

Week Ten – The Shocking Story of King Manasseh

2 Chronicles 33 [Also 2 Kin 21:1–9;

Ex 18:21 Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

To this point we have looked at:

- Rehoboam – The King who listened to bad **counsel**.
- Asa – The King who **almost** finished well.
- Jehoshaphat – The King who kept making terrible **alliances**.
- Ahaziah/Athalia – the **wimp** King and his **conniving** mother.
- Joash – The King who tried to borrow **Character** and **Conviction**
- Amaziah: The King of **Lost Opportunity**. Uzziah: The King of **Pride** and Arrogance
- Hezekiah: A really good king who let down his **guard**.

Today Manasseh: The king called the _____ evil yet still _____.

Heritage

If there was ever a study that debunks the idea that good parents always have good children then this study of the Kings in Judah certainly does that. It seems that really wicked kings sometimes had really virtuous sons and really good kings sometimes left their kingdom to extremely vile sons. Many times we are astounded by the way things turn out in families.

Situation

We took three weeks to study good king Hezekiah. He had followed his very wicked father, Ahaz, as Judah's king and had done an about face in all of his father's evil ways. At the end of Hezekiah's reign he had eradicated idolatry and syncretism. He had reinstated the Passover in Jerusalem and even created a sort of spiritual reunification of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah. He had thrown off, with God's help, the tyranny of Assyria and King Sennacherib. He had greatly enhanced the infrastructure of the nation especially in water works projects and defenses. In addition he amassed an amazing amount of treasure and arms for

the nation. He made some mistakes of judgment but he was a very godly king. He Reigned 29 years and he died leaving Manasseh his young son of only 12 years of age on the throne.

Before we read our passage turn to Deuteronomy 18.9-13. Keep all of that in mind as we read the passage. Let's read the passage. (33.1-20)

- I. Manasseh- His terrible Apostasy and unparalleled _____: Rejecting the godly example of parents (v.1-9). Let's track just how evil he was. Make notes as we go.
 - a. V.2 – he followed the ways of the people God had cast out of the land.
 - b. V.3 – He rebuilt the High places that his father had torn down.
 - c. V.3 – He constructed altars to the Baals and he made carved images of the Asherim. (seductive images in honor of the goddesses).
 - d. V.3 He introduced, Sun, moon and astral worship – Heavenly host.
Dt 4:19
 - e. V.4-5 He built altars for the heavenly host and placed them inside the Temple and in the Temple courts.
 - f. V.6 He sacrificed his children in the fire in the Hinnom Valley. *Dt 18:10*
 - g. V.6 He practiced all sorts of the occult. Witchcraft, soothsaying (fortune telling) interprets omens, or a sorcerer, conjurer (charmer) mediums - spiritists, or one who calls up the dead.
 - h. V.7-8 He showed contempt for God's name and disrespect for God's promises.
 - i. V.9 Like Jeroboam son of Nebat who led Israel to sin; Manasseh was _____ Judah to sin. There is no such thing as private sin. You know every Father and every mother ought to be careful that they don't teach their children to sin.
 - i. We do it _____ by setting a bad example.
 - ii. We do it _____ by inattentive parenting.
 - iii. The example of Balaam. *Re 2:14*
- II. Manasseh – his long period of God's _____: Refusing the direct warning from the Lord. (v.10; v.1).
 - a. He knew the _____ of Deuteronomy 18.9-13.

- b. He had his own direct warning from God. (v.10).
 - c. The amazing thing is that God gave him such a long time to repent.
2Pe 3:9
 - d. Verse 1 gives us a clue as to how long God waited.
- III. Manasseh – His well-deserved punishment and _____:
Receiving the just recompense for his sin. (V.11).
- a. Asshur – Banipal of Assyria was ruling Babylon and Assyria at the time so God used him to punish Manasseh.
 - b. He put a hook in his nose. Literally a leather thong was put in a hole drilled in his nose and he was dragged away to Babylon. This was all about humiliation; being led like a dog on a leash but in the nose.
 - c. He was bound with bronze fetters or shackles and carried away in exile to Babylon. This is microcosm of the coming captivity of the whole nation that will be carried away to Babylon.
- IV. Manasseh – His _____ conversion and God’s _____ forgiveness: Experiencing repentance and astounding mercy. (V.12-20)
- a. When he was _____ he sought the Lord (v.12).
 - b. He humbled himself greatly (v.12-13). I don’t think any of us have an inkling of understanding of how great the Lord’s mercy is.
 - c. He cried out to the Lord (v.12). God loves the cry of dependency. Notice the Phrase, “Then Manasseh knew that the Lord *was* God.” That is sad; not recognizing God’s power and goodness until there is a _____.
 - d. He reversed his earlier evils. He tried to go back and repair what he had destroyed (v.14-17).
- V. Amon – The inexplicable _____ of the sins of his father. (v.21-25). He was 22 years old and he only lasted two years. He was assassinated by his own servants. Note:
- a. Like his Father he did _____ (v.22).
 - b. Like his Father he worshipped the _____; the very images his father had made (v.22)..
 - c. Unlike his Father, he never _____ himself but sinned more and more (v.23).
 - d. Unlike his father, God saw no possibility of _____ in him even with severe punishment. He was king only two years (v.1).

e. Unlike his father he did not die a natural death but was _____ by his own servants.

Life lessons from Manasseh:

There are no _____ in child rearing..

Though circumstances certainly have an influence over who we become, circumstances don't make us; they _____ us. *Pr 30:7 Two things I request of You (Deprive me not before I die): 8 Remove falsehood and lies far from me ; Give me neither poverty nor riches— Feed me with the food allotted to me; 9 Lest I be full and deny You ,And say ,“Who is the LORD? ”Or lest I be poor and steal ,And profane the name of my God.*

God is very _____. We are not; but God is.

There is no sin too great and there is no sinner so lost that God can't _____ him; yet His patience has a limit and His sovereignty sets the _____.
Isa 55.6-7

God relents when sinners _____.

We all have great _____ for sin. *Je 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? 10 I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.*

God has great capacity _____. *Ps 118:1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.*