

9/11/11

Manasseh, Epitome of Evil
2Kings 21:1-18

As we look to the history of man from the beginning of his existence, be it the Biblical or secular history, they reveal the record of horrible evil committed by man.

And no greater evil is impressed into the minds of Americans than the cowardly and demonic attack on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, on September the 11th of 2001, ten years ago today!
 * Only to be celebrated by the Islamic world with dancing and cheering in their streets!

And yes, there is also the record of the good that man has done, but the amount of man's evil outweighs the good.

The Bible is consistent in revealing and warning about the bent of man's evil, due to the fall.

1. No person can escape their potential for evil.
2. No person can fix the world's problem of evil.
3. The only hope for sinful man, is to be transformed by the gospel and grace of Jesus Christ, through repentance and yield their lives that Christ might live through them.
4. Through this daily transformation, man can be an instrument for good, affecting society for the

better, but even this will not rid the world of evil, for Christians still fail, having their old sin nature in them.

So the purpose for being a born again Christian is not to ultimately make this world a better place to live, but to prepare a person to spend eternity with God, instead of the Lake of Fire.

* Hell is full of good moral people because they reject the gospel, that declares they are sinners in need of repentance through Jesus Christ.

In view of this we want to look at the wicked reign of Manasseh that unfolds in three movements:

2Kings 21:1-18

- I. The godly upbringing of Manasseh. vs. 1-2
- II. The evil undermining by Manasseh. vs. 3-9
- III. The divine reckoning due to Manasseh. vs. 10-18

I. The godly upbringing of Manasseh. vs. 1-2

- A. Manasseh had godly a father, Hezekiah. vs. 1
 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.

- a. The response of Hezekiah was to cry out to God, bemoaning his death at 39, so God extended the life 15 years.
 - b. He began to reign at 25 so he died at 54 years of age.
 - c. Manasseh was born when Hezekiah was 42 years old, three years after God healed him and extended his life.
2. 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.”

B. Manasseh was ungodly man. vs. 2

- 1. Despite the privilege he had of a godly father, “he did evil in the sight of the LORD.” vs. 2a
 - a. He chose to do evil, instead of good.
 - b. He chose to do this evil, knowing God was seeing it.
 - c. He chose to disobey and violate the covenant by defying the name of the covenant God, Yahweh
- 2. Despite the example of the true worship of Yahweh, he followed the worship of the pagan nations. vs. 2b
 - a. Knowing these practices were prohibited by Yahweh, “according to the abominations of the nations.”
 - 1) The sins of the nations is repeated. vs. 9, 11
 - 2) The word abomination “tow’ ebah”, means a disgusting thing which God abhors.
 - 3) The degree of evil abhorred as abominable depends on context.
 - b. Knowing Yahweh had judged them for their evil, “whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.”
 - 1) God had given 430 years for the nations to repent. Gen. 15:16
 - 2) God delivered Israel from Egypt at that time and gave them the land

by bringing judgment and
expulsion from the land. Ex. 3:17
* Parallel passage. 2Chron. 33:1-2

Illustration

1. In 1952 President Truman established one day a year as a **National Day of Prayer**.
2. In 1988 President Reagan designated the First Thursday in May of each year as **the National Day of Prayer**.
3. In June 2007(then) residential Candidate Barack Obama declared that **the USA Was no longer a Christian nation**.
4. Then after he became President, **he canceled the 21st annual National Day of Prayer ceremony** at the White House under the rouse Of “not wanting to offend anyone”.
5. **On September 25, 2009** from 4 am until 7 pm, a National Day of Prayer for the Muslim religion was Held on Capitol Hill, Beside the White House. There were over 50,000 Muslims that Day in DC.

Application

1. I have seen in my 38 years of walking with God and 35 years of ministry godly father be the best examples to their children.
 - a. Yet their children chose to live a life of evil.
 - b. Sometimes only one or two.
 - c. At other times, all have followed the godly example of their father.
 - d. But in every case it was a choice to embrace or reject the godly example.

* “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
Josh. 24:14-15

2. The character of leaders in a nation determines greatly the direction and blessings of a nation.
 - a. When leaders are persons of their word, men of character, not liars, the people trust them and support them.
 - b. When leaders are out for themselves taking advantage of the people, they are despised and rejected.
 - c. When leaders do not punish evil, they destroy all authority, resulting in chaos.

