

9/8/19

**The Abominable Riegn of Manasseh**  
**2Chron. 33:1-17**

The Bible says, Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” Prov. 14:34

And many of our founding father agreed.

1. Benjamin Franklin said, “We need God to be our friend, not our enemy; we need Him to be our ally, not our adversary; we need to make sure that we keep His concurring aid.”

2. Thomas Jefferson declared, “Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure if we have removed their only firm basis, that basis is a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God, that they are not to be violated but with His wrath?”

Remember Chronicles is not the recording of history, but rather the examining of history form God’s perspective to teach and warn those returning from the Babylonian captivity to build the second temple!

We want to look at the wicked life of Manasseh that is characterized by three things.

- I. The evil character of Manasseh. vs. 1-3
- II. The vile works of Manasseh. vs. 4-11
- III. The bona fide repentance of Manasseh. vs. 12-17

**I. The evil character of Manasseh. vs. 1-3**

**A. The age and length of the reign of Manasseh. vs. 1**

- 1. Manasseh succeeded his father Hezekiah at a young age, “Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, “and was crowned king of Judah at age twelve. vs. 1a
  - a. Hezekiah had fallen sick and was told by God through the prophet Isaiah to set his house in order, for he was going to die.
    - 1) The response of Hezekiah was to cry out to God, bemoaning his death at 39, so God extended the life 15 years.
    - 2) That means Manasseh was born when Hezekiah was 42 years old, 3 years after God healed and extended his life.
  - b. Manasseh was brought up for 12 years in a godly home then crown as king.
    - 1) This was during the extended years of Hezekiah having the benefit of a godly example that trusted and served God.
    - 2) This means he had knowledge of what God had done for his father, being impossible for Manasseh to not possess the past history of the spiritual revival and reforms.
- c. The name Manasseh “M@nashsheh” means causing “to forget”.
  - 1) Joseph named one of his sons Manasseh who was born in Egypt.

- 2) Declaring he forgot the injustice done to him by his brothers. Gen. 41:51
2. Manasseh reigned for a long time, “and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem.” vs. 1b
- He reigned till he was 67 years old.
  - This is the longest reign of any king, be it north or south, 697/96-642 B.C.
    - \* We must be careful to not equate a long life with righteousness or short live with evil as absolutes!
  - He co-reigned about 10 years going up from 707-697 B.C.
  - The Assyrian records of Esarhaddon 681-669 B.C and Ashurbanipal 669-627 B.C. bear the name of Manasseh.
  - Manasseh’s was Hephzibah, meaning “my delight is in her.” 2Kings 21:1b
- B.** Manasseh made the conscious decision to live after the pagan practices. vs. 2
- Despite the privilege he had of a godly father, “But he did evil in the sight of the LORD.” vs. 2a
    - He chose to do evil, instead of good.
    - He chose to do this evil, knowing God was seeing it.
    - He chose to disobey and violate the covenant by defying the name of the covenant God, Yahweh.
  - Despite the example of the true worship of Yahweh, he followed the worship of the

- pagan nations, “according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.” vs. 2b
- Knowing these practices were prohibited by Yahweh, “according to the abominations of the nations.”
    - The word abomination “tow’ ebah”, refers to a thing which God abhors.
    - The degree of evil abhorred as abominable depends on context.
  - There are seven nation named, “When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many **nations** before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, **seven nations** greater and mightier than you.” Deut. 7:1
    - \* Luke confirms this. Acts 13:19
  - Knowing Yahweh had judged them for their evil, “whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.”
    - God had given 430 years for the nations to repent. Gen. 15:16
    - God delivered Israel from Egypt at that time and gave them the land by bringing judgment and expulsion from the land. Ex. 3:17
      - \* Parallel passage. 2Kings. 21:2

**C. Manasseh set up the pagan shrines. vs. 3**

1. He rebuilt the destroyed high places, “For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down.” vs. 3a
  - a. All the kings, from Solomon to Ahaz, the Grandfather of Manasseh, left the high places stand. 2Kings 16:33
  - b. Hezekiah was the first to remove them.
  - c. The high places were the cultic places of worship for the pagans of the land.
2. He set up altars of Baal, “he raised up altars for the Baals.” vs. 3b
  - a. Ahab had married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, King of the Sidonians and served and worshipped Baal, setting up an altar to Baal, in the temple of Baal he built in Samaria. 1Kings 16:31-32
  - b. Jezebel had massacred the prophets of Yahweh. 1Kings 18:4
  - c. Elijah challenged and defeated the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel. 1Kings 17
  - d. Jehu destroyed Baal worship from the northern kingdom, Israel. 2Kings 10:28; 11:18
  - e. Baal worship was introduced again by the nations brought in by Assyria to repopulate the area. 2Kings 17:16
3. He made a sexual images, “and made wooden images.” vs. 3c

