MAP OF THE REFORMS AND REIGN OF JOSIAH

2 Ki 22:23, 2 Ch 34-35

- Fortified Cities
- Capital City
- Towns and Cities
- Archeological discoveries dated to Josiah's reign
- Birthplaces of Josiah's wives
- Egyptian allies
- Territory under Egyptian Control/Influence
- Jerusalem and Benjamin
- Kingdom of Judah
- Territory taxed under Josiah
- Areas of Josiah's religious influence
- Maximum possible area of influence

Phonecia comes under Egyptian control as Assyria withdraws

The collapse of Assyrian power created a power vacuum in the provinces comprising the former territories of Israel. Many Bible atlases and commentaries suggest Josiah expanded his Kingdom into most of this area, potentially via conquest. The more likely scenario is a limited expansion of Judah's borders into the hill country of Ephraim, with Josiah exerting a level of religious influence and varying degrees of control over the remnant Jewish populations throughout Israel. Egypt continued to claim formal authority over the region and asserted military control over key trade routes perhaps with some competition from Josiah in certain places leading to the clash at Megiddo. There are some archeological and scriptural indications that prior to this Josiah may have even collected taxes (2 Ch 34:9), perhaps with the consent of, and nominally on behalf of Egypt. Later this was increased (2 Ch 36:3).

PHOENECIA

TYRE

Route of Pharoah to join Assyrian alliance against Babylon

Naphtali

Elkosh?

Rumah

MT CARMEL

Karnaim

Altars broken down, Asherim and images beaten into powder and incense altars cut down throughout cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, Naphtali and all the land of Israel.

Dor

Megiddo

Josiah defeated by Pharoah at Megiddo (2 Ch 35:20-26)

Archeological surveys show that a fortress was built and destroyed during the reign of Josiah. It cannot be determined whether the fortress was Egyptian, or Judean.

Ramoth-gilead

GILEAD

Manasseh

Josiah removes abominations from all the ruined cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, Simeon & the territory of Israel (2 Ch 34:33). This may have included Gilead if Josiah's actions in the cities of Manesseh includes East Manasseh.

Shrines of the high places removed from the cities of Samaria, with the false priests of the Northern Kingdom treated more severly then those in Judah—most were executed and their bones burned on their former altars.

Sythians devastate coastlands bypassing Judah (Zeph 1:10-18)

SAMARIA

Samaria

Shechem

Movements of Josiah

Taxes for temple construction collected from Judah, Ephraim, Manasseh and the remnant in Israel (2 Ch 34:10)

The altar at Bethel was pulled down, burned and reduced to dust. The Asherah was also burned and the bones of those buried there burned on the altar (2 Ch 23:15-18).

Hometowns of the Prophets

Jerusalem	Huldah the Prophetess
	Zephaniah
	Habakkuk
Anathoth	Jeremiah
Moresheth	Micah
Elkosh	Nahum

Ephraim

Zered

Josiah purges Judah and Jerusalem of the high places (2 Ch 34:3). Priests of Baal and Ashteroth were executed and burnt on their altars. Priests who offered sacrifices to God on the high places were deposed, but not executed. They were permitted to worship in the temple and fellowship with the other priests, but forbidden from ever offering sacrifices and carrying out the public duties of a priest again (2 Ki 23:9).

Inhabitants of Jerusalem and Benjamin join the covenant (2 Ch 34:32)

EXPANDED BORDER

Aphek

Mesad Hashavyahu

Bethel

Mizpah

Jericho

FORMER BORDER

Gezer

Geba

Anathoth

TEMPLE REFORMS

The Asherah removed from the Temple & beaten to dust by the brook Kidron. The houses of the cult prostitutes torn down. The vessels of Baal removed from the temple and burned in fields of Kidron. The horses and chariots dedicated to the sun removed from the temple, with the chariots burnt (2 Ki 23:4-11). Later, the Ark of the Covenant was restored to the temple, new priests (individuals not associated with false worship) were appointed to office, with the divisions of service restored according to the system established by David.

Ashodod

Ekron

Gath

PHILISTIA

Jerusalem

Tekoa

Ashkelon

Libnah

Elders of Judah & Jerusalem gathered to the temple (2 Ki 23:1)

Lachish

Moresheth

Hebron

Ashdod conquered by Egypt with the rest of Philistia submitting to their influence & becoming allies.

Gaza

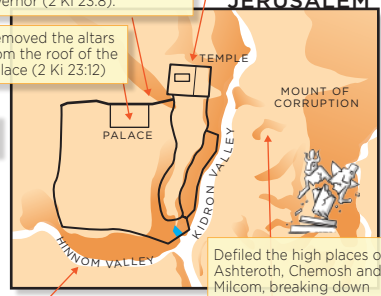
Broke down the high places of the gates at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the city governor (2 Ki 23:8).

JERUSALEM

Dead Sea

JUDAH

Removed the altars from the roof of the palace (2 Ki 23:12)



Priests removed from cities and high places defiled from Geba to Beersheba (2 Ki 23:8).

En-gedi

Simeon

Beer-Sheba

Judah controls the trade route into the Negev

Destruction of a temple in Arad potentially dated to this period.

Arad

Archeological surveys show a decline in use of stars, sun and moon as artistic motifs on seals in Judah during this period.

Defiled the high places of Ashteroth, Chemosh and Milcom, breaking down the pillars of and cutting down the Asherim, filling their places with bones (2 Ki 23:13-14).

EGYPT

Kedesh

Archeological surveys appear to indicate Kedesh was a fortress under Egyptian control

Growing migration of Edomites into Southern Judah

Tamar

Defiles Topheth of Molech to prevent the burning of children (2 Ki 23:10)