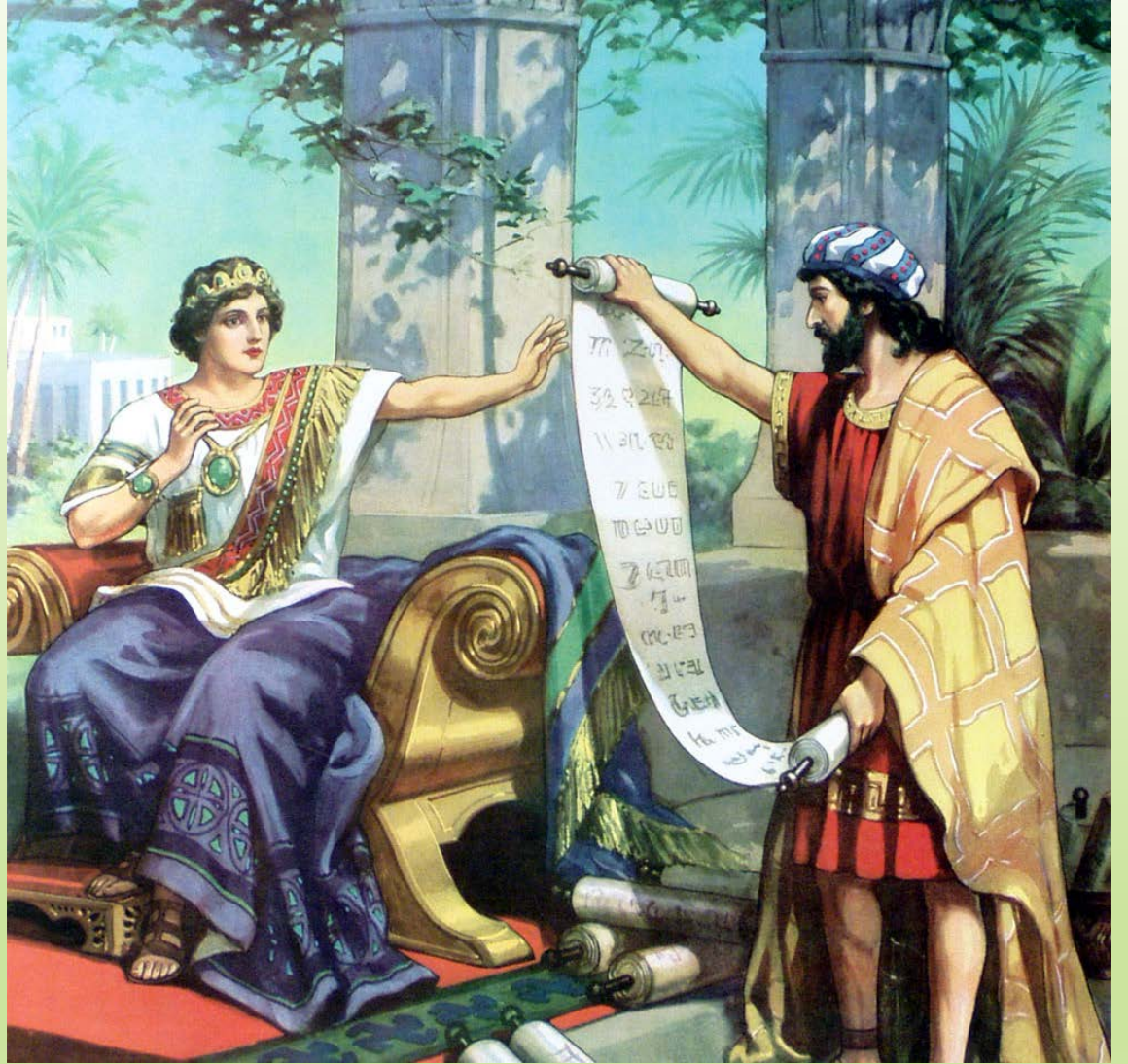


Josiah's Reforms

2 Kings 23: 25.



Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him."
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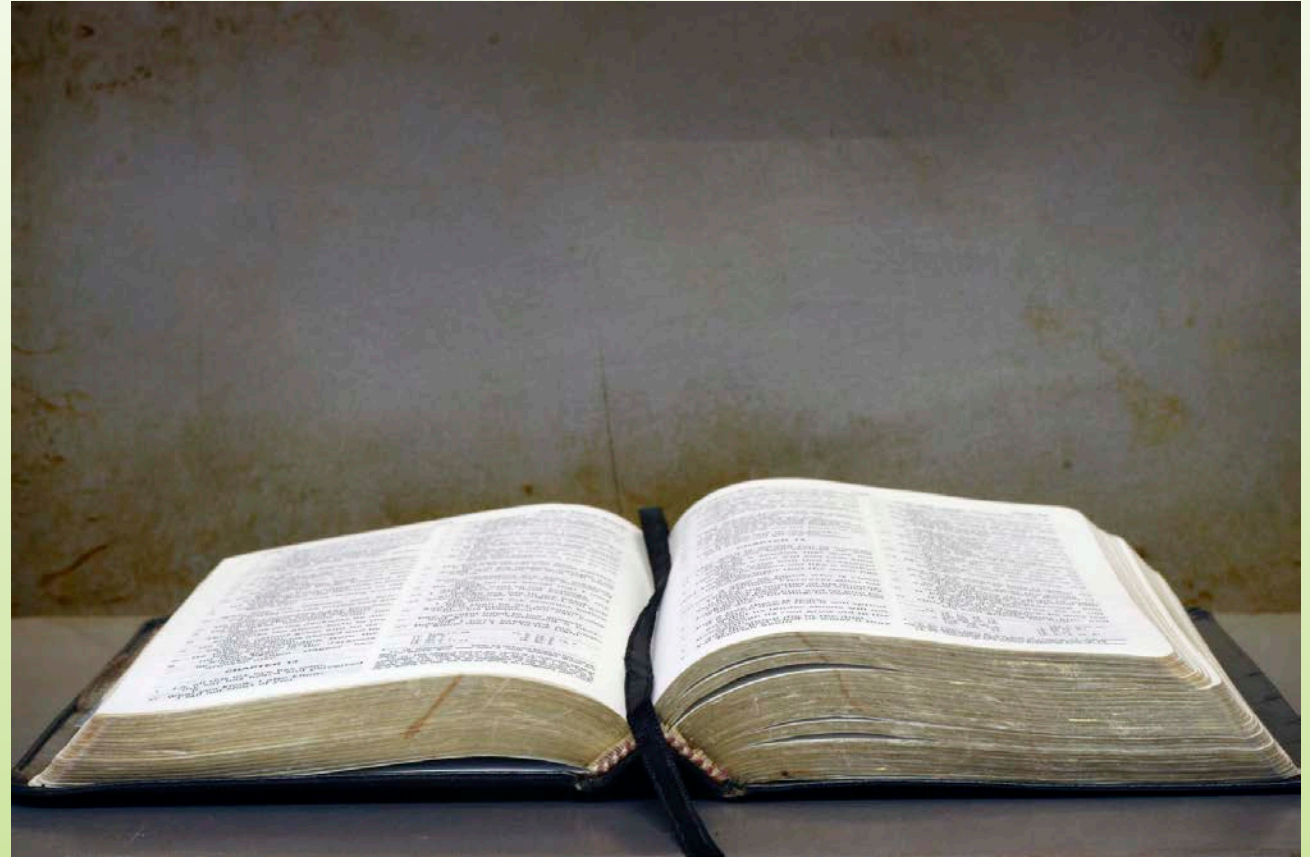
I. Introduction

One of the most urgent needs of Christians today is the true reformation. A real change, produced by the action of the Holy Spirit, is the only capable to breathe a new life in our dying churches.



"The only true
reformation is that which
emanates from the Word
of God."

