

# 7—The Book of the Law

## Keys to the Kingdom

### 2 Kings 23

#### 1. The Reforms of Josiah and Jeremiah

- A. 622 Josiah discovers the “Book of the Law” (2K 22:3-10)  
(the core of Deut 12-26, from Hezekiah and before)
- B. Jeremiah calls for observance of the Law (Jer 7:1-15)
  - 1) 1 Isaiah (1-35) barely mentions the Law
  - 2) 1 Jeremiah (1-25) makes it the focal point
- C. Josiah launches a national Reform based on the Code (2K 23)
  - 1) He renews the Covenant with the people (1-3)
  - 2) He purifies the Temple of idols (4-7)
  - 3) He desecrates all of high places (8-14)
  - 4) He desecrates Bethel (15-20) See 1K 13:2!
  - 5) He celebrates the Passover again (21-23)
  - 6) He gets rid of the household idols (24-25)
- D. 2 Kings 23:25  
*Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.*

#### 2. The Deuteronomistic History is compiled (D1)

- A. Josiah’s reforms are not enough to save Judah (23:26-28)
- B. 609 Josiah is killed by Pharaoh Necho (23:29-30)
- C. A New Intro (Deut 4:44-11) is added to the Code (D1)
  - 1) Deuteronomy 4:44-45  
*This is the law Moses set before the Israelites. These are the stipulations, decrees and laws Moses gave them when they came out of Egypt.*
  - 2) Deuteronomy 6:5  
*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

- D. Deuteronomistic History (DH) is compiled (Joshua-Kings)
  - 1) Annals of the Kings of Israel and Judah (1K 14:19)
  - 2) Previous histories from the North (E) and South (J)
  - 3) Additional commentary based on theology of D1 (Josh 8:31)

**3. Deuteronomistic History is rewritten during the Exile (D2)**

- A. 586 the *Exile* causes much reflection on Israel's history (2K 25)
  - 1) Historical Prologue (Deut 1-4) added
  - 2) Updated Ending (Deut 29-30) added at the end of Exile

**4. The theology that marks the Deuteronomistic material**

- A. God' covenant is dependent upon obedience to the Law
- B. All kings are good or evil depending on whether they obey
- C. The Exile is the eventual end of both Israel and Judah
- D. General warnings about the wisdom of kings in general