

# The Compass in Our Hand

2 Chronicles 34

## Foreword

Recently we spoke of how God gave us the sun, moon, and stars as guides for time and direction. Basically God knew, you cannot tell anything of time and location on earth without a point of reference.

The most extreme proof of the importance of reference points comes from the old world of international sailing, where a sextant and watch were the only way to read the reference points in the sky. In periods of thick cloud cover a ship would drift aimlessly. When the sky cleared they could get a bearing of how far off their course they were.

No ship, even today, would ever attempt a journey across the seas without a "compass". Mankind should never attempt to navigate the sea of life without a compass. God's Word is that compass.

## A Boy-King Seeks God

Josiah is an ancestor of Jesus Christ, born around 650 years before. He ruled the two tribes of Judah righteously for 39 years. In 2 Chronicles 34:2 we learn that at the age of 16, Josiah began to seek the Lord. How old were you when you actually, of your own free will, began to seek the Lord?

When we're young, no one has a compass in hand for life, even God's compass. In fact, not having a sense of purpose or guidance creates a yearn in us for a compass. Many of us look to our parents or grandparents for that guidance and course in life; some will follow a high school teacher's or a professor's philosophy during their impressionable years; others will adopt whatever their friends think or do.

Josiah adopted a guide from the stories of his distant ancestor, King David (v.2). This highly pleases God.

Josiah's grandfather Manasseh has the reputation still today for being Judah's worst and most Godless king, so Josiah was not interested in him as a compass.

## The Young Adult King Finds His Compass

At age 20, Josiah has chosen the course of his Kingship. He will reverse his grandfather's horrors and return Judah to God. vv. 3-7

Josiah begins with the basics. He doesn't have any of the Holy Scriptures of Moses and the Prophets as a guide or compass, but he knows that purging Judah of idol worship is a "no-brainer". In the course of this purge the Holy Scriptures are discovered. Josiah has God's compass in his hand.

## Josiah's Repairs

Josiah first repaired the sin of his people. Then he repaired the Temple for Temple worship of God, but few actually know the right way to worship God, or His expectations anymore. Then, in the process of reparations, they find the Law of God. v. 14. As a scribe reads the Scriptures to Josiah, the young king tears his clothes in shame as he realizes how far from God Israel and Judah have drifted. He now realizes the reason for all their pain and hardship in life is due to being lost and distant from God. He uses the Scriptures as a guide to return the land to the models God established in every area of life.

## **America and Us**

### **1. America is Confused.**

Today, America is lost and confused. Our leaders are stubbornly split on the right course, yet each pound their podiums and declare they have the compass. Would it be an oversimplification to show that in our first 175 years, our values were closely aligned with the values, principles, and laws of God's Word, and we became strong and great in the world. But in the last 67 years, despite modern claims of greatness, Americans know in their hearts we've lost our way.

### **2. Should Christians Jump Ship?**

As America drifts aimlessly along with no moral or civil compass, should Christians jump ship? If in the past, America had a compass in hand, how did that come about? Could it be as simple as, people like us aligned their lives to the true north of God, and then guided their friends, families, companies, communities, organizations, and governments by God's compass?

### **3. 150 Million Compasses**

Sadly, we seem to live in a day where people's compass points to themselves as true north. They are the central reference point for determining all their beliefs, decisions, and directions, for both themselves and others they influence. If this is true for even just half of the United States, then we are trying to move forward with 150 million different compasses.

### **4. Can We Find Our Way?**

We may never be able to persuade America to trash their faulty compasses and re-adopt God's. But we still have God's compass in hand, and that means it is incumbent upon us to at least walk by it ourselves, and guide all those God connects us to.

## **Conclusion**

Josiah's life is a good model for us today for following God. Begin by seeking God first; follow that with a basic sense of departing from things we obviously know are offensive to God, and return to a temple experience of humble worship. And finally, pick up the compass of God's Word and place it in your own hand; read and study it to establish all your values, ethics, principles, laws, and convictions, and then guide those whom God has placed you with for influence and leadership.