

2 Kings Lesson 21

2 Kings Chapter 21

Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies

Website: www.KjvBibleStudies.net

e-Email: mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com

Memory verses for this week: *Jer 21:5 And I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm, even in anger, and in fury, and in great wrath.*

Introduction: In chapter 20 last week, we studied about Isaiah coming to Hezekiah with news from God that he was about to die. Hezekiah poured his heart out unto the Lord in prayer, and God mercifully granted Hezekiah another 15 years.

The beginning of the end of the nation of Judah is at hand. In this chapter, the reigns of Manasseh and Amon over Judah are recorded. Both were wicked and brought upon themselves the wrath of God.

I. Manasseh Begins to Reign

2Ki 21:1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzibah.

2Ki 21:2 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

Though Hezekiah had been a godly king, his son Manasseh was not. Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hephzibah.

The name Hephzibah means 'my delight is in her.' Unfortunately, the same would not be said of Manasseh. This young king, though reigning a long time, would incur the wrath of God against Judah. He did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD. He reestablished the abominations of the Canaanites, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

2Ki 21:3 For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.

2Ki 21:4 And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name.

Here begins an indictment of the wickedness of Manasseh. Though Hezekiah had removed pagan high places from Judah, Manasseh restored them. He restored pagan Baal worship in Judah and made groves thereto. He became

involved in astrology in following the order of the stars. Sometimes leaders would prefer to satisfy the wants of the people rather than concern themselves about what God wants. We see this in our government today.

Furthermore, Manasseh blasphemed Jehovah God in that “he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name”. He was so brazen in his idolatry that he even erected pagan idols in the Temple of God, mocking God’s choice of Jerusalem as the city of testimony to Him.

2Ki 21:5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

2Ki 21:6 And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

Not only did he dabble with astrology, Manasseh even further desecrated the Temple by building altars to the sun, moon, and stars in the court of the priests and the court of the people. If that were not enough, he offered his own sons to the pagan abomination of Molech. He also became involved with black magic and the occult. The bottom line is that he provoked the Lord to anger.

God has been clear about who we should and should not worship.

Exo 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Exo 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Exo 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Exo 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

II. Manasseh Sets up Graven Image

2Ki 21:7 And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house, of which the LORD said to David, and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever:

2Ki 21:8 Neither will I make the feet of Israel move any more out of the land which I gave their fathers; only if they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them.

2Ki 21:9 But they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the children of Israel.

The blasphemy of Manasseh reached its depth when he set up a pagan idol in

the Temple of God at Jerusalem. Here is quoted what God had said to David and Solomon regarding the Temple. (See exact verses in II Samuel 7:13 and I Kings 8:29.)

Manasseh had thereby desecrated the very Temple built to worship Jehovah God. Continuing to quote what God had said about the Temple, the text continues, "Neither will I make the feet of Israel move any more out of the land which I gave their fathers; only if they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them". There was safety and security in what the Lord had promised them in return for their obedience. They had a choice and were warned of the consequences by the mouth of the prophets.

Verse 9 records the sad indictment against Israel. It says that "they hearkened not" to God. That is, they were disobedient to His Word. Furthermore, Manasseh enticed Israel to do even more evil than the pagan, gentile nations whom God had directed them to destroy (the Canaanites) centuries earlier. If you want to make God made, serve an idol. And that can be any number of things, not just little statues which we think of most of the time. Even our families can be an idol if we serve them and ignore God. God wants to be number one in every individual's life. And when we are saved, we are owned by God as we are bought with a price. We are not our own once we are saved.

1Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

1Co 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

III. God Speaks Through the Prophets

2Ki 21:10 And the LORD spake by his servants the prophets, saying,

2Ki 21:11 Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols:

2Ki 21:12 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle.

During the final century of the existence of Judah, God clearly warned His people through prophets such as Isaiah, Joel, Nahum, and Habakkuk. The collective essence of message from God by the prophets during that time was "because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols". Because of the abominable idolatry of Manasseh which the people willingly accepted, God sent this word. "Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle".

God made a similar statement against Eli in I Samuel 3:11. As parents, we should try and correct our children when they do evil. Eli had sons who did wickedly, and he did not deal with them concerning their sin in a manner that pleased God.

1Sa 3:11 And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

1Sa 3:12 In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

1Sa 3:13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

The wrath of God against Jerusalem and Judah via Manasseh was such that the ears of all who heard thereof would tingle from the shock.

2Ki 21:13 And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab: and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down.

