

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

Igniting Prayer for Revival in our City • 5 Minutes to Read • 5 Minutes in Prayer

FOR THE WEEK OF Sept 20th-26th, 2020 - Vol 21

THEME VERSE:

*And I will do whatever you ask in my name,
so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

John 14:13

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

Revival under King Josiah in 622 B.C. (2 Chron 34-35)

Young Josiah was a young Jewish boy who became king over the nation of Judah when he was just 8 years old. The year was 640 B.C. and Josiah tragically had to witness the assassination of his father, King Amon, who had ruled over Judah for just two years. Amon had done evil in God's eyes, worshiping all kinds of false gods. But, as bad as Amon was, his father Manasseh was far worse. When King Manasseh ruled, he enthusiastically embraced the pagan gods of the nations around him. He set up altars to these gods, sacrificed his own sons to them, and turned his back on the one true God. He led the entire nation astray and did great evil in the eyes of the Lord. Even though King Manasseh did repent later in his life, he unfortunately had set the nation of Judah on a course for disaster.

When King Josiah turned 16 years old, he started to seek after the Lord with all his heart. He walked in the ways of the ancient King David, who loved the Lord, instead of following in the steps of Amon and Manasseh. By age 20, Josiah began to use his influence to rid the land of all its pagan practices, altars, and high places. At age 26, he made a big push to repair and restore the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. As they were working, Hilkiah the high priest discovered a copy of the Book of the Law that had been lost and forgotten. It was taken to King Josiah, who read it, and tore his robes in grief. He realized that his nation had rejected God by its actions and was now under a curse and judgment from God. He sent his advisors to Hulduh the prophetess to seek what God would do next. She confirmed that indeed the nation of Judah had sinned greatly against God and would face divine punishment for its deeds. Yet, because of Josiah's humility and responsive heart, God would delay the punishment until after he died.

Josiah gathered all the people of Judah and all his leaders together. There he read out loud from the recently recovered Book of the Law. Then he personally recommitted himself to follow the Lord, and all the people also rededicated themselves to be in covenant with God and to walk in His ways. Shortly after that, King Josiah led the nation to celebrate the greatest Passover celebration ever in the history of God's people. After many long years of darkness and evil in Judah, revival broke out in the nation as one person humbly sought after God, the people listened for God's voice, and the Word of God was honored once again.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- Praise God that COVID-19 numbers continue to decline across the nation. Infections are down, hospitalizations are down, and fatalities are decreasing, especially among those most vulnerable to the disease.
- Praise God also for the over 1000 business leaders across the country who gathered together last Wednesday Sept 16th to pray for the businesses and business people of America. May God restore our jobs, the livelihoods, and businesses and rebuild a strong economy for our nation.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **CMS STUDENTS and TEACHERS.** Let's pray for God's strength for all the students and teachers in our city's school system, as they adapt and persevere through this difficult time. Also, as the K-5th grade students transition to Plan A in a few weeks, allowing once again for full-time classroom attendance, pray for ongoing safety and effective care for all the kids and teachers. Pray for no problems with COVID-19 infections as the plan moves forward.
- **PARENTS.** Pray for parents struggling to balance work and the care and education of their children. Pray for work schedules and work from home opportunities to allow parents to earn income while dealing with the school needs of their children.
- **BUSINESSES.** Pray for follow-up with those who submitted prayer requests during last week's Day of Prayer. Also ask God to enable prayer to solidify into an ongoing discipline of all our leaders.
- **HEALTH.** Pray for God's healing hand to touch our city: for those who are recovering from illness. Pray for COVID-19's effects to be neutralized and for our communities to be fully free once again to worship together and interact with one another.

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD:

- **END TO THE WILDFIRES.** Wildfires continue to rage along the west coast of the USA. In the last month, over 26 people have died and 5800 structures were destroyed by the fires. Pray for God's power to assist the 19000 firefighters in battling the 27 major wildfires, that He would show Himself mighty to rescue all those in danger.
- **HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.** Pray that any human rights abuses in China would end soon. Pray especially for these oppressed groups in China: Muslim Uighurs, Mongolians in Inner Mongolia, Tibetans, Falun Gong followers, and peaceful protestors in Hong Kong. Pray also for Christians who are persecuted there. Pray for the Gospel to penetrate this country and to transform it.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **LOVE LIFE MINISTRY.** Continue praying for Ms. Ashe, a volunteer leader of the pro-abortion movement, that her eyes would be opened to salvation in Christ and to the truth of the evil of abortion.
- **UNITY.** Pray for encouragement for church leaders dealing with division in their churches due to the pandemic, racial tensions and current political campaigns. Ask God to give supernatural wisdom, strength, patience and love to our ministers through these challenging times.
- **PROVISION.** Pray for pastors who have taken on other jobs to provide for their families in this season. Ask God to provide for all these pastors and their families' needs.
- **REVIVAL.** Ask God to stir up a deep longing for revival in the churches, helping us return to our first love for Jesus so that our communities and nation would be spiritually awakened. Ask the Lord to call His people to humble themselves, to seek His voice above all else, to repent of tolerating evil, and to embrace His Word faithfully. Pray for the Spirit to make us fully alive again!

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