J.H. Merle d'Aubigne,
1794 – 1872.



“Historically, the most important ingredient of true reformation and renewal is for the church to become more intentionally biblical in its thought and actions.”
Gordon Fee, Regent College



“Reformation...will not be brought about by human persuasions, or by consideration of consequences, or by those who seek to save souls through a skillful use of ecclesiastical influences, or by those who refrain from speaking the truth through a fear of ‘splitting the Church’ or of making a poor showing in columns of Church statistics. How petty, in the great day when the Spirit of God again moves in the Church, all such considerations will seem! No, when the true Reformation comes, it will come through the instrumentality of those upon whom God has laid His hand, to whom the gospel has become a burning fire within them, who speak because they are compelled to speak, who, caring nothing for human influences and conciliation and external Church combinations and the praise or blame of men, speak the word that God has given them and trust for the results to Him alone. In other words, it will be brought about by men of faith.

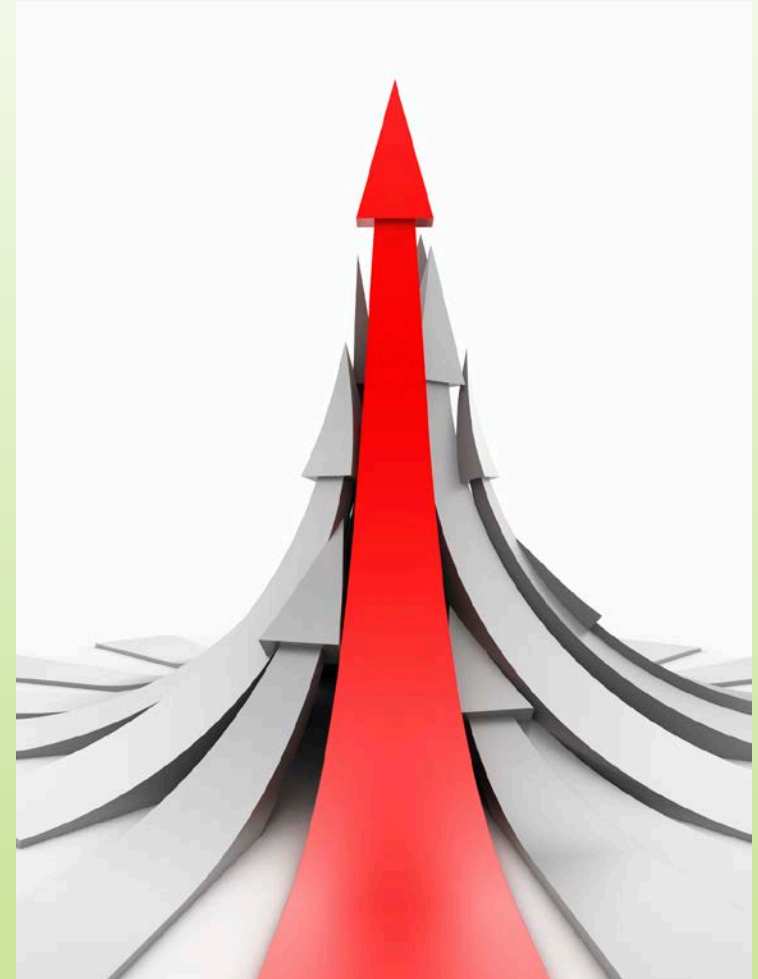
J. Gresham Machen (1881-1937) *What is Faith*, Banner of Truth, pp. 104. 105.

"The Reformation was a return to the days of the early church, when preaching was at the centre of the service and when God's people came eagerly to feed upon the Word of God proclaimed from Lord's Day to Lord's Day. This is what makes the Reformation so pertinent to our day. For it is especially this heritage of the pure preaching of the Word which we count so necessary for the church of all ages, and which is so precious to us. Every truly reformed Christian wants faithful preaching, because he knows that this is the way of salvation God has ordained for his soul (Eph. 4; Rom. 10)."

