

The Eyes of the Lord

Part 1

2 Chronicles 33

Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. **2 He did evil in the eyes of the Lord,** following the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites. **3** He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had demolished; he also erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them. **4** He built altars in the temple of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, "My Name will remain in Jerusalem forever." **5** In both courts of the temple of the Lord, he built altars to all the starry hosts. **6** He sacrificed his children in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced divination and witchcraft, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. **He did much evil in the eyes of the Lord, arousing his anger.**

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9 But Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the Lord had destroyed before the Israelites.

10 The Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. 11 So the Lord brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon.

12 In his distress he sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors. 13 And when he prayed to him, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God.

Manasseh was the Son of Hezekiah

- Hezekiah was 25 years old when he became King and reigned for 29 years
- 2 Chronicles 29:2 says “Hezekiah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.”
- Hezekiah had a heart for God.
- Hezekiah was responsible for restoring the House of God and the Priesthood.
- He restored the Passover Celebration in Jerusalem.

1. When Manasseh did evil, God was watching

Vs. 2

He did evil in the eyes of the Lord,

Vs. 6

He did much evil in the eyes of the Lord, arousing his anger.

In all that Manasseh was doing, God was watching...

- following the detestable practices of the nations
 - rebuilding the high places his father demolished
 - bowing down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them
 - sacrificing his children
 - practicing divination and witchcraft, seeking omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists.
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- Manasseh didn't realize the consequence of his action because he paid no attention to the Lord...
 - Manasseh was Proud...
 - The problem with pride is it made Manasseh blind towards God...

There are some things in the Bible that I think are extra important to pay attention to: One is when the Bible says God Loves and the other is what the Bible says God hates...

Proverbs 6

16

There are six things the Lord hates,
seven that are detestable to him:

17

haughty eyes, (proud look)
a lying tongue,
hands that shed innocent blood,

18

a heart that devises wicked schemes,
feet that are quick to rush into evil,

19

a false witness who pours out lies
and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

The word Pride in the OT is defined: insolence, presumptuousness, arrogance

insolence: *rude or disrespectful behavior*

presumptuousness: *failing to observe the limits of what is permitted*

arrogance: *haughty, conceited, self important*

- God hates a proud look that is rude, disrespectful, haughty and conceited that disregards the limits of what is permitted. (*That's the attitude of I'll do what I want*)

Someone once asked me: What is the worst sin?

The Bible describes the Devil when in Isaiah 14 it says

Isaiah 14

13

You said in your heart,
"I will ascend to the heavens;
I will raise my throne
above the stars of God;

I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.

14

I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.”

15

But you are brought down to the realm of the dead,
to the depths of the pit.

16

Those who see you stare at you,
they ponder your fate:
“Is this the man who shook the earth
and made kingdoms tremble,

17

the man who made the world a wilderness,
who overthrew its cities
and would not let his captives go home?”

Then in Ezekiel

Ezekiel 28

17

Your heart became proud
on account of your beauty,
and you corrupted your wisdom
because of your splendor.
So I threw you to the earth;
I made a spectacle of you before kings.

**I believe it can be said, a person looks a lot like the devil when
they walk around with a proud look...**

Vs. 9,10

9 But Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the Lord had destroyed before the Israelites.

10 The Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention.

2. Manasseh's pride lead to him to defeat

Vs. 11

So the Lord brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon.

The Bible gives strong warning about the dangers of Pride...

Proverbs 11:2

When **pride** comes, then comes shame; But with the humble *is* wisdom.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 29:23

Pride brings a person low, but the lowly in spirit gain honor.

- Manasseh went from being the most powerful man in Judah to a prisoner of war...
- One minute a King and the next he was being lead around like a pig with a ring in his nose, bound and in shackles...
- But this is how merciful our God is...

3. When Manasseh humbled himself and God was watching

Vs. 12-13

12 In his distress he sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors. **13** And when he prayed to him, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom.

Repentance is powerful with God...

Repentance is the antidote to Pride...

James 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and **he will lift you up.**

When one person repents, Heaven responds...

When a person humbles their heart before God and turns to Him, God shows Mercy...

Luke 15:7

7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who **repents** than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Matthew 4:17

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Manasseh Repented...

Repentance Means:

1. To change one's mind
2. To Amend with abhorrence to the Past
3. Conduct worthy of a heart changed.
4. Of those who, conscious of their sins and with manifest tokens of sorrow, are intent on obtaining God's Pardon.

My Definition: "To surrender a Proud/Stubborn will in exchange for God's"

2 Corinthians 7:10

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

In this World: Plead Guilty / Convicted / Sentenced

With the Lord: Plead Guilty / Pardoned / Set Free

- Repentance and turning to God brings restoration, new life and freedom...

Martin Luther 95 Theses

#1 When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.

Vs. 13

"Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God."

Manasseh became aware that God is alive and He is watching...
Today so much of our world is unaware that God is watching...

Proverbs 15:3

The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

Psalms 34:15

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry;

Closing Song:

Oh Lord send a Revival of Humility...
That people would know that the Lord is God...

- 1. When Manasseh did evil, God was watching**
- 2. Manasseh's pride lead to his defeat**
- 3. Manasseh humbled himself and God was watching**
- 4. Manasseh's Repentance leads to His Restoration**