

Huldah and Her Background

040203-2

Hello! This is Dorothy -

We are right in the middle of studying some of the prophetesses in Scripture. We have looked into a bit about Noadiah, who is mentioned in **Nehemiah chapter 6, verse 14**. Today we are going to think about another person called Huldah. “Oh,” you say, “all these people I never heard of before!” There is a German lady who lives near me and she introduced me to her sister, and said, “She is called Huldah.” I thought, “I have heard that name. I have seen that name somewhere before.” Yes, she is mentioned in the **Book of Kings** and also in the **Book of Chronicles**, but we are going to look at that section today in **2 Chronicles 34, verse 22-28**. Huldah is described in **verse 22** as being **a prophetess**. That is the word being used. She is the wife of a temple official, Shallum. That is his name. His job was that of **keeper of the wardrobe**. That could mean he was in charge of the royal garments. I do not know if he had her sew a few of those. I do not know; it doesn't say, but she dwelt in the reign of Josiah. It is very important, when you are dealing with something in Scripture that you know a little of the background around what is going on. In that very area where she lived was an area in some Bibles it says **college**, but it really means the lower city, the suburb. (Some people say they belong to this city of London, but they really live amongst the millions out there in the

suburbs.) So that is where she lived. Little is known of the background, but we do know she lived in something like 696 B.C., so that is a long time ago! We know little of her background, but around the year 696 B.C., there was an intensely evil king. His name was Manasseh. You might have heard of him. He was one of the worst of the worst - and there are a lot of them! I once saw a chart about the good kings and the bad kings. It was like looking, as a nurse, at somebody who had a fever chart of temperatures going up and down. I am afraid that the bad guys seemed to be in rule more than the good guys. Manasseh was one of the bad guys; he was an evil man, who did terrible things. He brought in dreadful practices and he was totally rebellious against God. Manasseh had a son, Amon, who was around for about two years. Then came King Josiah. Now he was one of the good kings. So when we talk about Huldah, we are putting her right at the timing of this good king, King Josiah. Now Josiah came into his position when he was very young for this was about in his eighteenth year of being king and he was only twenty-six years old!

There had been a lot of work going on around the temple. Suddenly, they found a book. They found the book of the Mosaic Law when they were repairing the temple. While this was happening, you have to realize there was possibly in the country very, very, very few portions of what we call the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, which Moses wrote. Therefore, the Word of God was very, very scarce. Who

knows, perhaps somebody hid it there in the rubble. However, this book was found. Therefore, the high priest at the time, who has a name that sounds a little like Huldah, but he was a man called Hilkiyah. Hilkiyah, having had this unearthed, knew he had to do something about it, because what he read in it, he realized that any person, any nation, who breaks the rules of God has the curse of God on that situation! Therefore, he realized there were many curses that God had promised on Israel, because the nation had abandoned Him. Therefore, it is important to apply to our lives something we are reading about, even if it seems so very, very long ago.

I do not know what happened at that time, because at that time, there was the Prophet Jeremiah and the Prophet Zephaniah. You remember a prophet who you remember is one when God says, **Thus saith the Lord**, they speak forth what God says; they do not add to it nor do they take away from it. Jeremiah, about that time, would have been about twenty-five years of age and in his fifth year of ministry. It is interesting that the high priest did not go either to Jeremiah or to Zephaniah, who had already prophesied God's judgement on Judah three years before. What happened we don't know. God could have arranged that they were not around at this time. What did happen was that Hilkiyah brought this to the king, but unfortunately he did not see it as a critical matter, so he sent it through another man. But we are aware that when he brought it to the king, young Josiah, rent his

clothes! He was distraught, because he saw that the great wrath of God was to come upon them. Therefore, it is a very important thing to see that behind the terrible circumstances which can happen in a nation, God says “When the cup of My wrath is full, I will intervene.” The world is at that stage right now. For everybody who is a believer, it is a tremendous responsibility to be in the Word, in the power of His Spirit, sharing Christ on a daily basis, because we know not when that cup of His wrath will be filled and that evil day will come on this earth very soon now.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.