

2 Kings 21 Repentance

Jesus

- **Hezekiah:** Ch's. 18, 19 and 20
 1. **Great man of God.** Restored worship of true God
 2. **39 years old told by God:** Set your house in order. Did great...your done.

Give me more time and I will make Your truth known to my children [Isaiah 38:19]

- **Hezekiah granted 15 more years:** Took for granted God's kindness...

2 Chronicles 32:25 [Read] ... Hezekiah did not repay according to the favor *shown* him, for his heart was lifted up; therefore wrath was looming over him and over Judah and Jerusalem. ²⁶ Then Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the Lord did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah. ²⁷ Hezekiah had very great riches and honor. And he made himself treasuries for silver, for gold, for precious stones, for spices, for shields, and for all kinds of desirable items; ²⁸ storehouses for the harvest of grain, wine, and oil; and stalls for all kinds of livestock, and folds for flocks. ²⁹ Moreover he provided cities for himself, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance; for God had given him very much property.

- Became increasingly unappreciative/ungrateful to the Lord
- Became filled with pride taking glory for things God had done for him/Judah
- Showed off the treasures God blessed him/Judah with to envoys came from Babylon

God sends prophet Isaiah to pronounce judgment on Judah...

2 Kings 20:16 [Read] Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the Lord: ¹⁷ 'Behold, the days are coming when all that *is* in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the Lord. ¹⁸ 'And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.' " ¹⁹ So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the Lord which you have spoken *is* good!" For he said, "Will there not be peace and truth at least in my days?"

- **Judgement on Judah after Hezekiah dies...**
 1. Babylon will be back to take all you showed them
 2. Take your descendants and make them eunuchs in Babylon

**"The word of the Lord which you have spoken *is* good!"
"At least it won't happen in my day"**

- Later Hezekiah repents [2 Chron. 22:26] but **damage done...**
- During Hezekiah's 15 extra years he has a son. Manasseh

**That son becomes the wickedest King ever to reign in Judah
Bent on evil. Bent on bloodshed. Bent on Baal worship. Bent/Twisted**

- **2 Kings 21...**

I. Manasseh Reigns in Judah

1 Manasseh was **twelve** years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hephzibah.

- Hezekiah dies at 54 after 15 extra years
- Son Manasseh becomes king of Judah at **12 Years old**

2 And [Manasseh] did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the **abominations of the nations** whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel. 3 For he **rebuilt** the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; he raised up **altars for Baal**, and made a **wooden image**, as Ahab king of Israel had done; and he **worshiped all the host of heaven** and served them. 4 He also **built altars in the house of the Lord**, of which the Lord had said, **"In Jerusalem I will put My name."**

- Infamous for two things...

**Longest reigning King in history of Judah; 55 yrs.
Most wicked bloodthirsty King in history of Judah**

- Tore down things of God his father Hezekiah built up
- Built up what things of Satan his father tore down

Picture of Satanic World System: Calculated changes with Evil Intent
We should be aware of the devil's schemes...we see the result today

- **Destroy family structure** Make dad the buffoon and mom the dad
- **Destroy authority structure** Lawlessness the norm/righteousness mocked
- **Cause identity confusion** Kids not knowing who/what they are
- **Undermine absolute truth** All relative. No right/wrong/good/evil

Isaiah 59:8 [Read] The way of peace they have not known, And there is no justice in their ways; They have made themselves crooked paths; Whoever takes that way shall not know peace. Therefore justice is far from us, Nor does righteousness overtake us; We look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness! 10 We grope for the wall like the blind, And we grope as if we had no eyes; We stumble at noonday as at twilight; We are as dead men in desolate places. 11 We all growl like bears, And moan sadly like doves; We look for justice, but there is none; For salvation, but it is far from us. 12 For our transgressions are multiplied before You, And our sins testify against us; For our transgressions are with us, And as for our iniquities, we know them: 13 In transgressing and lying against the Lord, And departing from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. 14 Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter. 15 **So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.**

**Manasseh knows exactly what he's doing...Turning truth on its head
It is calculated and by design...To remove the good and usher in the bad...**

"He did all he could to pervert the national character, and totally destroy the worship of the true God; and he succeeded." [Clarke]

5 And [Manasseh] built altars for all the **host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord**. 6 Also he made his son pass through the fire, practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger.

