

2 Chronicles 33 - Manasseh's Evil Reign in Judah; Amon's Evil Reign

IV. Judah's Kings (2 Chr 10:1—36:23)

(2) Reform and apostasy in Judah (2 Chr 12:1—36:14)

(N) Manasseh's wickedness and restoration (33:1-20)

(O) Amon's wicked reign (33:21-25)

2 Chronicles 33

(N) Manasseh's wickedness and restoration (33:1-20) (Cf. 2 Kings 21:1-17)

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1 Manasseh began to reign at the age of twelve years, and continued to reign for 55 years in Jerusalem.

1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem:

- Manasseh was one of the few examples of an evil Judean king who became good

— Nevertheless, his many years of wickedness made captivity inevitable for Judah (2 Kings 23:26; Jer 15:4)

2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel.

2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel.

2 But he practiced what the LORD considered to be evil by behaving detestably, as did the nations whom the LORD expelled in front of the Israelis.

2 But did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

- Though he reigned with Hezekiah for some 11 years, the young king either learned nothing from his father or quickly repudiated it, for he set about to rebuild the high places, altars, and sacred poles dedicated to the Baals and Asherah, the female fertility goddess of the Canaanites.

— If Manasseh had searched the Scriptures for practices that would most anger the Lord and then intentionally committed them, he could not have achieved that result any more effectively than he did

Manasseh's Many Serious Sins (Cf. 2 Kings 21:3-9)

3 For he rebuilt the high places which his father Hezekiah had torn down; he also set up altars for the Baals and made Asherim, and he worshiped all the heavenly lights and served them.

3 For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he also erected altars for the Baals and made Asherim, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.

3 He re-established the high places that his father Hezekiah had demolished, he built altars to the Baals, erected Asherim, and worshipped and served the armies of heaven.

3 For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down, and he reared up altars for Baalim, and made groves, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.

4 He built altars in the house of the LORD of which the LORD had said, "My name shall be in Jerusalem forever."

4 He built altars in the house of the LORD of which the LORD had said, "My name shall be in Jerusalem forever."

4 He also built altars in the LORD's Temple, about which the LORD had spoken "My name will reside in Jerusalem forever."

4 Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, In Jerusalem shall my name be for ever.

- Manasseh also worshiped the gods of the heavens, represented in the pagan mind by the starry hosts (i.e., the sun, moon, stars, and planets) in violation of Deut 4:19

— He was as bad as Ahab and Jezebel, and he worshiped Baal as they had done. He even placed pagan shrines (altars) of the stellar gods within the temple of the Lord itself.

5 He built altars for all the heavenly lights in the two courtyards of the house of the LORD.

5 For he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

5 He built altars for all the armies of heaven in the two courtyards of the LORD's Temple.

5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

6 He also made his sons pass through the fire in the Valley of Ben-hinnom; and he practiced witchcraft, used divination, practiced sorcery, and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him to anger.

6 He made his sons pass through the fire in the valley of Ben-hinnom; and he practiced witchcraft, used divination, practiced sorcery and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him *to anger*.

6 He burned his sons as an offering in the Ben-hinnom Valley, practiced fortune-telling, witchcraft, sorcery, and communicated with mediums and separatists. He did a lot of things that the LORD considered to be evil, thus provoking him.

6 And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

- Like his grandfather Ahaz, he also offered his own sons as human sacrifices in the Valley of Ben Hinnom (Cf. 28:3)

— Manasseh consulted mediums and spiritists, diviners whose specialty was to seek to consult the dead

Manasseh's Indulgences

- Sorcery: Seeking to gain power from evil spirits
- Divination: Seeking to interpret the future by omens
- Witchcraft: Seeking to control others through communication with evil spirits

All of which were commonly employed in other nations of the ancient Near East to discern the planned activities of the gods.

7 Then he put the carved image of the idol which he had made in the house of God, of which God had said to David and his son Solomon, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever;

7 Then he put the carved image of the idol which he had made in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever;

7 He also placed an image that he had carved in God's Temple, the place about which God had told to David and to his son Solomon, "I will place my name in this Temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel,"

7 And he set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever:

- Perhaps most serious of all, he set up the image (of Asherah; Cf. 2 Kings 21:7) within the temple, which was to be reserved exclusively for the Lord (Cf. 7:16)

8 and I will not remove the foot of Israel again from the land which I have appointed for your fathers, if only they will take care to do everything that I have commanded them according to all the Law, the statutes, and the ordinances *given* through Moses."

8 and I will not again remove the foot of Israel from the land which I have appointed for your fathers, if only they will observe to do all that I have commanded them according to all the law, the statutes and the ordinances *given* through Moses."