Charles J. Terpstra



"Leaders do not conform; they reform. If you conform, you are nurturing mediocrity. If you reform, you are breeding change."
Israelmore Ayivor, *Leaders' Ladder*



“For Christians to influence the world with the truth of God's Word requires the recovery of the great Reformation doctrine of vocation. Christians are called to God's service not only in church professions but also in every secular calling. The task of restoring truth to the culture depends largely on our laypeople... To bring back truth, on a practical level, the church must encourage Christians to be not merely consumers of culture but makers of culture. Christian laypeople must be encouraged to be leaders in their fields, rather than eager-to-please followers, working from the assumptions of their biblical worldview, not the vapid clichés of pop culture.”

J. Gresham Machen

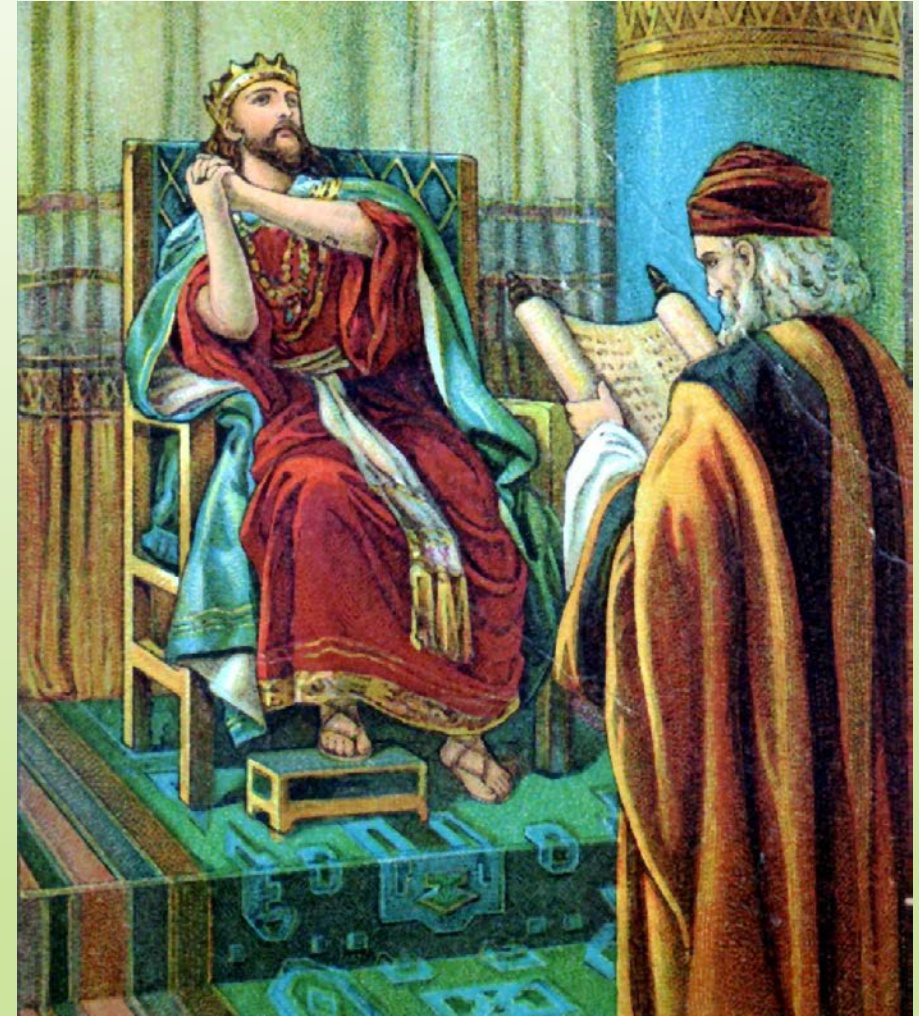
“True reformation begins with soul cleansing. Our work for the fallen will achieve real success only as the grace of Christ reshapes the character and the soul is brought into living connection with God.”
Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 180.



