

Manasseh's years as king: 10 with his father, 13 in wickedness, 12 in a dungeon, 20 of righteous rule.

Thoughts:

1. Under the quality leadership of his father, what went wrong? Why did the son rule the opposite way from his dad?
2. Manasseh ruled for many more years righteously than wickedly, yet it did not quite "catch on".
3. No one is beyond hope.
4. God is patient, sometimes.
5. Affliction may be what brings a person to the Lord.
6. God hears prayers of repentant sinners.
7. Be careful what you pray for...(Hezekiah).

What can one person do? Maybe not much... Maybe a lot... This one king caused an entire nation to be punished.

His father, just one person, led the nation away from pagan practices:

2 Kings 18:1-8: What Hezekiah did:

What can you do?

The time to be a Christian is _____. The time to call on the name of God is _____. The time to live for Christ is _____. The time to offer yourself to Jesus is _____. The time to give it all that you have is _____. (And leave everything else to God.)

God's mercy:

A poor woman from the slums of London was invited to go with a group of people for a holiday at the ocean. She had never seen the ocean before, and when she saw it, she burst into tears. Those around her thought it was strange that she should cry when such a lovely holiday had been given her. "Why in the world are you crying?" they asked. Pointing to the ocean she answered, "This is the only thing I have ever seen that there was enough of."

God has oceans of mercy. There is enough of it for the worst of sinners. (Like Manasseh) There is enough of it for you and me!

Series: Biblical Gen. Ed.

Title: Manasseh

Topic: What can one person do? (_____)

Introduction:

- South/North split of Israel was in 931 BC, right after Solomon's reign.
- 721 BC North Kingdom scattered.
- Manasseh was the 14th king of the Southern Kingdom (696-641 BC).
- His father was Hezekiah, a good king.
- Was 12 when his father died.

2 Kings 23: 26-27 *Nevertheless, the Lord did not turn away from the heat of his fierce anger, which burned against Judah because of all that Manasseh had done to arouse his anger. 27 So the Lord said, "I will remove Judah also from my presence as I removed Israel, and I will reject Jerusalem, the city I chose, and this temple, about which I said, 'My Name shall be there.'*

2 Kings 21:1-16 The worst of _____:

The abominations of Manasseh:

High Places

Manasseh built up the high places his father had torn down. Just a generation later, they are back up again. These were the places on top of the hills that people would go to worship, burn incense, and practice their rituals.

Altars To Baal

Manasseh built altars to Baal, the supreme god of the Canaanites. (The male counterpart to Asherah.)

Asherah

Manasseh actually set up one of these profanely sexual statues in the temple of God! This was the place that God had put His Name, yet it had been replaced by a false deity.



Worshipped The Host Of Heaven

This is the modern-day practice of astrology. This originated back in Babylon, when Nimrod directed the people to build a tower unto heaven. It is unbelievable that people believe that the position of the stars on the day they were born has influence over their daily lives. They dutifully read their horoscopes and make decisions based on them. God hates astrology, for it presumes to take control of the universe out of the Creator's hands and gives it to the creation.

Through The Fire

This was the horrible practice of offering children in sacrifice to Molech in the valley of Ben Hinnom.

Witchcraft

Witchcraft is another false religion that has millions of followers. It has not changed radically in the last couple thousand years.

But today, it is being marketed to people with deceptive attraction. Teens who feel powerless in their lives are promised power. Young adults that care about the environment are attracted with the emphasis as a religion of nature. Men are attracted to the sexual aspects, while women are brought in with the strong feminism witchcraft carries.

Divination

Divination is the practice of tapping into the spiritual realm to get a look into the future. Mediums and spiritists accomplished this through the use of drug-induced hallucinations and visions, séances, dreams, or by allowing themselves to become demon-possessed, that the spirits would speak through them.

Forgetting

Everything that Hezekiah had done to bring about reform and revival in Israel was undone. The nation once again turned from righteousness towards wickedness. They failed to remember the lessons that Manasseh's father had taught them. It is quite interesting that Manasseh's name literally means "forgetting."

One man:

- Sinned against a great light (his father's upbringing).
- Sinned boldly. As if trying to be more outrageous than anyone ever before.
- Led an entire nation into sin.

2 Chr. 33:10-13: Earthly _____ for Manasseh:

There, somewhere in a dungeon in [Babylon], in his affliction, Manasseh, that vile and evil sinner, humbled himself greatly. And he got down on his knees and he prayed to God.

God heard his prayer. God saw his affliction. God looked upon his humility and his repentance and He heard his cry. And God lifted up Manasseh out of the dungeon and out of the affliction. And God gave him back his kingdom. And God gave him back his throne and he was king again in Judah.

2 Chron. 33:14-17: A _____ man:

This man Manasseh repents, cries out to God, and God forgives him and He hears his prayers. And Manasseh tries to bring Judah back to God. He tells them to serve Jehovah of Israel. However, it doesn't "take":

Jeremiah 15:1 *Then the Lord said to me: "Even if Moses and Samuel were to stand before me, my heart would not go out to this people. Send them away from my presence! Let them go! 2 And if they ask you, 'Where shall we go?' tell them, 'This is what the Lord says:*

"Those destined for death, to death; those for the sword, to the sword; those for starvation, to starvation; those for captivity, to captivity."

3 *"I will send four kinds of destroyers against them," declares the Lord, "the sword to kill and the dogs to drag away and the birds and the wild animals to devour and destroy. 4 I will make them abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth because of what Manasseh son of Hezekiah king of Judah did in Jerusalem."*