MANASSEH AND SON
2 Kings 21

MAIN THOUGHT MANASSEH (697-686 BC – co-regency; 686-642 BC – sole reign), the worst and longest (55 yrs!) reigning king of Judah, repented in the end and was forgiven by God – unlike his son Amon.

HIS WICKEDNESS (1-9; 2 Chron. 33:1-9).

- He is blamed for the downfall of the Southern Kingdom (24:3; Jer. 15:1-4).
- He was the worst of the 12 wicked kings of Judah, even worse than the Canaanites who preceded them (9).
- PAGANISM: He rebuilt the pagan high places his father had torn down; erected altars and poles to male (Baal) and female (Ashtoreth) fertility gods.
- ASTROLOGY: He worshiped stars and heavenly bodies in Solomon’s Temple administered by the priests (2 Kings 23:5).
- CHILD SACRIFICES: He sacrificed children in the Ben Hinnom (gehenna=HELL) valley (city dump that burned continuously) – expressly forbidden (Lev. 18:21; Deut. 18:9-11; Jer. 7:31). This low view of life is seen in abortion (Ex. 21:22-23).
- OCCULTISM: sorcery, divination, witchcraft, mediums, spiritists (Isa. 8:19-20).
- ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION: he put a graven image in temple itself like Antiochus Epiphanes IV (167 BC) and the Antichrist (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15).

HIS WARNING (10-16). God always warns those He is about to judge – Noah (Heb. 11:7) and Lot (Gen. 19:12-13) and the Ninevites (Jonah 3:4-5).

HIS DISCIPLINE AND REPENTANCE (2 Chron. 33:11-13, 19).

- The King of Assyria, ESARHADDON (681-669 BC), took MANASSEH prisoner with a hook in his nose and bronze shackles and brought him to Babylon just like JEHOIAKIM (2 Chron. 36:6), JEHOIACHIN, and ZEDEKIAH (2 Kings 25:7).
- After he hit rock bottom, (1) he sought God unlike so many others (Isa. 9:13); (2) he humbled himself (unlike Amon – 2 Chron. 33:23); (3) he prayed (2 Chron. 7:14).
- The Lord was moved, listened, brought him back – the worst of sinners just like Paul (1 Tim. 1:15-16) and the man escaping the flames (1 Cor. 3:15).


HIS SON AMON (19-26; 2 Chron. 33:21-25).

- His son Amon (642-640 BC), age 22, reigned only two evil years.
- His short evil unrepentant reign proves that the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23) and was assassinated at age 24 by his own officials.