II. Context



The text regarding the king Josiah (2 Kings 22: 1 – 23: 30) relates the story of the reformation in Jerusalem and the readiness of the king to follow the instructions of God.



The Reign of the King Josiah (2 Kings 22: 1 – 23: 30.)

A	22: 1	The Beginning of the Reign of the King Josiah
B	22: 1	King Josiah did what is right in the sight of the Lord
C	22: 1	Restoring the true worship according to the King
D	22: 1	Reading of the Book to the King
E	22: 1	The king tears his clothes after the reading of the Book
F	22: 1	The king is requesting a word from God
G	22: 14 - 20	Words of Huldah, the prophetess
F'	22: 1	The king is requesting the presence of all leaders and of the people
D'	22: 1	Reading of the Book by the king
E'	22: 1	The king and all the people make covenant with God after the reading of the Book
C'	22: 1	Restoring the true worship according to the Book 1. Removing of the articles for idols; 2. Removing of the priests; 3. Removing of the wooden image; 4. Removing of the prostitutes; 5. Removing of the priests and high places in the cities of Judah; 6. Removing of the place for human sacrifices; 7. Removing of the horses dedicated to the Sun; 8. Removing of the altars; 9. Removing of the high places east of Jerusalem; 10. Removing of the altar in Bethel; 11. Removing of the tombs (except of the man of God); 12. Removing of the houses of deities in Samaria; 13. Order to keep the Passover; 14. Removing of the spiritists and mediums.
B'	22: 1	The Beginning of the Reign of the King Josiah
A'	22: 1	King Josiah did what is right in the sight of the Lord

In the center of the text about the king Josiah we have the word of the prophetess Huldah. Before acting, the king asked God for guidance and direction.



At the beginning of the text the king Josiah decided to restore the true worship of God according to his criteria. After the discovery of the Book and the consultation of the prophet, he did the restoration of the true worship in God's way. He had to modify 14 things, a total change of the life in his kingdom. The prophet was transforming the culture through the promotion of God's plan for His people.