* “Because the sentence against an **evil** work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of **men** is fully set in them to do **evil**.” Eccl. 8:11
3. The principle is the same for pastors and leaders in the church.
 - a. When you have dishonest men who lie and exaggerate as Pastors.

- b. When you have immoral Pastors behind the pulpit.
 - c. When you have Pastors who are begging and manipulating people financially.
 - d. When you have Pastors that are teaching down right heresy, all these reveal how corrupt our nation has become.
- * “Woe to those who call **evil good**, and **good evil**; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” Is. 5:20

The godly upbringing of Manasseh was unacceptable by him!

II. The evil undermining by Manasseh. vs. 3-9

- A. Manasseh rebuilt the pagan shrines. vs. 3
 - 1. He rebuilt the high places Hezekiah his father had destroyed. vs. 3a
 - a. All the kings, from Solomon to Ahaz, the Grandfather of Manasseh, left the high places stand. 2Kings 16:33
 - b. Hezekiah was the first to remove them.
 - c. The high places were the cultic places of worship for the pagans of the land.
 - 2. He raised up altars of Baal. vs. 3b
 - a. Ahab had married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, King of the Sidonians and served and worshipped

Baal, setting up an alter to Baal, in the temple of Baal he built in Samaria.

1Kings 16:31-32

- b. Jezebel had massacred the prophets of Yahweh. 1Kings 18:4
 - c. Elijah challenged and defeated the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel. 1Kings. 17
 - d. Jehu destroyed Baal worship from the northern kingdom, Israel. 2Kings 10:28, 11:18
 - e. Baal worship was introduced again by the nations brought in by Assyria to repopulate the area. 2Kings 17:16
- 3. He made a wooden image, as Ahab king of Israel had done. vs. 3c-d
 - a. The wooden images “ashera” were the groves of idol worship.
 - b. Sacred poles set up near the alter, representing a phallic, where horribly perverted sexual rites and orgies were carried on.
 - c. Ahab was the king of apostate Israel. 1Kings 16:33
 - 4. He worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. vs. 3e
 - a. The host of heaven indicates the creation of God.
 - b. In particular the sun, moon, stars, planets, earth, wind, etc.

- c. They worshipped “shchah”, bowed down giving homage as a deity.
 - d. They served “agad”, acknowledged, dedicated and did all to honor and credit these idols to receive blessings.
- B. Manasseh desecrated the temple of God. vs. 4-5, 7-8**
1. In defiance to Yahweh. vs. 4
 - a. He exalted these altars above Yahweh, “He also built altars in the house of the LORD.” vs. 4a
 - b. He declared Yahweh had been defeated, “of which the LORD had said, “**In Jerusalem I will put My name.**” vs. 4b-c
 - 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.
 2. In deliberate worship of the creature, rather than the Creator. vs. 5
 - a. He built altars for all the host of heaven.

- b. He built them in the two courts of the house of the LORD.
3. In dedication to Baal’s consort. vs. 7-8
 - a. He even set a carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of the LORD.
 - 1) The Canaanite goddess of fortune and happiness.
 - 2) The physical image.
 - b. He again is declaring victory over Yahweh by these deities, “which the LORD had said to David and to Solomon his son, “In this house and **in Jerusalem**, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, **I will put My 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, “and I will not make the feet of Israel wander anymore from the land which I gave their fathers--only if they are careful to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that My servant Moses commanded them.” 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

C. Manasseh delighted in the occult. vs. 6

1. He practiced human sacrifice, “Also he made his son pass through the fire.” vs. 6a
 - a. This was the worship of Molech, the god of pleasure, a fertility god, following the steps of his Grandfather Ahaz. 2Kings 16:3
 - c. The by-product was unwanted children, so the sacrificed them to their god.
 - d. Condemned by God. Lev. 18:21, 20:2-5, Deut. 18:14
 - e. Solomon had built high places for Molech, the god of the Ammonites, on the Mount of Olives for his pagan wives. 1Kings 11:17
2. He practiced soothsaying. vs. 6b
 - a. Soothsaying “anon” to conjure spells, observing times.
 - b. Fortunetelling, tarot cards.
3. He practiced and used witchcraft. vs. 6c
 - a. Witchcraft “machash”, practice of divination, enchantments.
 - b. An observer of signs, a warlock.
4. He practice consulting spiritists. vs. 6d

