Pastor's Comments

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Northampton Assembly of God

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The Impact of God's Word

The nation of Judah had sunk into spiritual and moral decline under the rule of ungodly kings until Josiah became king at the age of eight. In his 18th year of rule, Josiah ordered the repair of the temple during which the high priest **found the book of the law—God's Word.** It had been lost in the house of God! **When it was read to Josiah, he rent his clothes** in realization of how greatly the nation had departed from God. Hearing they were facing God's wrath, **he humbly wept before God** for his nation and **determined to lead his nation back to God.** He gathered all the leaders and people together and **read to them God's word.** Then he ***"made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments"*** and they affirmed it (2 Kings 22:3). Immediately **he led a national reform** in which he destroyed all the images, groves, altars, and anything having to do with idol worship. He *"put down the idolatrous priests"* (v5) and *"brake down the houses of the sodomites"* (v7). Interestingly, he fulfilled a prophecy, specifically naming him 340 years beforehand, in which a man of God had *"said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David,* ***Josiah by name;*** *and* ***upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee"*** (1 Kings 13:2).

The word of God made a great impact upon Josiah—so great that we read in 2 Kings 23:25 no king was like him before or after ***"that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might."***

Today, America, like Judah, is in spiritual and moral decline and for the same reason—ignorance of God's Word! Oh that the Bibles in American homes would be found and read again for His word is ***"like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces"*** (Jeremiah 23:29). Let us read God's word that it might impact us as it did Josiah.