



MANASSEH: Beginning of the End
II Kings 21:1–15

Woodland Park Church of Christ
30 August 2020

Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and **he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem**. His mother's name was Hephzibah. ² And he 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." ⁵ And he 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. 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.” 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.** ¹⁰ And the LORD spoke by His servants the prophets, 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. 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.



NOTES

Manasseh came from “good stock” as they say.

Recall his father was King Hezekiah (Judah)

- ▶ *And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done. He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke into pieces the the bronze serpent Moses had made (Nehushtan) . . . II Kings 18:3-4*
- ▶ He trusted in God and none like him before or after him among the kings of Judah. **II Kings 18:5**
- ▶ The Lord was with him; he prospered wherever he went. **II Kings 18:7**
- ▶ Rebelled against Assyrian king and did not serve him. **II Kings 18:7**
- ▶ Prays to God and 185K Assyrians killed by an angel of the Lord. **II Kings 19:35**
- ▶ 15 years added to life b/c he walked before God in truth and with a loyal heart and did what was good in God’s sight. **II Kings 20:1-6**

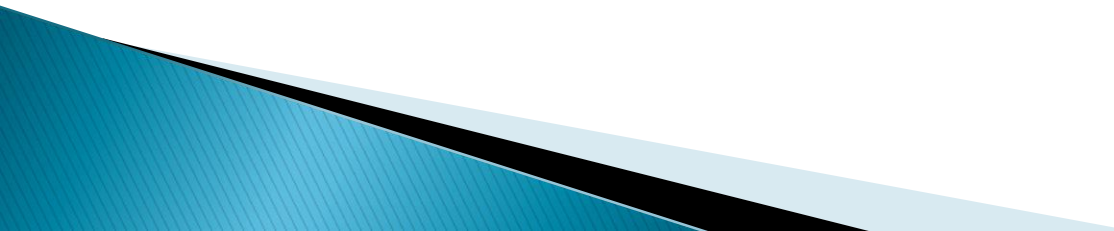
Manasseh's son, Amon, would follow in his daddy's steps.

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. 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. **II Kings 21:19-26**

In 55 years, imagine the good Manasseh could have done, if only he had continued on the trajectory of his father Hezekiah.

Children, build on the legacy and gains of your parents.

It should be expected that every generation should outpace the previous generation.



- ▶ Studies show that the millennials (ages 24–39) is the first generation that will not exceed their parents.
- ▶ If you are blessed with much, you should accomplish more, do greater things and reach loftier heights. It matters spiritually even more!

Consider →

- ▶ . . . *From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.* **Luke 12:48b (NIV)**
- ▶ The parable of the talents. Matthew
- ▶ Elisha requesting a **double portion** of Elijah's spirit. **II Kings 2:9:10**

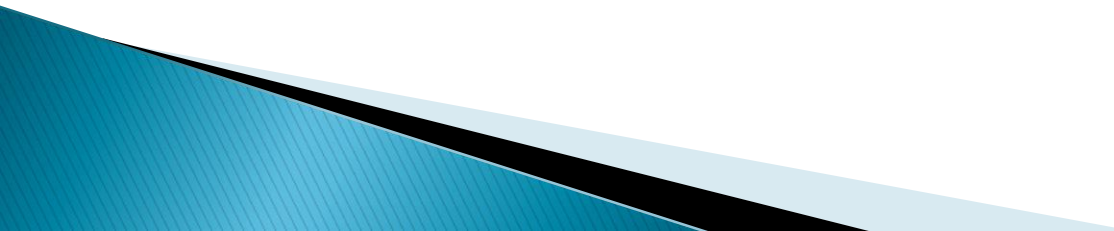
It's a Sad Day when God's People Out-sin the Ungodly

- ▶ *. . . and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel. II Kings 21:9*
- ▶ *He has acted more wickedly than all the Amorites who were before him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols. II Kings 21:11*

But, the Lord expects us to make a positive difference and be a force for righteousness in this world.

Encourage one another, especially our children and young people, don't just blend in or outpace the sinner in unrighteousness. You have a higher calling and purpose!

It may not necessarily be popular or land you on the VIP lists of others -- but you'll be GOD's VIP!



“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has lost its taste (purpose), how can it be made salty? It is no longer good for anything, but to be thrown out and walked on by people [when the walkways are wet and slippery].

¹⁴ **“You are the light of [Christ to] the world.** A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵ nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ **Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good deeds *and* moral excellence,** and [recognize and honor and] glorify your Father who is in heaven. **Matthew 5:13-16 AMP**

Note Josiah's Exemplary Reign & Spiritual Reformation

Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem . . . He did what was right in the sight of the Lord and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. II Kings 22:1-2

After hearing the words of the Book of the Law, Josiah tear his clothes because he finds out that the wrath of God was aroused against Judah and would not be quenched -- *they had forsaken God and burned incense to other gods. II Kings 22:11-17*

- ▶ Assembled all the people of Judah (small and great) to hear the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found. II Kings 23:1–2
- ▶ Josiah took a stand and made a covenant to follow the Lord and to keep His commandments – *And all the people took a stand for the covenant.* II Kings 23:3
- ▶ He (with the help of Hilkiah and other priests) swept the temple (house of the Lord) clean of idols and articles made for Baal, Asherah and the host of heaven and burned them, removed idolatrous priests, took out the wooden image, defiled (desecrated) the high places where previous kings had caused people to sin. II Kings 23:4–9.

