The Discovery of the Scroll

KEY VERSE: The Lord must be furious with us because our ancestors failed to obey the words of this scroll and do everything written in it about us. —2 Kings 22:13b (CEB)

Trashed, Stashed, and Hashed (See page 2)

Imagine our class is responsible for community cleanup day . . .

❖ WHY would we hold the event? ___________________________
❖ WHAT would be the event’s name? _________________________
❖ WHO would participate? ________________________________
❖ HOW would we pull it off? _______________________________
❖ HOW would we promote it? _______________________________

2 KINGS 22:8-20 (NRSV)

8 The high priest Hilkiah said to Shaphan the secretary, “I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord.” When Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, he read it.

9 Then Shaphan the secretary came to the king, and reported to the king, “Your servants have emptied out the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of the workers who have oversight of the house of the Lord.”

10 Shaphan the secretary informed the king, “The priest Hilkiah has given me a book.” Shaphan then read it aloud to the king.

11 When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes.

12 Then the king commanded the priest Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Achbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary, and the king’s servant Asaiah, saying,

13 “Go, inquire of the Lord for me, for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our ancestors did not obey
the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.”

14 So the priest Hilkiah, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to the prophetess Huldah the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; she resided in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter, where they consulted her.

15 She declared to them, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Tell the man who sent you to me,

16 Thus says the Lord, I will indeed bring disaster on this place and on its inhabitants—all the words of the book that the king of Judah has read.

17 Because they have abandoned me and have made offerings to other gods, so that they have provoked me to anger with all the work of their hands, therefore my wrath will be kindled against this place, and it will not be quenched.

18 But as to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard,

19 because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the Lord, when you heard how I spoke against this place, and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and because you have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, says the Lord.

20 Therefore, I will gather you to your ancestors, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring on this place.” They took the message back to the king.

FAMILY STORIES

It’s often hard to read stories from the Hebrew scriptures without knowing some history. Here’s what you need to know for today’s Bible lesson.

❖ 722 BCE—Judea was divided into two kingdoms: Israel in the north, Judah in the south. Samaria, the capital in Israel, was captured by Assyria and the kingdom ends.
❖ 715 BCE—King Hezekiah, a pious religious reformer, began his reign in Jerusalem (the southern capital).

❖ 701 BCE—Assyria besieged Jerusalem. It wasn’t conquered, but the country’s religious practices began to falter.

❖ 687–642 BCE—Manasseh reigned as king in Judah. He’s remembered in 2 Kings 21 as being particularly bad. His son, Amon, who reigned for two years, was just as bad before he was murdered.

❖ 640–609 BCE—Josiah’s reign began at age 8. He seemed more like his great-grandpa Hezekiah than his grandpa Manasseh. During his 31-year reign, he repaired the temple in Jerusalem (which was later destroyed when Judah was conquered in 586 BCE). During repairs, a scroll was found. Some scholars think it may have contained the laws in Deuteronomy 12–26.

WHEN WE TAKE SCRIPTURE SERIOUSLY
Imagine that the Bible had been largely lost or forgotten during the time when your grandparents were children, and someone recently discovered it. In the space on the next page, list changes that would need to happen today in order to take the Bible seriously.

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<th>What is stopping us from making these changes right now?</th>
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MAKING THINGS RIGHT

| As you think about your future, what are some of your biggest worries about possible threats to your community? to humanity? |
|________________________________________________________________________________________|
SENIOR QUARTERLY

What would your church look like if it became focused on this one concern more than any other? What would change? How would the church use its resources differently?

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READ AND RESPOND

During the coming week, read one chapter in the Bible and be ready to report what you learned during our time together next week.