

9/11/11

**2Kings 20-21**

We continue with the reign of King Hezekiah, who was a very good king, but once again judgment was coming to the nation, it was inescapable.

**20:1-11     The illness and recovery of Hezekiah.**

**20:1-7**     The announcement of Hezekiah's death by Isaiah.

**20:1-3**     *The particular situation and prayer of Hezekiah.*

\* The parallel passages. 2Chron. 32:24-29, Is. 38

1) Hezekiah had become sick. vs. 1

a) The time is indicated by "In those days", without doubt referring to shortly before the time of Sennacherib. 2Kings 18

\* Which means that these event took place before those of 2Kings 18:13, Is. 38-39

b) Hezekiah sickness brought him to the point of death.

c) Isaiah the prophet was sent by God, telling him to set his house in order

because he would not live, "Thus says the LORD."

- 2) Hezekiah became overcome with discouragement and prayed to Yahweh. vs. 2
- 3) Hezekiah's prayer. vs. 3
- a) He reminded God of his loyal heart to walk with God. vs. 3a-d
- b) He reminded God of all the good he had done before God. vs. 3e
- c) He was fully overcome with grief and wailings, indicated by the phrase, "And Hezekiah wept bitterly". vs. 3f
- 1)) The response of Hezekiah was to cry out to God, bemoaning his death at 39, the prime of his life.
- 2)) It would appear Isaiah remained with Hezekiah during the night, recording his prayer, which indicates, "I have considered until morning". Is. 38:13a
- 3)) Hezekiah began to reign at 25 and reigned for 29 years, so he died at 54 years of age, 716-687 B.C.

**20:4-7**     *The answer of God to Hezekiah.*

- 1) The answer of God came immediately to Isaiah, before he could leave. vs. 4
- 2) The particulars of God's answer. vs. 5-6

- a) Isaiah was to return and speak to Hezekiah the leader of His people. vs. 5a
- b) The authority was God's, "Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father." vs. 5b-c
- c) God had heard his petition and tears. vs. 5d
- d) God was going to heal him. vs. 5e
- e) In three days he would go to the house of the LORD. vs. 5f
- f) God would give him 15 more years of life. vs. 6a
  - 1)) Manasseh was born when Hezekiah was 42, three years after God healed him and extended his life, the most evil king of Judah.
  - 2)) God allowed His permissive will for Hezekiah, would to God he would of die and not conceived Manasseh.
- g) God would deliver you and Jerusalem from the king of Assyria for His own sake, and His servant David. vs. 6b-d
  - \* After Hezekiah was healed, he was lifted up and he humbled himself before God. 2Chronn. 32:25-26
- 3) The medicinal remedy was given to Isaiah, a lump of figs to be placed and he recovered. vs. 7

- a) God at times heals miraculously, without any doctors or medicine.
- b) God at times heals through doctors and medicine.
- c) No one should ever be opposed to going to a doctor, but we always anoint with oil and pray first. Ja. 5:14-15

**20:8-11** The sign to Hezekiah assuring his healing.

- 1) Hezekiah asked Isaiah for a sign of confirmation. vs. 8
- 2) Isaiah gave Hezekiah the choice of two signs, "shall the shadow go forward ten degrees or go backward ten degrees?" vs. 9
- 3) Hezekiah chose the more difficult from the human perspective, that the shadow go backward ten degrees. vs. 10
  - \* Remember Ahaz did not want to test the Lord and refused a sign, but Isaiah gave him one anyway, that he would not be attacked by Syria and Ephraim, a two-fold prophesy, the ultimate one of the Messiah. Is. 7:3-16
- 4) Isaiah cried out to the LORD, and the shadow ten degrees backward, evident by the shadow going down on the sundial of Ahaz. vs. 11

- a) I have heard some of the explanations of how God did it or could of done it, it is stupid.
- b) Is God did not tell us how He did it, why does man feel adequate enough to speak for God?
- c) God turned the time back ten degrees.
- d) The evidence in calendars is that of a long day.

**20:12-19 The Babylonian delegation to celebrate Hezekiah's recovery.**

**20:12-13** Hezekiah revealed all his wealth and defenses to the ambassadors.

\* The parallel passages. 2Chron. 32:25-31, Is. 39

- 1) The time is indicated, when Berodach-Baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, having heard Hezekiah had been sick. vs. 12
- 2) Hezekiah being a grateful host displayed all his treasures, supplies and his military capability. vs. 1

**20:14-19** Hezekiah was rebuked by Isaiah for foolish carelessness that would lead to their captivity.

- 1) Isaiah then came to Hezekiah to enquire of the men. vs. 14

- a) What did they say?
- b) Where did they come from?
- c) Hezekiah said, "They came from a far country, from Babylon."
- 2) Isaiah asked, "What have they seen in your house?" vs. 14  
\* Hezekiah said everything he had.
- 3) Isaiah declared the word of God to Hezekiah. vs. 16-18
  - a) The message is from heaven, "Hear the word of the LORD." vs. 16
  - b) The day would come when all would be carried away to Babylon. vs. 17
  - c) His own son and family members, some of his sons being made eunuchs. vs. 18
- 4) The response of Hezekiah is self-centeredness. vs. 19
  - a) Hezekiah told Isaiah, "The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good!" vs. 19a-b
  - b) Hezekiah said, "Will there not be peace and truth at least in my days?" vs. 19c-d

