

Associates for Scriptural Knowledge • P.O. Box 25000, Portland, OR 97298-0990, USA

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Webpage on the Internet: <http://www.askelm.com> • E-Mail address: [askoffice@askelm.com](mailto:askoffice@askelm.com)

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Dear Associates and Friends,

March 2021

This month I continue the history of “[Israel and Judah: 40. Josiah and Discovery of the Law](#).” The narrative of this prophecy article is about Josiah of Judah and the first half of his reign beginning when he was 8 years old. He will be the last King of Judah that “**was upright in the eyes of Yahweh and walked in all the way of his father David**” (2 Kings 22:2; 2 Chronicles 34:2).

### *Cast of Characters:*

**YHWH.** Creator and controller of all things in heaven and earth. YHWH influences individuals, kingdoms, countries, and peoples to work “**all things after the counsel of his own will**” (Ephesians 1:11). Despite the idolatry of the people of Judah, God patiently grants his people one last good king to rule as a witness that they know the good before His very severe punishments begin. In this episode the King of Judah receives approval and encouragement from his God.

**Josiah.** King of Judah. He ascends the throne of Judah at age 8 and he will be the last “good” king of Judah before its long downfall and final destruction. His birth was prophesied centuries before and he carries out important reforms against pagan religious sites, rites, and priests. He restored the Temple of YHWH.

**Jeremiah.** Prophet of God. He praises Josiah and warns the people of Judah. He wrote the Books of Jeremiah. He also wrote the Book of Lamentations that was written during Josiah’s reign. Jeremiah also wrote Psalms 89, 119, and Zechariah chapters 9–14, according to Dr. Martin’s research.<sup>1</sup> His involvement in the affairs of Judah will increase. Jeremiah was also the prophet to the nations. He will have a major role in announcing to the peoples, kingdoms, and rulers of the world that a transformation is coming that will lead to a Babylonian system that still operates in our era today.

**Zephaniah.** Another prophet of God who lived and wrote during Josiah’s life. This prophet received his prophecies during Josiah’s reign, but we do not know when during his reign that Zephaniah received the prophecies. Nor do we know when Zephaniah taught them to the people of Judah. His prophecies warn of a coming judgment upon Judah, the Great Day of YHWH, judgment upon Israel’s enemies, the wickedness of Jerusalem, and the punishment and conversion of the nations.

**Huldah the Prophetess.** God speaks through her to Josiah and to all Judah. A newly discovered Book of the Law was brought to her because God spoke through her. She tells Josiah and his officials what God requires from the king, nobles, priests, and the people. This is a last chance for them to repent (and be sincere in their lives) and worship YHWH only.

**People of Judah.** A stiff-necked people as all the people of Israel have been. The corruption of the people of Israel continues and degenerates behind the scenes in Judah even during the reigns of a good king. The people support the new young king initially, but will they support his religious reforms? Do not hold your breath. They continue worshipping other gods, thinking they can placate YHWH by barely

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<sup>1</sup> See Dr. Ernest Martin’s works: “[Introduction to Jeremiah](#),” “[Jeremiah, Part 2](#),” “[Jeremiah, Part 3](#),” “[Jeremiah, Part 4](#)” and my May 2012 Commentary “[Jeremiah and Lamentations](#)” and my article “[The Book of Lamentations](#).”

acknowledging Him with bare minimum worship that sometimes includes YHWH.

### *The Importance of Jeremiah*

I want to encourage you to review the excellent articles about Jeremiah linked in footnote #1 on the previous page. The world in Jeremiah's lifetime will change through the mission God gives him to warn the world that great change will come and opposition to those changes will fail and make their situations worse than if they yield to God's will. God inspires Jeremiah to write the Book of Lamentations detailing the horrors that overtake the people of Judah and Jerusalem during God's punishment from foreign peoples, armies, and kings.

Lamentations was a public document written before Josiah died. It told of the detailed punishments YHWH would impose and how the people would suffer.<sup>2</sup> The events and the subsequent laments of the people of Judah began sooner than anticipated. Everyone believed, even Jeremiah thought, that Josiah would live to an advanced age. The beloved king died at age 39 after a 31-year reign (longer than most kings of Israel).

We will encounter Jeremiah often in the coming episodes as we examine the detailed historical narratives within his prophetic writings that must be inserted into the historical narratives of Second Kings and Second Chronicles of Israel and Judah.

### *Things Happen*

It is strange how you do not think much about certain things in life until they are suddenly not available to you. During some weather events in the Pacific Northwest United States, some in our Portland, Oregon area had a power outage. Much worse situations affected other parts of the United States in February 2021. The power outage to our home lasted only a few hours. (A few miles away, Ramona Martin's power stayed on without interruption.)

Days later the ASK website was suddenly "offline" for one day, then it came on, and then again it was off for three more days before it came back online. I was struck how I missed accessing the website although my work continued. Several of you were concerned and phoned to see if we were okay. We were fine and the ASK website came online again. Yet we all have lives that are fragile and tied to technology, perhaps more than we should be. In March 2000 Dr. Martin wrote a short article that I updated in 2013, "[How to Prepare for the Future](#)." In May 2011 I wrote a short Commentary, "[Be Prepared](#)." You might want to look over some of the general things that should be done in all areas of your life. Even if you are fine, your preparation may help others, rather than being a burden on others to help you. Remember the Boy Scout motto, "Be Prepared."<sup>3</sup>

We thank God that at present ASK is continuing and our immediate problems are past. Other problems will occur. Only our grandchildren may be alive when Christ returns. Those who are adults at this moment likely will die before His return brings our resurrection.

### *Thank You*

Your support of ASK gives us the means to continue producing biblical information that serves the *ekklesia* and the Body of Christ, to bring all to maturity in the faith. We all have a terrific future — everyone does. People need to learn the truths of God as He leads people to receive His truths.

We are grateful to you for your faithfulness and trust that we are performing work worthy of your prayers, your patience, and your financial support. Thank you.

David W. Sielaff  
[david@askelm.com](mailto:david@askelm.com)

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<sup>2</sup> Most if not all the material in the Book of Lamentations also seemed to occur step-by-step during the later destruction of the Temple, the people, and the physical city of Jerusalem in 70 AD. The events may also occur in a future attack upon Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> We of the *ekklesia* should not have to go through the "Great Tribulation." If you feel compelled to involve yourself in Israel's end-time affairs beyond prayers and other assistance, then be warned. You will reap what you sow, and if you choose to live by the sword, you may die by the sword. God may let that happen to you. Read "[How to Fully Escape the Great Tribulation](#)."