The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah: Structure

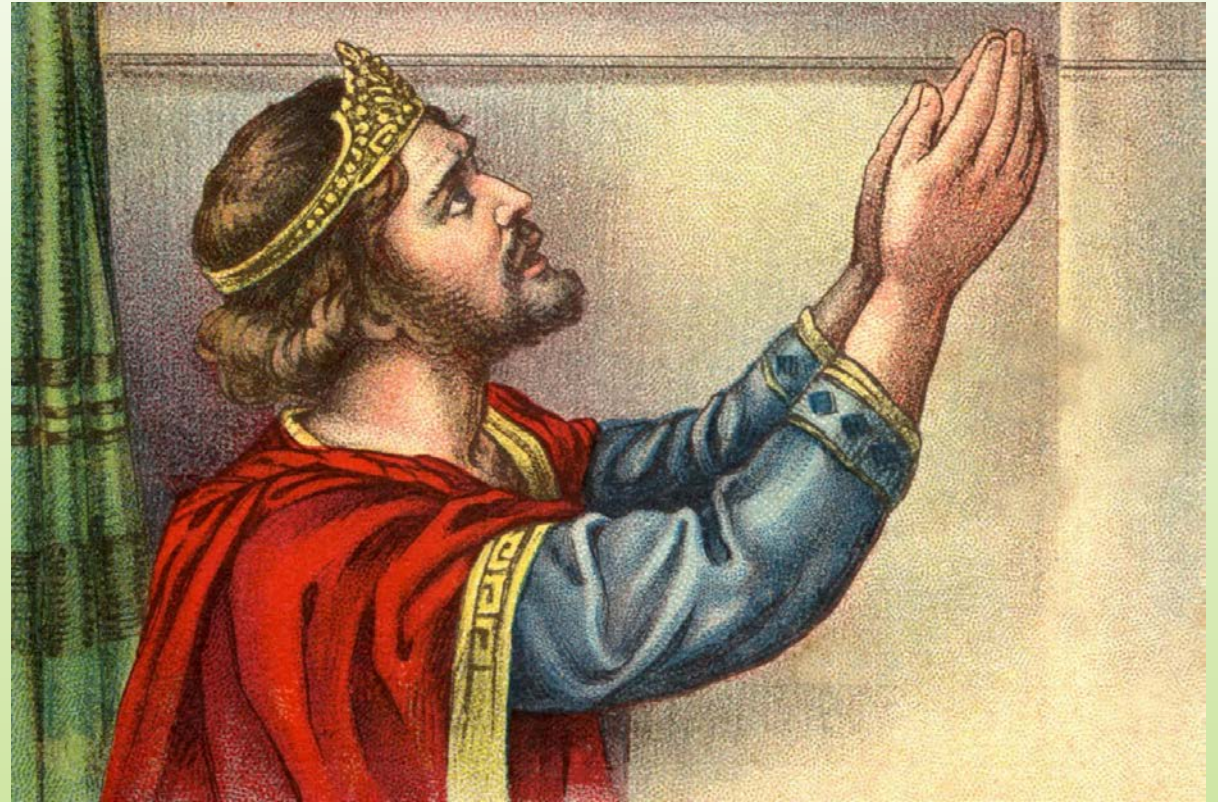
A	Ch. 1	Prologue: Vocation of Jeremiah and prediction about Babylon
B	Ch. 2 - 10	Prophecies regarding Judah
C	Ch. 11 - 20	Confessions of Jeremiah
D	Ch. 21 - 29	Nebuchadnezzar punishing the king Zedekiah and Jerusalem
E	Ch. 30 - 33	The New Covenant and the new Consolation
D'	Ch. 34 - 35	Sin of the king Zedekiah
C'	Ch. 36 - 45	Suffering of Jeremiah
B'	Ch. 46 - 51	Prophecies regarding the Nations
A	Ch. 52	Epilogue: Fall of Jerusalem and fulfillment of the prophecy about Babylon

III. The message of the king Josiah's life is encouraging. Even in the middle of the unfaithfulness, it is possible to stay strongly attached to God