- ▶ Josiah tried to fix it where no would have their son or daughter pass through the fire to Molech, like his great great grandfather (Ahaz) and grandfather (Manasseh) sanctioned, by defiling (desecrating) Topheth. II Kings 23:10
- ▶ He defiled the high places Solomon erected for Ashtoreth, Chemosh and Milcom (Molech). II Kings 23:13; see also I Kings 11:5–7
- ▶ Held a Passover like none other since the days the judges judged Israel, over 425 years prior! II Kings 23:21–23

Despite Josiah's leadership, zeal and advocacy it did not save Judah from its pending destruction

However, Josiah was spared the agony of seeing Judah overthrown and taken captive.

*But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, in this manner you shall speak to him, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Concerning the words which you have heard—¹⁹ because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you," says the LORD.²⁰ "Surely, therefore, I will gather you to your fathers, and **you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place.**"* II Kings 22:18–20

Takeaways

1. Improvements Immediately

Josiah's actions took place during the 18th year of his reign –

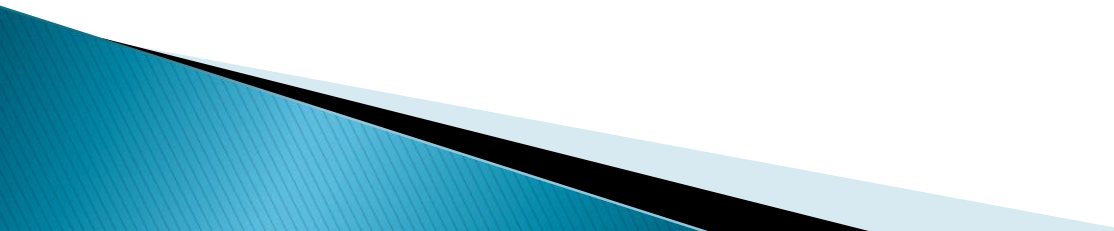
- ▶ The Book of the law was found by Hilkiah, the priest, and read by Shaphan to Josiah. **II Kings 22:3–10**
- ▶ The prolific Passover was held. **II Kings 23:23**
- ▶ **Also appears that all other actions were in motion!**

Some like to put off action for a more convenient season or make them a part of New Year's resolutions.

The problem with this line of reasoning is the opportunity may never come again.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10

Avoid delaying needed action and taking care of things that should be taken care of now – don't “commit” to making them items on your list of New Year's resolutions.



Come now [and pay attention to this], you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and carry on our business and make a profit.” ¹⁴ [Yet you do not know [the least thing] about what may happen in your life tomorrow. [What is secure in your life?] You are *merely* a vapor [like a puff of smoke or a wisp of steam from a cooking pot] that is visible for a little while and then vanishes [into thin air]. **James 4:13-14 AMP**

2. Delayed Action May Be “Too Little Too Late”

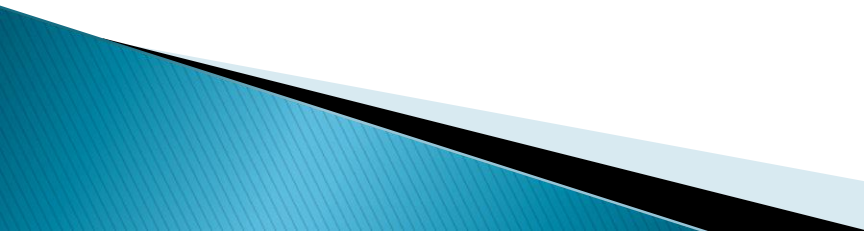
Despite Josiah’s best efforts, it was not enough to stem God’s wrath. Note also that Manasseh repented after he was taken captive by Assyria. **See II Chronicles 33:10–17.**

God had simply had enough of Judah’s idolatry and spiritual whoredom.

Think about how different things could have turned out if Judah had gotten it turned around just two kings before Josiah.

Remember, it was Josiah’s granddaddy, Manasseh, who sealed Judah’s doom!

Nevertheless the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath, with which His anger was aroused against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him. ²⁷ And the LORD said, “I will also remove Judah from My sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, ‘My name shall be there.’ ” **II Kings 23:26-27**



Following Josiah's death at Megiddo at the hand of Pharaoh Necho of Egypt (II Kings 23:28–29), four men would be crowned king of Judah before Judah would be carried into Babylonian captivity at the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.

All of them were characterized as evil and three (3) of them were Josiah's sons and one was Josiah's grandson (Jehoiachin) →

Jehoahaz: II Kings 23:31–34

Jehoiakim (Eliakim): II Kings 23:35–24:6

Jehoiachin: II Kings 24:8–12

Zedekiah (Mattaniah): II Kings 24:17–25:7

Lord's Invitation Extended to All

- ▶ **Be added to the Lord's body**

Hear the gospel (Acts 15:7; I
Corinthians 15:1-4)

Believe (Acts 15:7; Rom. 10:17)

Repent (Acts 2:38)

Confess (Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10)

Be baptized (Acts 2:38, 8:38)

Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- ▶ **Be reconciled unto the Lord (1 John 1:8–9); or**
- ▶ **Desire prayer (James 5:16).**