**20:20-21** *The summary statement of Hezekiah.*

\* The parallel passages. 2Chron. 32:30-33

- 1) Hezekiah diverted the water from the spring of Gihon to the Pool of Siloam into the city, in anticipation of the Assyrian invasion. vs. 20

- a) His men chiseled through 1700 feet of lime-stone, two groups from opposite ends to meet in the middle.
  - b) We walk through it, if the water is not too high and about midsection you can see the off-set where the met.
  - c) Then they covered up the spring of Gihon so that it could not be discovered.
- 2) These are other things are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah, which we have.
- 3) Hezekiah rested with his fathers and Manasseh his son reigned in his place. vs. 21

### **21:1-9      The wicked reign of Manasseh.**

\* The parallel passage. 2Chron. 33:1-10

#### **21:1-2      *The godly influence of his father Hezekiah is rejected by Manasseh.***

- 1) Hezekiah had fallen sick and told by God through the prophet Isaiah to set his house in order, for he was going to die. vs. 1
- 1) Hezekiah was succeeded by Manasseh, as king of Judah. vs. 1
  - a) So Manasseh was brought up for 12 years, during the extended years of Hezekiah, without doubt knowing what God had done for his father.

- 1)) Manasseh M@nashsheh, means causing to forget”, Joseph named one of his sons born in Egypt, forgetting the injustice done to him by his brothers. Gen. 41:51
- 2)) He had the benefit of a godly example of trusting in God and the spiritual revival to serve Yahweh.
- b) Manasseh reigned for 55 years, till he was 67 years old, the longest reign of any king, be it north or south, 687-642 B.C. , co-reigning 697-687 B.C.
  - \* The Assyrian records of Esarhaddon 681-669 B.C and Ashurbanipal 669-627 B.C. bear his name.
- c) Manasseh’s mother was Hephzibah, meaning “my delight is in her.”
- 3) Manasseh was ungodly man by his own choice, following the evil of the nations God had cast out before. vs. 2
  - a) Doing evil in the sight of the LORD.” vs. 2a
  - b) According to the abominations of the nations. vs. 2b
    - 1)) The word abomination “tow’ ebah”, means a disgusting thing which God abhors.
    - 2)) The sins of the nations is repeated. vs. 9, 11
    - 3)) God had given 430 years for the nations to repent. Gen. 15:16

- 4)) God delivered Israel from Egypt at that time and gave them the land by bringing judgment and expulsion from the land. Ex. 3:17

**21:3-9** The evil undertaking by Manasseh.

- 1) Manasseh rebuilt the pagan shrines. vs. 3
- a) He rebuilt the high places Hezekiah his father had destroyed, the pagans worship centers. vs. 3a
- b) He raised up altars of Baal. vs. 3b
- 1)) Ahab had married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, King of the Sidonians and served and worshipped Baal, setting up an altar to Baal, in the temple of Baal he built in Samaria. 1Kings 16:31-32
- 2)) Jezebel had massacred the prophets of Yahweh. 1Kings 18:4
- 3)) Elijah challenged and defeated the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel. 1Kings. 17
- 4)) Jehu destroyed Baal worship from the northern kingdom, Israel. 2Kings 10:28, 11:18
- 5)) Baal worship was introduced again by the nations brought in by Assyria to repopulate the area. 2Kings 17:16

- c) He made a wooden image, as Ahab king of Israel had done. vs. 3c-d
- \* The “asherah” the sacred poles set up near the altar, representing a phallic, where horribly perverted sexual rites and orgies were carried on.
- d) He worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. vs. 3e
- \* The host of heaven indicates the creation of God, the sun, moon, stars, planets, earth, wind, etc.
- 2) Manasseh desecrated the temple of God. vs. 4-8
- a) In defiance to Yahweh, exalting these altars above Yahweh’s and his name Yahweh had put in Jerusalem. vs. 4
- 1) In the same way Islam when they conquer a religious site they build a Mosque over it, like in Cordova Spain, as they want to do in “Ground Zero”, under the same name.
- 2) The Muslims built the Dome of the Rock on the temple mount in Jerusalem, over the site of Solomon’s temple, declaring their conquest over Israel.
- b) In deliberate worship of the creation he built altars for all the host of heaven. vs. 5