- **Provoked the Lord... Daring God**

1. Altars to the stars in the court of the Lord
 2. Child Sacrifices/Witchcraft/Seances
- Manasseh continues to provoke Living God...

7 He even set a carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of 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; 8 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."

- **He even:** Statue/Altar to Asherah in Temple of God
- **Remember: God's promise to be with the people had a clause...**

I will dwell in the Temple of Jerusalem and you will dwell with Me in the land
...If you are careful to do according to all I have commanded/according to all the law

- Far from keeping God's command...Judah provoked God with **Presumptuous sin**

Psalm 19:13 [David] Keep back Your servant also from **presumptuous sins**; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

- I know what God says but **I will anyway...**
 1. I will sleep with my girlfriend
 2. I will drink myself silly
 3. I will hold on to bitterness
 4. I will continue this sinful lifestyle
 5. I will deny the Gospel
 6. I will dive into the dark things...music, places, actions I know God hates

You can absolutely choose to sin...but you cannot choose the consequence

- **Presumptuous sin:** Sins that challenge/dare God to act...

God will act and we will ask... **Why is this happening to me?**

- **Presumptuous sins are especially evil**
 1. Not an accident/Not a mistake
 2. Not simply missing the mark
 3. Not even simply a transgression; i.e. crossing the line

2 Peter 2:9b... [God reserves] the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 and **especially those** who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. **They are presumptuous, self-willed.** [Lit. A daring man]

- **Presumptuous sin:** Especially heinous to God

1. Homosexual Mayor Pete: [Paraphrase] It's not me you have a problem with...it is the god who made me this way
2. Governors: Removing death penalty after God institutes it in Gen. 9:5
3. Religious leaders: Claiming God is in favor of abortion
4. Mayors: Light WTC in Pink for infanticide/Lighting up White House in rainbow

**Calculated Defiance against God and His Holiness
What are you going to do about it, God?**

God is longsuffering but long does not mean forever [NJC]

- **Promise:** Walk in My ways and I will be with you in the land...

9 But **they** paid no attention, and Manasseh **seduced them** to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel.

- **But they paid no attention:** Israel seduced by Manasseh

As if that was a viable option

I don't know [*idoknow*]

10 And the Lord spoke by His servants the prophets [Hosea, Joel, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Isaiah] , saying, 11 "**Because Manasseh king of Judah** has done these abominations (he has acted more wickedly than all the Amorites who were before him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols), 12 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.**

Prophets sent directly to Manasseh

When people hear what I do to you...their ears will tingle: Lit. Quiver with fear like rabbit

13 And I will stretch over Jerusalem the **measuring line of Samaria** and the plummet of the **house of Ahab**; I will **wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish**, wiping it and turning it upside down.

- **As House of Ahab:** Judged as Northern Kingdom: Pain/death/exile/removal

Turned upside down: Depopulate a land

Wipe Judah clean, turn you upside down and dump you out somewhere else

14 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...

- **I will:**

1. Forsake the remnant of My inheritance [for a time]
2. Deliver you to your Assyria then Babylon to be made eunuchs

15 ... because they [Judah] 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.' "

Can God's patience be exhausted by a nation? Yes...

- **Manasseh:** 12-Year-old monster. Teenage werewolf. Bloodthirsty adult...

16 Moreover Manasseh shed very **much innocent blood**, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another, besides his sin by which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the Lord.

Even after personal warning by God's prophets Manasseh continued to...