- a. Spiritist “owb”, a necromancer, one who evokes the dead.
 - b. Familiar spirits, demons for guides.
 5. He practiced consulting mediums. vs. 6d
 - a. Mediums “yidd@”, one who has a familiar spirit, channelers,
 - b. Like Shirley McClain and the New Age movement.
 6. He did all this so arrogantly. vs. 6e-f
 - a. Without trying to hide it, “He did much evil in the sight of the LORD.” vs. 6e
 - b. Without fearing Yahweh, “to provoke Him to anger.” vs. 6f
- D. Manasseh did not have any resistance. vs. 9**
1. The people were indifferent, “But they paid no attention.” vs. 9a
 - a. To the changes from the days of Hezekiah.
 - b. To the evil of Manasseh.
 2. The people became worst than the pagans, “and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.” vs. 9b
 - a. The word seduced “ta’ah”, means to be cause to err or go astray.
 - b. They did this willingly.
 - * The parallel passage. 2Chron. 33:3-9

Illustration

“THE ONLY THING NEEDED FOR EVIL TO TRIUMPH IS FOR GOOD MEN TO DO NOTHING” EDMUND BURKE

Application

1. We have shrines of fertility gods that have poisoned our nation.
 - a. The altar of online pornography.
 - b. The altar of adult shops.
 - c. The altar of adult magazines.
 - d. The altar of so called Gentlemen’s Clubs.
 - e. The altar of pornography industry.
 - f. The altar of legal prostitution in Nevada.
2. We have the shrines to the worship of nature and the creature, reverting us to ignorant pagan worship and have made them as a national laws.
 - a. Evolution is the religion of the Public School System and the Scientific community, denying God altogether.
 - b. Everyone is being indoctrinated into the worship of nature, through the “Green Movement”, a subtle way our industry and jobs are being destroyed.
 - c. The “Global Warming downright lie” of Al Gore that has made him very wealthy.
 - d. The practice of “feng-Shui”, the ancient Chinese art using the laws of both heaven and earth to balance good and bad energies

of any given space to assure good fortune and improve ones life. (The ying and yang)

* This is part of the New Age, Feng means wind and Shui means water.

3. We have shrines to the occult throughout our nation.
 - a. The rise of interest and involvement into witchcraft, Harry Potter being the greatest instrument to recruit young children and young adults.
 - b. We have people on the radio, who are necromancer and speak to dead relatives for those who call in, as well as T.V.
 - c. We have Oprah Wimpre the greatest promoter of authors and books, promoting channelers, wizards, necromancers and spiritist of the New Age and “Contemplating Prayer” of the Emergent Church Movement.
 - d. The University of Alberta offers Gnosticism and the Occult as a six week long, non-credit, continuing education course. It’s a pared down version of the university’s popular Witchcraft and the Occult class, which has been taught for the past fifteen years. Instructor Bruce Miller says his witchcraft class has gotten to be so popular, the school had to split it in two and hire another teacher. His Gnosticism and the Occult course explores the history of Gnosticism, including the Cathars, Knights Templar and the Grail legend. Miller uses

Tarot and astrology as a way of tying the whole thing together.

* “When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, *or* a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.” Deut. 18:9-11

The evil undermining by Manasseh was detestable to God!

III. The divine reckoning due to Manasseh. vs. 10-18

- A. The willful evil of Manasseh was judged by God. vs. 10-15
1. The messengers of God’s judgment were the prophets. vs. 10
 - a. The judge passing judgment was the covenant God of Israel, “And the LORD spoke.” vs. 10a
 - b. The declaration of judgment was by more than one prophet, “by His servants the prophets, saying.” vs. 10b-c

* Tradition tells us that Isaiah was sawn in two by Manasseh.

2. The reason for judgment was clearly stated. vs. 11
 - a. The king of Judah had sinned, “Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations. vs. 11a
 - b. The commentary is two-fold. vs. 11b-c
 - 1) First by comparison, “(he has acted more wickedly than all the Amorites who were before him.” vs. 11b
 - 2) Second by culpability, “and has also made Judah sin with his idols).” vs. 11c
3. The thorough judgment would be severe. vs. 12-13
 - a. God would judge causing all to be astonished, “therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘Behold, I am bringing such calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will **tingle**.’” vs. 12
 - b. God would judge them for not living up to the measure of His word, “And **I will stretch** over Jerusalem the **measuring line** of Samaria and the plummet of the house of Ahab.” vs. 13a

