

## August 6 Answers

- 1) Josiah's religious reforms. Josiah began to seek after God when he was young, about **16** years old. This was probably due to the preaching of another young man, **Jeremiah**. Aren't you glad that although most may ignore the message of truth, there are always a **few** who are drawn to God. When Josiah was **20**, he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of its idolatry (2 Kgs 23). The lengthy description of all the perversion he removed is a sobering testament to how corrupt Judah had become. In the account, there was mention of the altars of Ahaz, Manasseh, and even **Solomon**! How tragic that what had been built hundreds of years before was still a stumbling block to the people! Are there any "**altars**" in our lives that shouldn't be there? Josiah did not limit his reforms to Judah. He went into the cities of the old northern kingdom of **Israel** and destroyed the altars there as well. While in **Bethel**, Josiah discovered the grave of the man of God who had prophesied the destruction of Jeroboam I's altar (1 Kgs 13). Josiah realized that he had just fulfilled a **300**-year-old prophecy! This teaches us that what God promises always comes to pass. Even if hundreds of years go by, **wait** for it—it will be fulfilled (Hab 2:3). When Josiah was **26**, he began repairs on the temple. During the work, Hilkiah the high priest found a copy of the Book of the Law. When it was read to Josiah, he realized that God's wrath would soon be poured out on Judah, and he humbled himself before God and sought His guidance. This shows us once again that the proper response to God's rebuke is **humility** and repentance.