- **Sin against God:** Witchcraft/Idols
- **Sin against Man:** Child-sacrifice/Innocent blood **filling Jerusalem**

Q. Why are the people not rebelling but following?

Because Manasseh **seduced them** [v 9] to do more evil than other nations

1. **Seduced them:** Err, wander, intoxicate, made stagger. Real/Stray; i.e. keep on hook
2. **Created competition:** More evil than other nations; i.e. **evil became a sport**

Why did the people not remember Hezekiah and good times? Manasseh Lit. "Causing to forget"

- Manasseh caused Judah to forget the past goodness of God

...they were willingly seduced by Manasseh's wickedness and were attracted to do more evil. [Guzik]

17 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? 18 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.

- **But there's more...**

2 Chronicles 33:10 [Read] And the Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, **but they would not listen.** 11 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. 12 Now **when he was in affliction**, he implored the Lord his God, and **humbled himself greatly** before the God of his fathers, 13 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.**

- When he was in affliction, **he humbled himself**

Psalms 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.

Psalm 119:71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

Psalm 119:75 I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are right, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

- Affliction if accepted as God's discipline can lead to repentance [Heb 12]

[cont.] 14 After this [Manasseh] 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. 15 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. 16 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. 17 Nevertheless the people still sacrificed on the high places, but only to the Lord their God. 18 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, **his prayer to his God**, and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of the Lord God of Israel, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel.

How big is your God for other people?

- Could Hitler have been saved? Manson? Bundy? Thief of the cross?

**Affliction led to humility leading to repentance culminating in restoration
Repentance...Beautiful Repentance [turning]leading to Restoration**

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing may come** from the presence of the Lord,

- **Q.** Could Hitler have been saved? How?
- **Q.** How could Nebuchadnezzar have been saved: Slow Roasting his enemies
- **Q.** How could Manasseh have been saved?
- **Q.** How could the thief on the cross be saved?
- **Q.** How could you and I be saved?

1 John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the **whole world**.

Forgiven/Restored Spiritually: Physical Consequences of previous sin continue

Summary: Manasseh Reigns in Judah

II. Amon's Reign and Quick Death

19 Amon was **twenty-two** years old when he became king, and he reigned **two years** in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah. 20 And he **did evil** in the sight of the Lord, as his father Manasseh had done. 21 So he walked in all the ways that his father had walked; and he **served the idols** that his father had served, and worshiped them. 22 He **forsook the Lord God** of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the Lord.

- **Amon:**

1. **Amon:** Lit. Skilled/Master workman
2. Age 22 became King of Judah for **only 2 Years**

Amon did evil in the sight of the Lord...as his father Manasseh had done

Numbers 14:18 'The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, **visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.**'

No choice... runs in the family?

- **4X in OT:** Generational Curse or just easy excuse for sin?
 1. Drinking
 2. Laziness
 3. Adultery...soul that sins will die. Personal responsibility.

2 Chronicles 33:21 Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. 22 But he did evil in the sight of the Lord, as his father Manasseh had done; for Amon sacrificed to all the carved images which his father Manasseh had made, and served them. 23 And **he did not humble himself before the Lord**, as his father Manasseh had humbled himself; but **Amon trespassed more and more.**

- **Everybody has a choice. Amon had a choice. Amon chose wrongly...**
 1. Sacrificed to/Served all the carved images of Manasseh
 2. Did not follow his father/grandfather's humility/repentance

Trespassed more and more...Lit. multiplied his sins

- 2 Years and no more...

23 Then the servants of Amon conspired against him, and **killed the king in his own house.** 24 But the people of the land executed all those who had conspired against King Amon. Then the people of the land made **his son Josiah king in his place.** 25 Now the rest of the acts of Amon which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 26 And he was buried in his tomb in the garden of Uzza. **Then Josiah his son reigned in his place.**

- **Manasseh reigns 55 Years:** Humbles himself at end of life and is in heaven?
- **Ammon reigns 2 Years:** Killed by servants/killed by people at home.

Josiah, Amon's son now reigns in Judah

- **Josiah:** Lit. "Whom Jehovah heals"
- **Judah needs healing:** Josiah is just the guy to be used mightily by Lord to do it