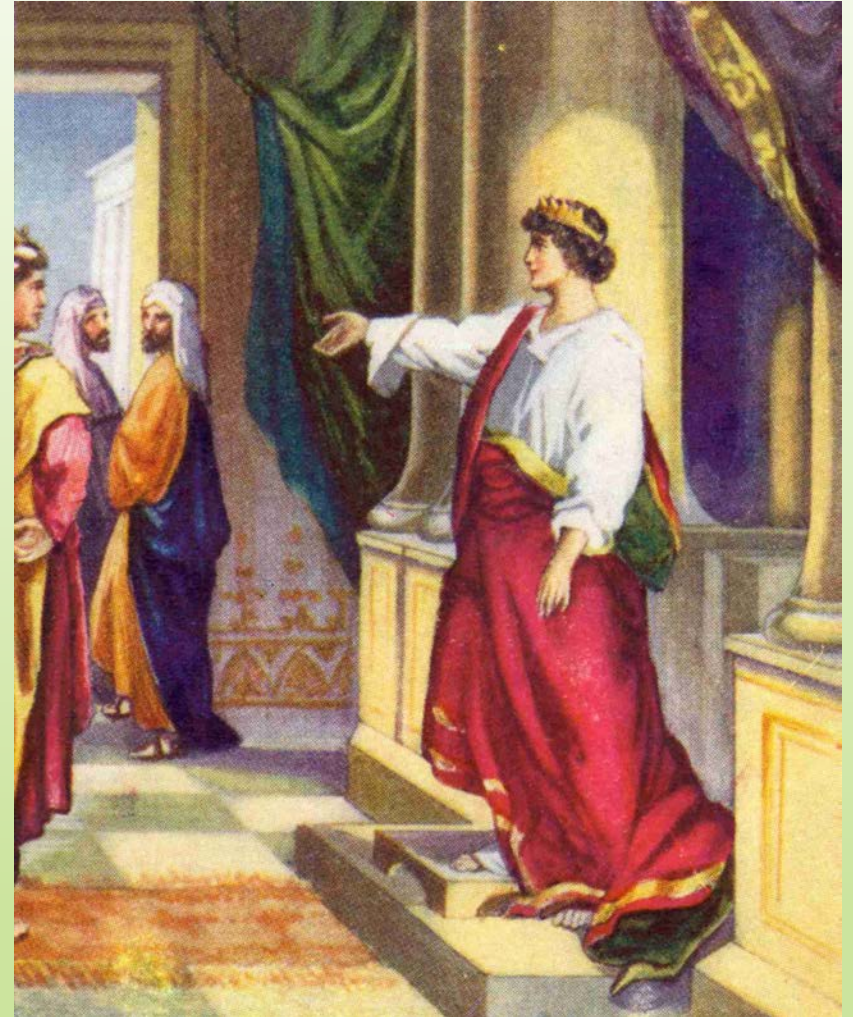


1. The king Josiah rose above all other kings

"Now before him there was no
king like him... nor after him
did any arise like him."



"The faithfulness to God is the best measure for the success of the leaders in His church. The king Josiah is one of them. He demonstrated the true leadership: God first, then His prophets, and finally the promotion of His eternal covenant. This is why the king Josiah is the inspiration for all generations."
(DS)



“Paul measured his own success as a leader, as an apostle, and as a Christian by a single criterion: He had “kept the faith”—meaning both that he had remained faithful to Christ and that he had kept the message of Christ’s gospel intact, just as he had received it. He had proclaimed the Word of God faithfully and fearlessly.”
John MacArthur



“Faithfulness to God requires your obedience, even when it’s difficult.”
Jim George



2. The king Josiah had a wholistic approach in his relationship with God

“Who turned to the Lord with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might.”



“When we have the love of God in our hearts, we love Him with all our heart and we love our neighbors as ourselves. Thus we uplift His majesty, and we are also uplifted in the image of His son Jesus Christ.”
(DS)



“You who profess to love God, take Jesus with you wherever you go; and, like the patriarchs of old, erect an altar to the Lord wherever you pitch your tent. A reformation in this respect is needed, a reformation that shall be deep and broad.”

Ellen G. White,
Testimonies for the
Church vol. 5, p. 320. 321.



"What we once enjoyed and deeply loved
we can never lose, for all that we love
deeply becomes a part of us."

Helen Keller



3. We are invited to fully
respect the will of God
“According to all the Law of
Moses”



"The Word of God well understood and religiously obeyed is the shortest route to spiritual perfection. And we must not select a few favorite passages to the exclusion of others. Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian."
A. W. Tozer



"The BIBLE is as necessary to spiritual life as breath is to natural life. There is nothing more essential to our lives than the Word of G-D."
Jack Hayford



"The Bible is very easy to understand.
But we Christians are a bunch of
scheming swindlers. We pretend to be
unable to understand it because we
know very well that the minute we
understand, we are obliged to act
accordingly."

Søren Kierkegaard



V. Conclusion



“You are not likely to see
any general reformation,
till you procure family
reformation.”
Richard Baxter



"Josiah's
reformation did
not last because
the people
complied due to
their love for
Josiah, not so
much for their
love of the Lord."
Richard Sibbes



“Let there be a revival of the first love, the first ardor. Search out the ones you have driven away, bind up by confession the wounds you have made. Come close to the great Heart of pitying love, and let the current of that divine compassion flow into your heart and from you to the hearts of others. Let the tenderness and mercy that Jesus has revealed in His own precious life be an example to us of the manner in which we should treat our fellow beings, especially those who are our brethren in Christ.”

Ellen G. White, Counsels for the Church, p. 255.



Josiah's Reforms

2 Kings 23: 25.

