
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 12, Bible Truth 5

The Case of the Lost Treasure *Deuteronomy; 2 Kings 22; 23:1-20; 24; 2 Chronicles 34:8-33*

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. Moses was a very old man. He wrote down God's Word and taught God's laws. He had led the people of Israel through the wilderness to the Promised Land. And now, he would soon go to be with the LORD forever. So, he gathered the people together to teach them one last time.

2. "Love the LORD with all your heart, mind, and strength. Keep remembering His laws. Have each king write down his own copy of God's Word, so they won't forget it," Moses urged the people of Israel. "If you keep obeying the LORD, you will enjoy Him and His blessings your whole lives."

3. "We will learn God's laws and obey them. We will tell our kings to write them down and obey them, too," the people promised Moses and the LORD that day. Did the people keep their promises? Sometimes. And oh, how God blessed them with many good things when they did!

4. But many times, the people and their kings forgot the LORD and broke their promises. They stopped learning and obeying God's Word. They let the Temple, the LORD's special worship place, fall apart, and worshipped fake gods instead. And oh, what sad times came when they did!

5. This is how things were when young Josiah became king. Josiah's father, Amon, had been one of the bad kings. He worshipped fake gods and ordered the people to worship them, too. He forgot about God's Word and let it be lost. What a terrible king he was!

6. But Josiah led the people in turning back to the LORD. "Get rid of the fake gods! Repair the Temple" he told the workers. "Smash, crash," the workers broke up the fake gods and threw them away. "Whack, thump," up went new wood and stone as they fixed broken places in the Temple.

7. All that work cost a lot of money, but it was worth it. Soon, they could worship the LORD in the Temple again. But when Hilkiah went to get the money, he found something worth more than all the riches in the world: God's Word, the Bible. It had been long forgotten and thrown away!

8. Hilkiah brought God's Word to Shaphan, King Josiah's helper. "I have found God's Word in the Temple. Take it." Shaphan took it and read it. Then, HE took it to King Josiah to read to him.

9. For the first time, Josiah heard how LORD created the world and how He rescued the people of Israel from Egypt. He heard about God's good laws and the covenant promises the LORD and the people made to each other. Josiah loved God's Word. It was a treasure, better than gold.

10. But Josiah's happiness turned to fear. The people and their kings had broken their promises to the LORD. They had not learned or obeyed His Word. "Oh, no! What should we do?" exclaimed King Josiah. "We deserve God's terrible punishment for breaking our promises to Him!"

11. "Since you want to learn my Word and obey it, I won't punish the people as they deserve," the LORD told Josiah. Amazing! The LORD was merciful and would keep them as His people. And Josiah promised to be a good king who would teach God's Word to the people and help them obey it.

12. So, Josiah gathered the people together and read God's Word to them. As they listened, God worked in their hearts, helping them turn back to Him. All together they prayed, "LORD, we will worship You. We will learn Your Word and obey it." And they did, all the days Josiah was king.