

MANASSEH THE WICKED KING

- Manasseh replaced his father, *Hizkiyahu*
- 2nd Kings 21 lists the terrible sins of Manasseh
- King Hezekiah forced reforms on the people
- Manasseh released the people from those righteous reforms



FRUIT OF THE OLD NATURE

- Gal. 5:19 – 23
- Sexual immorality, impurity, drugs, occult, selfish ambition, angry
- Despite Hezekiah's efforts, the people stayed rooted in their old nature
- 2Kings 21:16
- 2Kings 21:8, 9
- The people did not *shema* to YHWH
- God usually gives us the leaders we deserve
- Good leaders cannot forcibly change hearts and souls
- Bad leaders cannot forcibly turn the righteous into the wicked



MANASSEH KILLED ISAIAH



- 2nd Kings 21:11 – 15 is God's oracle to Judah
- No named prophets for Manasseh
- Isaiah, possibly Nahum
- Later Jeremiah, Joel, Habakkuk would speak indirectly about the King
- **To'evah** = abomination, the worst of the worst sins
- Usually sins of humanity directly against God
- Manasseh held responsible for national judgment of Judah

GOOD OR EVIL

Who Decides?

- Human societies ignore what God calls good and evil
- That is precisely what King Manasseh did
- Our nation (and others) are on a collision course with God
- A church that agrees with or quietly accepts *to'evah* policies is like the corrupt Levitical Priesthood that became dormant

GOD MEASURES JUDAH FOR JUDGMENT

- God says Judah is “crooked” beyond repair
- 1st, plate is wiped clean of contaminants
- 2nd, turned upside for future use again
- After Jerusalem is cleansed, the corrupt things (the people) will return
- 2nd Kings 21: 14, 15 God says the “people” are also to blame for His judgment



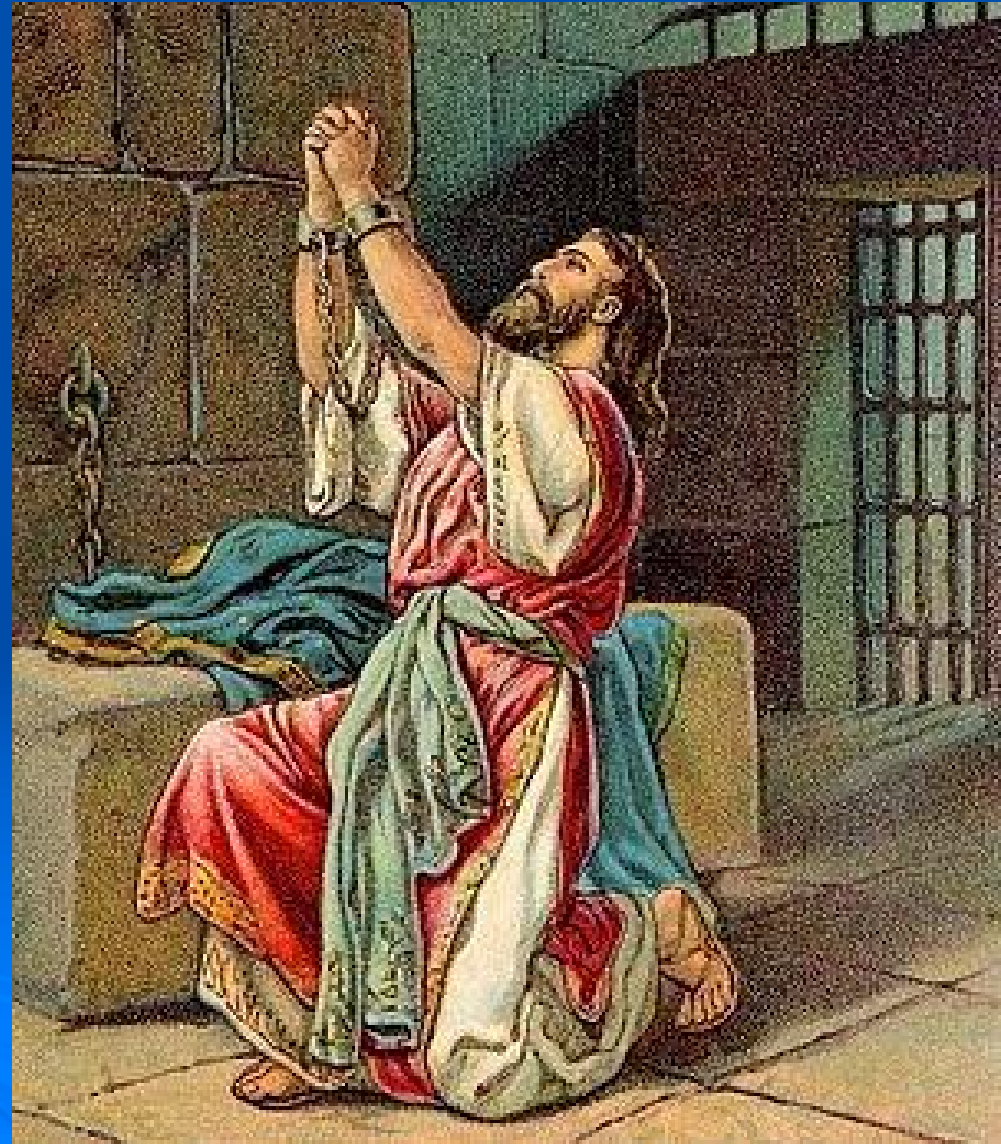
2ND CHRONICLES 33: ANOTHER SIDE TO THE STORY



- Neither Manasseh or the people paid any attention to God's warnings
- Jeremiah 44:1 – 6
- The Lord used an enemy of Israel to punish His people
- King Manasseh taken to Babylon in chains
- King Ashurbanipal of Assyria resided in Babylon
- Babylon very difficult to hold on to

MANASSEH REPENTS

- In prison, Manasseh realized his sins
- He prayed and confessed
- The Lord had mercy, and he returned to Judah a changed king
- Built up fortifications, tore down idols, cleansed the Altar of Burnt Offering
- Commanded his people to worship **ONLY YHWH**
- Manasseh, in reality, came home a trusted vassal and ally of Assyria



GOD CHANGED HIS PERSPECTIVE OF MANASSEH

- For the 1st time in his life Manasseh was now getting divine instruction
- Prophet = *Navi*
- *Navi* is NOT a *chozeh*
- Probably a lesser level of inspiration
- Manasseh was changed for the last 6 years of his life
- He live out his days as a generally good king



NO AGE LIMIT ON REPENTANCE



- Even people who have lived their entire adult lives in opposition to God have an opportunity of renewed life !
- Despite Manasseh's changed heart, he had done irreparable damage to Judah
- Usually we can't undo the harm our sin has done
- Heavenly forgiveness doesn't wipe our earthly and carnal slates clean

THE SHORT REIGN OF AMON

- 2nd Kings 21:17 speaks of the chronicles of the kings of Judah
- These are NOT the same as the Bible books of 1st and 2nd Chronicles
- Manasseh buried in the Garden of Uzza instead of the royal burial caves
- **Am eretz** became a religious/political movement
- Amon became king at 22 years old, and ruled for 2 years
- He was assassinated by his royal court
- The elders of the **am eretz** executed the conspirators