- \* In the two courts of the house of the LORD.
- 3) Manasseh delighted in the occult. vs. 6
- a) He practiced human sacrifice making his son pass through the fire of Molech. vs. 6a
    - 1)) The god of pleasure, a fertility god, following the steps of his Grandfather Ahaz. 2Kings 16:3
    - 2)) Condemned by God. Lev. 18:21, 20:2-5, Deut. 18:14
  - b) He practiced soothsaying “anon” to conjure spells, observing, fortunetelling and tarot cards. vs. 6b
  - c) He practiced and used witchcraft “machash”, practice of divination, enchantments, an observer of signs, a warlock. vs. 6c
  - d) He practice consulting spiritists. “owb”, a necromancer, one who evokes the dead, familiar spirits, demons for guides. vs. 6d
  - e) He practiced consulting mediums “yidd@”, one who has a familiar spirit, channelers. vs. 6d
  - f) He did all this so arrogantly, “He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, “to provoke Him to anger.” vs. 6e-f
- 4) In dedication to the consort of Baal. vs. 7-8

- a) He set a carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of the LORD. vs. 7a
    - \* The Canaanite goddess of fortune and happiness.
  - b) He again is declaring victory over Yahweh by these deities, contrary to God’s testimony to David and Solomon, about choosing Jerusalem to put His name forever. vs. 7b-e
    - \* This is the second time God states Jerusalem belongs to Him, placing His name in His city!
  - c) He ignored the past history of Israel and conditions for God’s blessings, which were conditional. vs. 8
    - \* Possibly, during this time the book of the Law was lost and Hilkiah the High Priest found it and told Josiah the son of Manasseh, resulting in the great revival and reforms. 2Kings 22
- 5) Manasseh did not have any resistance. vs. 9
- a) The people were indifferent, “But they paid no attention.” vs. 9a
  - b) The people became worse than the pagans, Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than the nations God had destroyed before the children of Israel.” vs. 9b

\* The word seduced “ta’ah”, means to be cause to err or go astray.

**21:10-16** The divine judgment proclaimed over Manasseh.

\* The repentance and restoration of Manasseh.  
2Chron. 33:11-20

**21:10-15** The willful evil of Manasseh was judged by God.

- 1) The messengers of God’s judgment were the prophets. and there were many, indicative of the plural. vs. 10  
\* Tradition tells us that Isaiah was sawn in two by Manasseh.
- 2) The reason for judgment was clearly stated, due to the abominations committed by Manasseh. vs. 11
  - a) Being worst than the heathen. vs. 11a-b
  - b) Being culpable for the sin of Judah with idols. vs. 11c
- 3) The judgment would be thorough and severe. vs. 12-13
  - a) All would be astonished, indicative of “both his ears will tingle.” vs. 12
  - b) All would be judged for not living up to the measure of His word, “the measuring line of Samaria and the plummet of the house of Ahab.” vs. 13a

c) All would be taken into captivity, indicative of the phrase, “I will wipe Jerusalem as one **wipes a dish**, wiping it and turning *it* upside down.” vs. 13b

\* Perhaps indicative of the three sieges, 606, 596, 986 B.C. , the third being final, wiped clean.

- 4) The judgment would be chastening by their enemies. vs. 14
  - a) To be humiliated by the hand of their enemies. vs. 14
  - b) To be corrected for their rebellious acts of evil, provoking God, as their fathers, since they came out of Egypt. vs. 15
    - 1)) This is the second time it is stated that he provoked Yahweh. vs. 6f
    - 2)) “I will hand them over to trouble, to all kingdoms of the earth, because of **Manasseh** the son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, for what he did in Jerusalem.” Jer. 15:4
- 5) Manasseh continued to abused his power and authority as king. vs. 16
  - a) He committed social injustices against the people in Jerusalem. vs. 16a-b  
\* The law spoke clearly about the innocent, orphan, widows and poor. Ex. 22:22, Deut. 10:18, 24:12

- b) He led the people in apostasy, in doing evil in the sight of the LORD. vs. 16c-d

**21:17-18** The summary statement of Manasseh.

- 1) The rest of the acts of Manasseh--all that he did and sin that he committed are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah. vs. 17
- 2) The death and burial of Manasseh and his son Amon succeeding him. vs. 18
  - \* His manner of burial and Amon is not the usual of kings, but in a garden, believed to be in the vicinity of the Pool of Siloam.

**21:19-26** The reign and death of Amon.

- \* The parallel passage. 2Chron. 33:20-23

**21:19-22** The reign of Amon.

- 1) The particulars of the reign of Amon. vs. 19
  - \* 2Chron. 33:21-25
  - a) He was twenty-two years old when he became king, 642-640 B.C. vs. 19a
  - b) He reigned two years in Jerusalem. vs. 19b
  - c) His mother's name was Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah. vs. 19c

- 2) He did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh, walking in all his ways, serving the idols and worshipping them. vs. 20-21
- 3) He forsook the LORD God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the LORD. vs. 22

**21:23-36** The death of Amon.

- 1) The servants of Amon conspired against him, and assassinated him in his own house. vs. 23
- 2) The people of the land executed this murderers and made his son Josiah king in his place. vs. 24
- 3) The rest of the acts of Amon are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah. vs. 25
- 4) Amon was buried in his tomb in the garden of Uzza. Then Josiah his son reigned in his place. vs. 26