- a. The wooden images “asherah” were the groves of idol worship.
  - b. Sacred poles set up near the altar, representing a phallic, where horribly perverted sexual rites and orgies went on.
  - c. Ahab the king of apostate Israel. had done the same. 1Kings 16:33
4. He worshiped nature, “and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.” vs. 3d
    - a. The “all the host of heaven” indicates the all the creation of God.
    - b. In particular the sun, moon, stars, planets, earth, wind, etc.
    - c. They worshipped “shachah”, to bowed down giving homage as a deity.
    - d. They served “abad”, acknowledged, dedicated and did all to honor and credit these idols to receive blessings.

**Illustration**

Our founding fathers courageously declared their dependency and trust on the God of the Bible, yet most of our leaders, educators and judges now are attempting to prohibit us from mentioning God or praying, well knowing our history has seen revised.

**Application**

1. I have walked with God for 45 years, 42 in ministry and have seen many godly fathers raise their children.

- a. Yet some if not all of their children chose to live a life of evil, at other times they chose the godly example of their father and mother.
- b. But in every case it was a choice to embrace or reject the godly example.
  - \* “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Josh. 24:14-15

- 2. The Bible teaches the character of national leaders determines the direction and blessings of a nation.
  - a. When leaders have integrity or character, not liars, the people trust them and support them.
  - b. When leaders are out for self, taking advantage of the people, they are despised and rejected.
  - c. When leaders do not punish evil, they endanger society, destroy all authority, resulting in chaos.
    - \* “Because the sentence against an **evil** work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of **men** is fully set in them to do **evil**.” Eccl. 8:11
- 3. The principle is the same for pastors and leaders in the church.

- a. When Pastors are dishonest, lie, exaggerate and are immoral.
- b. When you have Pastors begging and manipulating people financially.
- d. When you have Pastors that compromise with Political Correction at the expense of Biblical truth, even teaching down right heresy, all these reveal how corrupt our nation has become.
  - \* “Woe to those who call **evil good**, and **good evil**; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” Is. 5:20

### *This was the evil character of Manasseh!*

## II. The vile works of Manasseh. vs. 4-11

- A. Manasseh defiled the temple with pagan altars. vs. 4-5
  - 1. In defiance to Yahweh. vs. 4
    - a. He exalted these altars above Yahweh, “He also built altars in the house of the LORD.” vs. 4a
    - b. He declared Yahweh had been defeated, “of which the LORD had said, “In Jerusalem shall My name be forever.” vs. 4b-c
      - 1) “I will put My name.” 2kings 21:4b-c
      - 2) In the same way Islam when they conquer a religious site build a Mosque over it, as in Cordova Spain,

- as they wanted to do in “Ground Zero”, under the same name.
- 3) Muslims built the Dome of the Rock on the temple mount in Jerusalem, over the site of Solomon’s temple, declaring their conquest over Israel.
2. In dedicated monuments to the worship of the creature, not the Creator, “And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.” vs. 5
    - a. The altars are connected to all the host of heaven.
    - b. The location was blasphemous, “in the two courts of the house of the LORD.”
    - c. The Shikinah glory departed from the temple, possibly at this time. Ezk. 10:18
- B.** The personal abominable practices. vs. 6
1. He practiced human sacrifice, “Also he made his son pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom.” vs. 6a
    - a. This was the worship of Molech, the god of pleasure, a fertility god, after the steps of his Grandfather Ahaz. 2Kings 16:3
    - b. The by-product was unwanted children, so the sacrificed them to their god, today it is done by abortion to cover imorality.
    - d. Condemned by God. Lev. 18:21; 20:2-5, Deut. 18:14
    - e. Solomon had built high places for the god Molech of the Ammonites on the