- c. God would remove them from the land, “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 at the hands of their enemies. vs. 14
 - a. To be humiliated by the hand of their enemies, “So I will forsake the remnant of My inheritance and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become victims of plunder to all their enemies.” vs. 14
 - b. To be corrected for their rebellious hearts, “because they have done evil in My sight, and have provoked Me to anger since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day.” 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
- B. The evil of Manasseh only increased. vs. 16-18

- 1. Manasseh abused his power and authority as king. vs. 16
 - a. He committed social injustices against the people, “Moreover Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another.” 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, “besides his sin by which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the LORD.” vs. 16c-d
- 2. Manasseh’s life summary statement. vs. 17-18
 - a. His life of evil is recorded for our benefit, “Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh--all that he did, and the sin that he committed--are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?” vs. 17
 - b. His life came to an end, as all men, “So Manasseh rested with his fathers, and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza. Then his son Amon reigned in his place.” 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.

Illustration

A poem written by Judge Roy Moore from
Alabama. Who was sued by the ACLU for
displaying the Ten Commandments in his
courtroom foyer. He has been stripped of his
judgeship and they were trying to strip his right to
practice law in Alabama! 9/23/07

America the beautiful,
Or so you used to be.
Land of the Pilgrims' pride;
I'm glad they'll never see.

Babies piled in dumpsters,
Abortion on demand,
Oh, sweet land of liberty;
Your house is on the sand.

Our **children** wander aimlessly
Poisoned by cocaine
Choosing to indulge their lusts,
When God has said abstain

From **sea** to shining sea,
Our Nation turns away
From the teaching of God's love
And a need to always pray

We've kept **God** in our temples,

How callous we have grown.
When earth is but His footstool,
And Heaven is His throne.

We've voted in a **government**
that's rotting at the core,
Appointing Godless Judges;
Who throw reason out the door,

Too soft to place a **killer**
In a well deserved tomb,
But brave enough to kill a baby
Before he leaves the womb.

You think that **God's** not angry,
That our land's a moral slum?
How much longer will He wait
Before His judgment comes?

How are we to face our **God**,
From Whom we cannot hide?
What then is left for us to do,
But stem this evil tide?

If we who are His **children**,
Will humbly turn and pray;
Seek His holy face
And mend our evil way:

Then **God** will hear from Heaven;
And forgive us of our sins,

He'll heal our sickly land
And those who live within.

But, **America** the Beautiful,
If you don't - then you will see,
A sad but Holy God
Withdraw His hand from Thee.

Application

1. The consequences of sin in this life is two-fold.
 - a. First is the temporal difficulties and problems we bring on ourselves, here on the earth, broken relations, loss of time, regrets and God sometimes brings judgment on some on earth, believer and non-believer.
 - b. Second the eternal devastation we bring on ourselves after we die, for the believer the loss of rewards, but for the non-believer separation from God for all eternity and be punished in the Lake of Fires.
 - * Jesus revealed the horror of perishing,
 - “And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is **better** for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.” Matt. 18:9
 - c. The grace, goodness and patience of God is magnified in Manasseh, for he called on God and repented and God forgave him, even restored him, but the judgment of the nation was **irreversible**. 2Chronn. 33:11-17

* “Therefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon. Now when he was in affliction, he implored the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. **Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.** After this he built a wall outside the City of David on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, as far as the entrance of the Fish Gate; and it enclosed Ophel, and he raised it to a very great height. Then he put military captains in all the fortified cities of Judah. He took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem; and he cast them out of the city. He also repaired the altar of the LORD, sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel. Nevertheless the people still sacrificed on the high places, but only to the LORD their God.”

2. Jesus our God is Jewish, He keeps good books.
- a. Noting will be missed in the judgment.
 - b. No one will escape the judgment.
 - c. No one will be able to explain away their judgment.
 - d. No one will have a big mouth before the judgment.

* “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and **books** were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the **books.**” Rev. 20:12

3. Nations throughout history have been judged by God, despite their world dominance, due to their evil leaders, who rejected good and promoted evil.
- a. Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome.
 - b. Germany and others that we don't know.
 - c. Russian will have her day in the near future.
 - d. Is God judging our nation for all of our evil?

* Isaiah says, “As for our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name, The **Holy One** of Israel.” Is. 47:4

The divine reckoning due to Manasseh was unalterable for the nation!

Conclusion

The wicked reign of Manasseh has unfolded for us in three movements:

- I. The godly upbringing of Manasseh was unacceptable by him!
- II. The evil undermining by Manasseh was detestable to God!
- III. The divine reckoning due to Manasseh was unalterable for the nation!