

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
MANASSEH'S CONVERSION AND END
2 KINGS 21:17-26; 2 CHRONICLES 33:10-25

Introduction

Tonight we are going to be *2 Chronicles 33* because it gives us a part of **MANASSEH'S** life and reign that is not found in the *2 Kings 21* account.

It is believed to be that way because the focus of the **2 Kings** account is to show what led to the judgment and captivity of **JUDAH** recorded at the end of that book, so it doesn't focus on what we are going to be looking at next which is— **MANASSEH'S CONVERSION**.

Last time we were *in 2 Kings 21 and 2 Chronicles 33*, we saw the **LORD**, **through his PROPHETS, pronounced a coming judgment upon JERUSALEM and JUDAH** for her many sins against the **LORD** that went all the way back to **MOSES' day!**

This **pronounced judgment** was triggered by the **unprecedented abominations and wickedness** that happened during **MANASSEH'S** early reign over **JUDAH!** All of **MANASSEH'S** and **JUDAH'S** sins prior to the **ASSYRIAN** invasion was the final straw in provoking the **LORD** to anger and bringing **HIS** judgment on the **SOUTHERN KINGDOM OF JUDAH!**

We are not told why the **LORD** didn't just immediately bring **HIS** pronounced judgment down on **HIS** people, but we know from **SCRIPTURE** that this did not come until after a few more kings would reign.

By the way, the **LORD** doesn't owe us an explanation! **HE** can do what **HE** wants at the time that **HE** wants—**HE IS SOVEREIGN GOD!**

We said that the LORD alone determines the timing of HIS judgment and its severity!

And we reminded you that— WE CAN CHOOSE TO DO WRONG, BUT WE CANNOT CHOOSE WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE!

As we closed out last Wednesday, we saw that **MANASSEH** and the inhabitants of **JUDAH** didn't get by in their day without the **LORD** bringing a **special judgment against them!**

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The judgment that we see in verse 11 appears to have been designed just for them at this time, especially for MANASSEH!

The **LORD** brought the **ASSYRIANS** against **MANASSEH** and **JUDAH** in what I called a **judgment before the pronounced judgment to come**.

Let's read verse 10-11

So, **JUDAH** was invaded by **ASSYRIA** and **MANASSEH** was targeted in the invasion, he was captured and he was carried away to **BABYLON!**

I. WE SEE THE DETAILS OF MANASSEH'S CAPTURE. (Vs 11)
Let me remind you that the **ASSYRIAN KING SENNACARIB** had oppressed **JUDAH** during the days of **HEZEKIAH**, because he stopped paying tribute to **ASSYRIA**.

HEZEKIAH sought the **LORD** and the **LORD** caused **185,000** of **SENNACHERIB'S** troops to drop dead overnight. **SENNACHERIB** went back to the **ASSYRIAN capitol of NINEVEH**. Then, as he was worshiping in the house of one of his gods, he was assassinated by two of his own sons who killed him with a sword and fled the country.
(2 Kings 19:35-37)

A third son of **SENNACARIB, ESAR-HADDON**, assumed the throne after his father. After having devoted the first years of his reign to the **stabilization and consolidation of his government** at home, he turned his attention to repair the loss of the tributary provinces west of the **EUPHRATES**, of which **JUDAH** was one of several that had taken the opportunity of shaking off the **ASSYRIAN** yoke.

Having removed the remnant that were left in the **NORTHERN KINGDOM of ISRAEL**, he despatched his generals, with a portion of his army for the reduction of **JUDAH** also. Historical records show that in a successful attack upon **JERUSALEM**, **they took multitudes of captives, and got a great prize, KING MANASSEH himself, among the prisoners.**

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It is believed that **MANASSEH** was possibly hiding himself in a thicket when he was captured. It says that they “...took **MANASSEH among the thorns...**” We know that the **HEBREWS** sometimes took refuge from their enemies in thickets. (*1 Samuel 13:6*)

Vs. 11 also says they “...bound him with fetters...”

The **HEBREW** word rendered “*fetters*” denotes bindings of various shapes and materials (usually brass, copper or bronze.) Often a **hook** (*i.e. a nose ring*) was part of these *fetters*. They put it through the nose of the one so captured, especially if they were of some importance for the purposes of **both humiliation and control!**

A book in my library entitled *MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF BIBLE LANDS* by James M. Freeman shows a picture of solid fetters used for the feet from **NINEVEH** which weigh about **9 pounds and measure 16 ½ inches in length.**

In this condition of humiliation **MANASSEH** was carried away to **BABYLON** which was the **ASSYRIAN'S SOUTHERN PROVINCE** at this time.

II. WE SEE THE DETAILS OF MANASSEH'S CONVERSION!
(HUMILIATION, REPENTANCE AND PRAYER) (Vs. 12-13a)

A. When He Was In Affliction, He Besought The LORD His God. (Vs 12a)

What will it take for the LORD to get your attention?

For **MANASSEH** it was “*affliction*”! He had been **defeated, humiliated, mistreated, and was imprisoned** in a foreign land!

B. He Humbled Himself Greatly Before The God Of His Fathers! (Vs 12b)

Great **pride, great self-exaltation, and great sin** requires great **humility!**

C. He Prayed Unto The LORD! (Vs 13a)

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WE SEE THE DETAILS OF MANASSEH'S CAPTURE...
WE SEE THE DETAILS OF MANASSEH'S CONFESSION...

III. WE SEE THE DETAILS OF MANASSEH'S CHANGE!
(Vs 13-19)

A. The LORD Changed His Circumstances!

(Vs 13b) “...brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom.”

We are not told how the **LORD** accomplished that, but **HE** did!

B. MANASSEH Changed His Attitude Toward The LORD!

(Vs 13c) “Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was GOD.”

C. MANASSEH Did Right Before The LORD! (Vs 14-16)

1. He fortified **JERUSALEM** and **JUDAH!** (*Vs 14*)

2. He turned from his formerly idolatrous ways! (*Vs 15*)

3. He repaired the altar of the LORD and returned the sacrifice and service of the LORD in the **TEMPLE!**
(Vs 16)

4. The people continued some of the evil ways that **MANASSEH** had restored early in his reign. (*Vs 17*)

IV. WE SEE THE DETAILS OF MANASSEH'S CONCLUSION!
(2 Kings 21:17-18; 2 Chronicles 33:18-20)

A. His Legacy Remained Tainted!

B. His People Remained Influence!

C. GOD'S Pronounced Judgment Remained Intact!
Though MANASSEH Repented, He Could Not Undo All The Damage That Had Been Done To His Legacy And To JUDAH!

D. MANASSEH Died And Was Buried!

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**V. WE SEE MANASSEH'S SON, AMON, REIGNED IN HIS
STEAD! (2 Kings 21:19-26; 2 Chronicles 33:21-25)**

Amon reigned only two years because of his wickedness.

Like father like son!

Manasseh should have destroyed his idols rather than just casting them out! His son found them and worshiped them!