2Ki 21:14 And I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies;

2Ki 21:15 Because they have done that which was evil in my sight, and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day.

Two analogies of the judgment of God are presented. First, God hearkened to the judgment which He had sent against the northern kingdom. The mention of a line and plummet is a reference to instruments of measurement. A line may refer to what today is called a 'tape-measure.' A plummet was an instrument for determining level (or vertical) such as a level and more likely a plum-bob. With poetic eloquence, God said with the same measure which He dealt with the northern ten tribes (i.e., Samaria) and Ahab, He would also deal with Judah and Jerusalem.

The second analogy was that he would wipe Jerusalem clean like one would wipe a dish and then turn it upside down to dry. God foretold His impending wrath against Jerusalem and Judah because of the sin of Manasseh.

Furthermore, God warned, "I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies". Judah, the remnant of Israel, would be delivered to its enemies who would despoil the nation.

The reason for God's wrath mentioned in verse 15 was simple: "because they have done that which was evil in my sight, and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day". God recalled the rebellion and disobedience of Israel from the earliest days of the Exodus.

Israel had rebelled against Him from day one. God had had enough.

2Ki 21:16 Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.

2Ki 21:17 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, and all that he did, and his sin that he sinned, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

2Ki 21:18 And Manasseh slept with his fathers, and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza: and Amon his son reigned in his stead.

Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood. The innocent blood noted is not further described. However, one may conclude that Manasseh killed any and all who dared oppose his wickedness. Furthermore, he promoted the abomination of Molech in which innocent children perished in its despicable mouth.

Clearly implied is that Jerusalem and Judah went along with the wickedness of Manasseh. II Chronicles 33:10.

2Ch 33:10 And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken.

Verse 17 records the end of the reign of Manasseh. Further detail regarding the sin of Manasseh may be found in II Chronicles 33. At the age of sixty-seven, Manasseh died and was buried in his own private garden rather than where most of the kings were buried in the city of David. He was not considered worthy to occupy the same ground as those who had gone before him. His son, Amon, thus succeeded him.

John Gill said this about his burying place.

And Manasseh slept with his fathers,.... Or died, after a reign of fifty five years, and a life of sixty seven:

and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza; whether the burial of him here was his own choice, judging himself unworthy to lie with the kings of Judah, who had been guilty of such great sins, or whether the will of others, on the same account, is not certain; and as much at a loss are we for the reason of this garden being called the garden of Uzza, whether from Uzzah that died for touching the ark, [2Sa 6:6](#) or from King Uzziah, [2Ki 15:7](#). The Jews buried in gardens in the times of Christ, who himself was buried in one, [Joh 19:41](#)

2Ki 21:19 Amon was twenty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Meshullemeth, the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah.

2Ki 21:20 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh did.

2Ki 21:21 And he walked in all the way that his father walked in, and served the idols that his father served, and worshipped them:

2Ki 21:22 And he forsook the LORD God of his fathers, and walked not in the way of the LORD.

Amon was a young man of twenty two years of age when he began to reign. His was a short reign. He reigned two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Meshullemeth, the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah. Though a young king, Amon did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.

In verse 21, we see Amon following the ways of Manasseh rather than that of his grandfather Hezekiah which was one of the best kings in Judah. Specifically, Amon walked in all the ways of his father, and served the idols that his father served, and worshipped them: "And he forsook the LORD"

2Ki 21:23 And the servants of Amon conspired against him, and slew the king in his own house.

2Ki 21:24 And 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.

2Ki 21:25 Now the rest of the acts of Amon which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

2Ki 21:26 And he was buried in his sepulchre in the garden of Uzza: and Josiah his son reigned in his stead.

Amon's arrogant rule was such that his own servants did him in. Not unlike Zimri in the northern kingdom, Amon's servants could not stomach his arrogance.

Even the people of the land were fed up with the wickedness and power grabs going on in Jerusalem. Therefore, they killed the conspirators against Amon and installed his son, Josiah, as king.

Further details of the short reign of Amon may be found in II Chronicles 33:21-25.

2Ch 33:21 Amon was two and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned two years in Jerusalem.

2Ch 33:22 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;

2Ch 33:23 And humbled not himself before the LORD, as Manasseh his father had humbled himself; but Amon trespassed more and more.

2Ch 33:24 And his servants conspired against him, and slew him in his own house.

2Ch 33:25 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.

Amon was evidently buried in the same place as his father, Manasseh in the garden of Uzza.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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