

FROM SAVAGE TO SAVED. 2 CHN. 33. 4/7/24. #37.

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33 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. ²But 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. ³For he rebuilt the ⁴high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he raised up altars for the Baals, and made wooden images; and he worshipped all ⁵the host of heaven and served them. ⁶He also built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem shall My name be forever." ⁷And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. ⁸Also he caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom; he practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. ⁹He even set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the ¹⁰house of God, of which God 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; ¹¹and I will not again remove the foot of Israel from the land which I have appointed for your fathers—only if they are careful to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses." ¹²So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.

1. Beyond Abomination

- a. Manasseh did more evil than any king recorded in the Bible
 - a1. How Man. could be the opposite of his father is odd
 - a2. Man. undid all that his father had done
- b. Man. excelled in evil
 - a1. He rebuilt the pagan high places
 - a2. He placed idols in the temple & made an Asherah
 - a3. He worshipped the stars of heaven
 - a4. He placed pagan altars in the temple courtyard
 - a5. He passed his sons through the fire of Molech
 - a6. 2 Kn. 21 he shed much blood in Jerusalem
 - a7. He did more evil than all the nations around him
 - a8. He consorted with witches, mediums, & soothsayers
- c. Yet, God allowed him to rule for 55 years

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¹³And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen. ¹⁴Therefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with ¹⁵hooks, bound him with bronze *fetters*, and carried him off to Babylon. ¹⁶Now when he was in affliction, he implored the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, ¹⁷and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God. ¹⁸After this he built a wall outside the City of David on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, as far as the entrance of the Fish Gate; and it enclosed Ophel, and he raised it to a very great height. Then he put military captains in all the fortified cities of Judah. ¹⁹He took away the foreign gods and the idol from 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 he cast *them* out of the city. ²⁰He also repaired the altar of the LORD, sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel. ²¹Nevertheless the people still sacrificed on the ²²high places, *but* only to the LORD their God.

2. Warned, Whipped, & Winnowed

- a. God sent prophets to speak to Man. & the people
 - a1. As in most cases in the OT, neither the king nor the people heeded the prophets
 - a2. It is likely that Man. had the prophets killed, as tradition states that he killed Isaiah
- b. The story of Man.'s repentance is not recorded in 2 Kn. 21
 - a1. Liberal scholars claim that the story is apocryphal & did not actually happen
 - a2. Since the story is part of Scriptures, then we hold that the repentance did actually occur
- c. It is a mystery as to why 2 Kn. 21 makes no mention of both the repentance of the king & his subsequent reforms
- d. Man.'s extensive idolatry & occult dealings led directly to Judah's final destruction, for even under Josiah, evil ran deep
- e. Like his father, Man. tried to break away from Assyria, as Egypt had successfully done
 - a1. Assyria came & took Man. to Babylon (under Assyria at this time), putting him in prison
 - a2. During his imprisonment, Man. comes to his senses & repents, pleading with God to forgive him
- f. God not only forgives Man., but restores him to the throne
 - a1. Greatest example of grace to a man in Scripture
 - a2. Despite his idolatry, bloodshed, persecution of God's prophets, & blasphemy, God forgave & restored him
- g. Man. undid all the evil policies that he had implemented
 - a1. He destroyed the idols & pagan altars
 - a2. He restored the worship of God
 - a3. He rebuilt the walls of Ophel (one of the 4 hills of Jerusalem (with Moriah, Zion, & Ariel)
 - a4. He did not remove the High Places, but dedicated their use to the Lord (still against God's commands)
- h. Man. had repented & received forgiveness, but had also done much damage (evaluation of him is mixed) – 2 Kn. 21 = does not mention any repentance

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²³Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, his prayer to his God, and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of the LORD God of Israel, indeed they *are written* in the book of the kings of Israel. ²⁴Also his prayer and *how God* received his entreaty, and all his sin and trespass, and the sites where he built high places and set up wooden images and carved images, before he was humbled, indeed they *are written* among the sayings of Hozai. ²⁵So Manasseh rested with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house. Then his son Amon reigned in his place.

3. A mysterious legacy

- a. Hosai (*the seer*) is one of the 26 missing books mentioned in the Bible (*The Prayer of Manasseh* is one of the 14 Apocrypha books)
- b. The 2 missing books attest to Man. evil & repentance