

## August 7 Answers

- 1) News of the discovery of the Book of the Law spread quickly throughout Jerusalem. It likely prompted the **shift** in Jeremiah's preaching from a denunciation of the people's idolatry to a rebuke for breaking the **covenant** (cf. Jer 2:11 with Jer 11:3). Jeremiah warned the people that the covenant **curse** given by Moses (Deut 28:15–68) would soon come to pass: "Behold, I am bringing disaster upon them that they cannot escape" (Jer 11:11). Jeremiah's message was met with resistance. Some conspired against him and even his own **family** turned on him. Jeremiah complained to God, but God told him that the worst was yet to come (Jer 12:5). This teaches us that speaking the truth doesn't mean that people will obey. Our responsibility is to faithfully proclaim God's message and leave the **results** in His hands. Josiah, however, did not reject Jeremiah's warning. He took God's word seriously, and at the time of the Passover feast, he called the people to **renew** the covenant. Josiah personally led the people in a commitment to "walk after the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul" (2 Kgs 23:3). The people then celebrated the Passover and what a celebration it was. Nothing like it had been seen in Israel since the days of the judges! God was pleased with Josiah's love and said that there was no king like him who turned to God with all his heart (2 Kgs 23:25). Nevertheless, the decision to exile Judah remained firm. Judgment was coming, and Josiah's reforms only **delayed** the inevitable. Josiah cleansed the land of idolatry and made the people of Judah serve God. They did not turn away from God as long as Josiah lived (2 Chr 34:33). Yet I wonder—were they truly committed to serving God or were they simply along for the ride? We should ask ourselves the same question!