8 and "I won't let Israel's foothold slip on the land that I've given to your ancestors, if only they will be careful to keep everything that I commanded them in the Law, in the statutes, and in the ordinance through Moses."

8 Neither will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have appointed for your fathers; so that they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses.

9 So Manasseh encouraged Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the sons of Israel.

9 Thus Manasseh misled Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the sons of Israel.

9 This is how Manasseh deceived Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to practice more evil than the nations whom the LORD had eliminated in front of the Israelis.

9 So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.

Manasseh Repents and is Restored

10 So the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention.

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

10 The LORD kept on speaking to Manasseh and to his people, but they paid no attention to him,

10 And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken.

- The king also caused innocent people to die (2 Kings 21:16). So Manasseh led his nation away from God.

11 Therefore the LORD brought the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria against them, and they captured Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze *chains*, and led him to Babylon.

11 Therefore the LORD brought the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria against them, and they captured Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze *chains* and took him to Babylon.

11 so the LORD brought in the army commanders who worked for the king of Assyria, who captured Manasseh with hooks, bound him in bronze chains, and took him off to Babylon.

11 Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon.

- Because Manasseh would not hear the words of the prophets, the Lord brought upon him the captains of the host of the king of Assyria

— Assyria, the instrument of the Lord, came down against Judah. With great ruthlessness they bound Manasseh put a hook in his nose as though he were a wild bull, and took him off to Babylon, Assyria's southern province.

12 When he was in distress, he appeased the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.

12 When he was in distress, he entreated the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.

12 But when he was in trouble, he sought the face of the LORD his God, humbled himself magnificently before the God of his ancestors,

12 And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,

13 When he prayed to Him, He was moved by him and heard his pleading, and brought him back to Jerusalem to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD *alone is* God.

13 When he prayed to Him, He was moved by his entreaty and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD *was* God.

13 and prayed to him. Moved by Manasseh's entreaties, the LORD heard his supplications and brought him back to his kingdom in Jerusalem. That's how Manasseh learned that the LORD is God.

13 And prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God.

- After a time Manasseh repented before the Lord and soon was allowed to return to his own land and people

— The chronicler included this fact about Manasseh's restoration (not given in 2 Kings) to emphasize the fact that even the most wicked could and did receive forgiveness if they met the Lord's conditions. God did not give up on him. This gives hope to us all!

Manasseh's experience would have been an encouragement to the returned exiles who first read Chronicles. If God had shown mercy to Manasseh, and had reestablished him in the land, He could do the same for them (Cf. 7:14). The writer emphasized the results of the king's repentance. He magnified the grace of God rather than the rebellion of the sinner.

14 Now after this he built the outer wall of the city of David on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, up to the entrance of the Fish Gate; and he encircled the Ophel *with it* and made it very high. Then he put army commanders in all the fortified cities in Judah.

14 Now after this he built the outer wall of the city of David on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, even to the entrance of the Fish Gate; and he encircled the Ophel *with it* and made it very high. Then he put army commanders in all the fortified cities of Judah.

14 Later on, Manasseh reinforced the outer wall to the City of David on the west side overlooking the Gihon Valley as far as the Fish Gate. He encircled the Ophel, raising it to a great height.

14 Now after this he built a wall without the city of David, on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, even to the entering in at the fish gate, and compassed about Ophel, and raised it up a very great height, and put captains of war in all the fenced cities of Judah.

- When Manasseh returned to Jerusalem, he took measures to secure the kingdom. He rebuilt the outer wall on the east side of Jerusalem from the Gihon spring (Cf. 32:30) northwesterly to the Fish Gate, and from Gihon south to encircle Ophel, the original old city — He also regarrisoned the fortress cities throughout Judah, probably in anticipation of another Assyrian onslaught

15 He also removed the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, as well as all the altars which he had built on the mountain of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem, and he threw *them* outside the city.

15 He also removed the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, as well as all the altars which he had built on the mountain of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem, and he threw *them* outside the city.

15 He also eliminated the foreign gods and idols from the LORD's Temple, along with all of the altars that he had built in Jerusalem and on the mountain where the LORD's Temple was located, and he discarded them outside the city.

15 And he took away the strange gods, and the idol out of 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 cast them out of the city.

- The security measures Manasseh took included removing foreign gods and an idol in the temple, and re-establishing worship of Yahweh

16 He set up the altar of the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings and thanksgiving offerings on it; and he ordered Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.

16 He set up the altar of the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it; and he ordered Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.

16 He set up an altar to the LORD, sacrificed peace offerings on it, and ordered Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.

