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STORY  
OF A  
YOUNG KING.

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One Pie.

STORY  
OF  
A YOUNG KING.



At first all men worshipped the one true God, the Creator of heaven and earth. After a time they forgot Him, and began

bow down to idols. God chose one man, called Abraham, to be His servant. He told him to leave his father's house, and go to a country which He would show him. Abraham obeyed God, and went to a country, named Canaan, which was afterwards peopled by his descendants, the Jews.

The Jews were to worship the one true God alone ; He was to be their great King. Persons who set up another king in a country, are considered as rebels and worthy of death. In like manner, if the Jews worshipped idols, they were to be looked upon as rebels against God, and deserving to be punished.

God was very kind to the Jews. He often saved them from their

enemies. The country He gave them was so rich, that it was said to flow with milk and honey. Still, the Jews were very ready to forsake the worship of the true God and bow down to the idols of the nations around.

One of the kings of the Jews was called Amon. He set up the images which his father had thrown down. After he had been king two years, his servants killed him in his own palace. The people then put the servants to death, and made Josiah, the son of Amon, king in his stead.

Josiah was only eight years old when he began to reign. We may picture to ourselves the young king. His dress was of fine linen, of a purple colour. On his head was a kind of crown,

shining with gold and precious stones. Rich jewels were also around his neck and arms. In his splendid dress he sat on a throne, made of gold and ivory. In his right hand, he held a sceptre, or rod, overlaid with gold, as a sign of his kingly power. His house was a beautiful palace, with gardens, and groves, and fountains of water. Every day the choicest food was spread upon his table. When he rode abroad, it was in a fine chariot drawn by horses. If he went a long journey, servants ran before him to tell the people he was coming. The greatest persons in the land came out to meet him, and bowed to the ground when they came near him.

Kings are often tempted to do

wrong. There are none above them to call them to account, and flatterers encourage them to act as they please. When Josiah became king, the people were very wicked. Nearly all the priests of the true God had become evil, and served at the altars of false gods. The land was full of idols.

Josiah, although so young, did not follow the wicked example of those around him, but "did that which was right in the sight of the Lord." How did he know what was right? It was because he was taught of God. While he was yet young he began to seek after the God of his fathers. His prayer was heard. God gave him His Holy Spirit to teach him to do right and to rule his kingdom well.

The temple of the true God had fallen into decay. In his eighteenth year Josiah wished it to be repaired. Money was given to carpenters and masons to buy timber and stone. While the temple was being cleansed, the high priest found a copy of God's law, which was brought to the king. Josiah told one of his servants to read the book to him, and he listened to it very attentively. Afterwards he began to weep and rend his clothes. Why was this? Because he was afraid that God might soon punish the people because they had not kept His law. God sent a message to Josiah; that although He would bring evil on the nation on account of their wickedness, the king should die in peace and not see it.

Josiah did all he could to make his people better. He gathered together the chief men and people and read to them all the words of the law. When he was twenty years old, he went through the country to break down the altars and images of the false gods. Lest the idols should be set up again, he stamped them to powder, which was scattered about. The groves where the idols had been worshipped were cut down.

It is said of Josiah "like unto him was there no king before him that turned to the Lord with all his heart; neither after him arose there any like him." He was made a great blessing in his own day, and a bright example for every following age.



Although we are not kings or queens, we may learn much from the conduct of Josiah.

Josiah did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left. Nearly all around Josiah worshipped idols; he had seen his own father bow down to them, but he would not. God's holy law says, "Thou shalt not bow down to any image," and whatever others do we should obey God. The one true God, the Creator of this world, is its rightful king. It is He who has given us life and everything we possess. How ungrateful and foolish and wicked it is to forsake Him for dumb idols that can neither see nor hear. Always do what is right.

Turn neither to the right hand nor to the left.

How did the young king get so much wisdom? Josiah was ignorant, and weak and sinful like other children. He was enabled to do right only through the help of his heavenly Father. While he was yet young, he sought the Lord. God is as willing to hear the prayers of children now as He was when Josiah lived. Jesus says, "I love them that love me, and they that seek me early shall find me."

Josiah wept and rent his clothes when the law of God was read to him. When we read the Bible, unless we have sought pardon, through the Saviour, there is much to make us tremble. It says, that "all have sin-

ned," and "the soul that sinneth it shall die." But it also tells us of God's mercy. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

The only Son of God came down from heaven and became man to die in our stead. If we trust in Him as our Saviour, our sins will be forgiven; we shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

Seek to have a tender heart like Josiah. By nature our hearts are hard like stone. We need a new heart, gentle, tender, full of love and holy desires. Ask God to give you this new heart.

The land in which we live is full of idols. Josiah was king, and by God's command broke down images. We are not allow-

ed to do this, but we should seek, by every means in our power, to lead those who worship idols to turn to the one true God. We should speak to them in a kindly way, we should give them good books to read; we should, with God's help, try to set them a holy example, and every day we should pray, "Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

#### EARLY PIETY.

Happy the child whose youngest years  
 Receive instruction well,  
 Who hates the sinner's path, and fears  
 The road that leads to hell.

When we devote our youth to God,  
 'Tis pleasing in his eyes :  
 A flower, when offered in the bud,  
 Is no vain sacrifice.

'Tis easier work, if we begin  
To fear the Lord betimes ;  
While sinners, that grow old in sin,  
Are hardened in their crimes.



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