



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS INC.

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1563 ~ Good King Josiah.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Some of the all-time best-loved children's stories come from the Bible: David and Goliath, Gideon, Noah's flood, baby Moses in the river ... These storybooks are printed over and over again as best sellers. And if one ever wonders why this is so, it may be because they are true stories with fascinating story plots.

How the people of Jerusalem must have grown to hate the crowning of a new king! With one new king they were ordered to worship Almighty God only. Yet the next king expected them all to worship idol gods in Jerusalem and in the countryside. The worship of idols seemed easier to do as each family decided whom and when they would worship. Of course, this style of living brought punishment from the one and only true God. From time to time, the nation of Judah suffered from droughts and plagues, wars and raiding parties from across Judah's borders.

Altogether, the Babylonian army came four times to Jerusalem. The first time they came, King Manasseh was taken captive to Babylon where he repented of all his evil practices. God heard his prayer and brought him back to his own country. Manasseh became a changed man and changed much in the public life of Judah. When Manasseh died, his wicked son Amon reigned for two years before he was murdered by his own servants.

Then Judah's second boy-king, King Josiah, was crowned at the age of 8. He was heavily guided by the High Priest Hilkiah. When Josiah was 16 years old, he began taking over the government of Judah and continued a deep interest in following God's ways.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

When King Josiah was 20 years old, he started a purge in the land of Israel and Judah of all the evil idols, images and groves where the people had been worshipping other gods. The prophecy about Jeroboam's altar by the unnamed prophet in 1st Kings, Chapter 13, had come to pass after nearly 300 years.

When he was 26, King Josiah repaired the Temple extensively. In the clean-up of the Temple, the Book of the Law by Moses was discovered and passed along to Josiah.

When Josiah heard what the Book of the Law said, he was very upset and sent a delegation to a prophetess in Jerusalem to find out if the judgments of God could be averted. She said they couldn't be but that they wouldn't happen in Josiah's lifetime.

Josiah called together an assembly of the people and read to them the words in the Book of the Law. He made a covenant before the people to follow God's ways and encouraged the people to do the same. Then Josiah and the people kept the Passover. It was a very large undertaking. This Passover is recorded in 2nd Chronicles, Chapter 35, that there'd been no Passover kept like it since the time of Samuel the prophet.

Through the centuries, the Word of God was only available to priests and clergymen, and largely withheld from ordinary people. In 1384, a beloved Englishman by the name of John Wycliffe died. He's credited to be the first person to translate the Bible into the English language for the common people. Each Bible he translated had to be copied by hand, as it was not for another hundred years before Gutenberg's printing press could produce books more speedily and uniformly. By decree of Wycliffe's powerful enemies, 31 years after his death, his bones were dug up and burned. Such hatred, however, didn't harm him or the blessed legacy he left to us later Christians.

In 1408, a law was passed forbidding any translation of the Scripture into English. In the 1520s, however, William Tyndale greatly desired to bring the truths of the Bible to ordinary people. He vowed to a priest opposing him that if God spared his life, Tyndale would make the farmers more knowledgeable about Scriptures than the priest himself was. With that determination, Tyndale tried to get help and permission from the Bishop of London. He was refused so he left England, never to return again.

In Europe amid many difficulties Tyndale had his first English New Testament printed and sent secretly to eager readers back in England.

The Bishop of London, hearing that Bibles were coming into England, purchased the whole shipment in an effort to stop their distribution. In 1526, these New Testaments were publicly burned. However, the money from their sale provided funds for the printing of the second edition of the New Testament, which occurred in 1534.

Tyndale was betrayed by a supposed friend and killed. In his last public prayer, he cried out, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes!" This prayer was answered, for within one year, King Henry gave the English Bible royal recognition and every parish church in England was supplied with a Bible.

A young girl called Mary Jones who lived in Wales in the west of England, wanted a Bible in her own language. She saved all the money she could and when she was 16, she travelled on foot some 25 miles to buy a Bible. When she arrived, however, there were no Bibles available to be bought. All the Welsh Bibles from the previous year's printing had been sold or promised to other people. Mary began to cry and in pity, she was given a specially saved one. How very thankful Mary was as she made the return journey back home.

The year was 1800 and Mary Jones's quest for a Bible caused concerned people to establish organisations to translate and distribute Bibles around the world. This movement for supplying Bibles made the Bible the most printed book in history. In some parts of the world, shoppers could purchase a Bible in local stores as it became so popular and important to own one's own Bible.

Sadly today, this is no longer the situation. Many Bibles are kept in homes on bookshelves where they're never opened or read. They're of no more use to their owners than the Book of the Law that was lost in the neglected Temple in Jerusalem. It is only when the Scriptures are read and prayed over that God gives enlightenment to its meanings. In the 6,000-year history of people, it is only since the last two hundred years that God's Word has been available on a large scale for ordinary people to read and study it.

The greatest earthly treasure we can ever have is not money but the Bible. Learn it, obey it and share it with others. God's blessings always flow from this.

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

That was Chris Willis singing "The Wisdom from Above"

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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