16 And he repaired the altar of the LORD, and sacrificed thereon peace offerings and thank offerings, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.

17 However, the people still sacrificed on the high places, *although* only to the LORD their God.

17 Nevertheless the people still sacrificed in the high places, *although* only to the LORD their God.

17 Even so, the people continued to sacrifice in the high places, but only to the LORD their God.

17 Nevertheless the people did sacrifice still in the high places, yet unto the LORD their God only.

The Death of Manasseh (Cf. 2 Kings 21:18)

18 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh and his prayer to his God, and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of the LORD God of **Israel**, behold, they are among the records of the kings of **Israel**.

18 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh even his prayer to his God, and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of the LORD God of Israel, behold, they are among the records of the kings of Israel.

18 Now as to the rest of Manasseh's accomplishments, including his prayer to God and what the seers had to say to him in the name of the LORD God of Israel, they are included among the Acts of the Kings of Israel.

18 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, and his prayer unto his God, and the words of the seers that spake to him in the name of the LORD God of Israel, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel.

- But the people had become used to worshiping at the high places, and so continued there though they only worshiped the Lord

- "...Israel" [2x] - here, as in 20:34, probably stands for Judah, since only the Southern Kingdom was in the land

19 His prayer also and *how God* was moved by him, and all his sin, his unfaithfulness, and the sites on which he built high places and erected the Asherim and the carved images, before he humbled himself, behold, they are written in the records of Hozai.

19 His prayer also and *how God* was entreated by him, and all his sin, his unfaithfulness, and the sites on which he built high places and erected the Asherim and the carved images, before he humbled himself, behold, they are written in the records of the Hozai.

19 His prayer, how God was moved by him, all of his sin and unfaithfulness, and a record of the sites where he constructed high places, erected Asherim and carved images before he humbled himself are written in the Acts of the Seers.

19 His prayer also, and how God was intreated of him, and all his sin, and his trespass, and the places wherein he built high places, and set up groves and graven images, before he was humbled: behold, they are written among the sayings of the seers.

20 So Manasseh lay down with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house. And his son Amon became king in his place.

20 So Manasseh slept with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house. And Amon his son became king in his place.

20 So Manasseh died, as had his ancestors, and they buried him in his own palace while his son Amon became king in his place.

20 So Manasseh slept with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house: and Amon his son reigned in his stead.

- Because of his general wickedness he was not buried in the tombs of the kings but in his own palace.

Amon's Reign in Judah, Death (Cf. 2 Kings 21:19-26)

21 Amon *was* twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned for two years in Jerusalem.

21 Amon *was* twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem.

21 Amon was 22 years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem.

21 Amon was two and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned two years in Jerusalem.

22 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, just as his father Manasseh had done, and Amon sacrificed to all the carved images which his father Manasseh had made, and he served them.

22 He did evil in the sight of the LORD as Manasseh his father had done, and Amon sacrificed to all the carved images which his father Manasseh had made, and he served

them.

22 He practiced what the LORD considered to be evil, just as his father Manasseh had done, sacrificing to and serving all the carved images that his father Manasseh had made,

22 But he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, as did Manasseh his father: for Amon sacrificed unto all the carved images which Manasseh his father had made, and served them;

- Amon, in his brief two-year reign (642-640 BC), imitated the wickedness of Manasseh. But unlike his father, he did not repent, thus he died prematurely.

23 Furthermore, he did not humble himself before the LORD as his father Manasseh had done, but Amon multiplied *his* guilt.

23 Moreover, he did not humble himself before the LORD as his father Manasseh had done, but Amon multiplied guilt.

23 except that he never humbled himself to the LORD like his father Manasseh had done. In fact, Amon multiplied his own guilt

23 And humbled not himself before the LORD, as Manasseh his father had humbled himself; but Amon trespassed more and more.

- Amon represented the other alternative that the returned exiles could choose: no repentance. His fate would have been, and is, a warning to seek the Lord.

24 Finally, his servants conspired against him and put him to death in his own house.

24 Finally his servants conspired against him and put him to death in his own house.

24 until his servants finally conspired against him and executed him in his own palace.

24 And his servants conspired against him, and slew him in his own house.

25 But the people of the land killed all the conspirators against King Amon, and the people of the land made his son Josiah king in his place.

25 But the people of the land killed all the conspirators against King Amon, and the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his place.

25 But the people of the land executed all of the conspirators against King Amon and installed his son Josiah as king to succeed him.

25 But the people of the land slew all them that had conspired against king Amon; and the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his stead.

- So Amon's top leaders assassinated him. As it turned out this was an unpopular move, and the assassins themselves were disposed of

— Josiah, Amon's son, was put in power by the masses...