



### **2 Kings 22:11-13; Jeremiah 36:21-24**

**There were two kings of Judah:** King Josiah and his son King Jehoiakim. The son was totally unlike his father. Josiah had a tender heart (2 Kings 22:19); Jehoiakim had an evil heart (2 Kings 23:37).

**There were two scrolls:** Josiah's scroll had been lost but was rediscovered in the temple. It contained the law of Moses (Torah). Jehoiakim's scroll contained a collection of Jeremiah's prophecies and pronouncements.

**There were two reactions and responses:** Josiah, in deep grief for the sins of the nation, rent or tore his clothes (2 Kings 22:11). Jehoiakim, in callous disregard for the words of the LORD, rent or tore pages from the scroll (Jer. 36:23). The same Hebrew verb for **cutting** the scroll is also used for **tearing** Josiah's garments. Furthermore, Jehoiakim who **tore** the scroll (Jer. 36:23) refused to **tear** his garments, having no fear of God (Jer. 36:24).

**There were two burnings:** Josiah burned Judah's idols (2 Kings 23:4,15); Jehoiakim burned God's holy scroll (Jer. 36:23,25).

**There were two results:** Josiah's God-fearing actions led to a national revival, howbeit, short lived. Jehoiakim's actions further propelled and hastened the nation to a collision course with judgment.

**There were two outcomes:** The LORD promised Josiah that he would be gathered into his grave in peace and that the promised judgment against Jerusalem would not take place in his days (2 Kings 22:20). Jehoiakim lived to see the fury of Nebuchadnezzar and died in shame: "He shall be buried with the burial of an ass, drawn and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem" (Jer. 22:19). His son also was cursed (Jer. 22:30).

These are sobering reminders that our response to God's Word will affect our future destiny: "The Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). **May we tremble at God's Words** (Isa. 66:1-2)!

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)



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