Lesson—Huldah: Prophet of Wisdom    Text: 2 KINGS 22:14-20

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives
By the end of this lesson, we will…
1. ANALYZE the prophetess Huldah’s message from God for King Josiah,
2. REFLECT Josiah’s behavior after hearing the words of the book of the law, and
3. SEEK godly advice about their future.

Key Verse— “Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou hearest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD” (2 Kings 22:19, KJV).

II. People Places and Times
Josiah’s Revival. The three decades of Josiah’s reign were among the happiest years experienced by Judah. They were characterized by peace, prosperity, and reform. King Josiah dedicated himself to pleasing God and led Israel in their renewed observance of the Mosaic Law. It was at this point that he began to purify Judah and Jerusalem from idolatry by destroying whatever he recognized as not belonging to the worship of the true God (2 Kings 22:1–2). The spiritual reform brought about by Josiah climaxes with renovating the Temple, and, in the process, he rediscovered the Book of the Law in the eighteenth year of his reign and the celebration of the Passover (2 Kings 22:8–23; 23).

III. Background
In Judah, the Temple had fallen into disrepair (see 2 Kings 21:4-5, 7, 21). So, Josiah gave consent to repair the Temple by sending Shaphan, a scribe to oversee the renovations (see 2 Kings 22:3-4). While the renovation was going on Hilkiah, the high priest, found a copy of the book of the Law in the Temple (v. 8). Shaphan read the book of the Law to Josiah, who tore his clothes after hearing the scribe’s reading (v. 11). The king was distressed because he realized that the nation of Judah was far from God in their morality, obedience, and spirituality. Therefore, Josiah called Hilkiah the priest, Shaphan, Ahikam, Shaphan’s son, and Asaiah, a servant of the king to inquire of God what the people should do to get right with Him.

IV. The Lesson At-A-Glance…
1. God’s Prophetess (2 Kings 22:14)
2. God’s Condemnation (vv. 15-17)
3. God’s Affirmation (vv. 18-20)
V. **In Depth with More Light on the Text**

1. **God’s Prophetess (2 Kings 22:14)** Huldah was the wife of Shallum, the wardrobe keeper (either of priestly vestments or royal robes). She lived in Jerusalem, in what was called the second district (not college as in KJV). Apparently, this was in a lower or southern section of Jerusalem. She was consulted on behalf of King Josiah, by Hilkiah the chief priest, Shaphan the scribe and others, following the discovery of “the book of the law in the house of the LORD” (2 Kings 22:8; 2 Chronicles 34:15).

2. **God’s Condemnation (vv. 15-17)** When Hilkiah, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah arrived at Huldah’s, she gives them a message from the Lord God of Israel to take back to Josiah. However, the message was not an encouraging one. As Josiah had anticipated, Huldah’s prophecy was that of judgment. Huldah told the kings’ men that God would bring disaster on the land and the people because they had forsaken Him.

3. **God’s Affirmation (vv. 18-20)** As is so often the case, God’s prophecy of doom concludes with a glimmer of hope. The prophetess Huldah speaks another word to the messengers for the king (v. 18). Josiah would experience God’s mercy and grace because he humbled himself before the Lord and had a tender heart. Josiah humbled himself when he tore his clothes and wept (v. 11) over what he read in the book of the Law. In God’s tender mercies, He indicated through Huldah, King Josiah himself would die before these days of horror appeared.

**Liberating Lesson—see Sunday School book for additional comments**

**Application for Activation—see Sunday School book**

**Vocabulary-New Words**
Scripture References

**Ge 12:7** And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builted he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

**Ge 17:8** And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

**Ex 3:5** And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

**Jos 2:1** ¶ And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.

**Jos 2:9** And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.
10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.
11 And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

**Jeremiah 29:11-14** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive. (KJV)

**Isa 55:8** For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.