- Mount of Olives for his pagan wives. 1Kings 11:17
- f. The Valley of Hinnom was defiled by Josiah and made into the dump of the city where the fire was never quenched and the worm never died and Jesus likened to Gehenna, the Lake of Fire for the etrnal abode of all unbelievers. 2Kings 23:10; Lk. 9:41-47; Matt. 25:41
2. He practiced every form of the occult forbidden by God. vs. 6b-f
    - a. “He practiced soothsaying. vs. 6b
      - 1) Soothsaying “anon” to make appear, magic, conjure spells, observe times.
      - 2) Tarot cards Ouija-boards.
    - b. He “used witchcraft.” vs. 6c
      - 1) Witchcraft “nachash”, practice of divination, enchantments, fortunetelling, omens and drugs.
      - 2) An observer of signs, a warlock.
    - c. He “used sorcery. vs. 6c
      - 1)The word sorcery “kashaph”, for deceiving and conjure spells.
      - 2) The terms are related and overlap.
    - d. He “consulted mediums.” vs. 6d
      - 1) Mediums “yidd@”, one who has a familiar spirit, channelers,
      - 2) Like Shirley McClain and A.J. Knight of the New Age movement.
    - e. He “consulted spiritists.” vs. 6e

- 1) Spiritist “owb”, a necromancer, one who evokes the dead.
- 2) Familiar spirits, demons for guides.
- d. He did all this willfully and arrogantly. vs. 6e-f
  - 1) Without trying to hide it, “He did much evil in the sight of the LORD.” vs. 6e
  - 2) Without fearing Yahweh, “to provoke Him to anger.” vs. 6f
  - 3) The occult in every form is forbidden, but it is excepted today, as good, not evil. Deut. 13; 18:8-12; 2Kings 23:10; 2Chron. 28:3
- 3. He placed a dedication to Baal’s consort. vs. 7-8
  - a. “He even set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God.” vs. 7a-c
    - 1) Second Kings tells us it was Asherah. 2Kings 21:7
    - 2) The Canaanite goddess of fortune and happiness, the physical image.
  - b. He again is declaring victory over Yahweh by these deities, “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.” vs. 7d-g

- \* This is the second time God states Jerusalem belongs to Him, placing His name in His city!
- c. He ignored the past history of Israel and conditions for God’s blessings. vs. 8
  - 1) The promise, “and I will not again remove the foot of Israel from the land which I have appointed for your fathers.” vs. 8a
  - 2) The condition, “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.” vs. 8
    - \* “My servant Moses” 2Kings 21:8c
  - 3) Possibly during this time, the book of the Law was lost, and Hilkiah the High Priest found it and told Josiah the son of Manasseh, resulting in the great revival and reforms. 2Kings 22
- C. The corruption of the sin of Manasseh gave no resistance. vs. 9-11
  - 1. The people became worse than the pagan through Manasseh, “So 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.” vs. 9

- a. The word seduced “ta’ah”, means to be cause to err or go astray.
  - \* They did this willingly and willfully.
- b. The degree was “more evil” than the nations God had destroyed.
  - \* The parallel passage. 2Kings 21:9
- 2. The reason for God’s judgment was willful rebellious disobedience. vs. 10-11
  - a. He and the people turned a deaf ear to God, “And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen.” vs. 10
  - b. Total rejection of God and His warnings!
    - 1) Second kings says, “By his servant the prophets” did worse than the Amorites 2Kings 21:10-11
    - 2) Tradition tells us that Isaiah was sawn in two by Manasseh.
    - 3) He shed very much innocent blood, till he filled Jerusalem from one end to another.” 2Kings 21:16a-b
- 3. The consequences of God’s judgment was to go into captivity. vs. 11
  - a. The instrument of God, “Therefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria.” vs. 11a
  - b. The manner of being carried off, “who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters.” vs. 11b-c
  - c. The location of captivity, “and carried him off to Babyon.” vs. 11d

- 1) The Assyrians carried captive off with hooks in their lips, Esarhaddon is shown on a monument near Beirut, Syria, leading two captives by rings or hooks through their lips. Amos 4:2
- 2) Bronze is symbolic of judgment.
- 3) God would wipe Jerusalem “like a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.” 2Kings 21:13b

### **Illustration**

“The only thing needed for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.” Edmund Burke

### **Application**

- 1. The shrines of fertility gods poisoning our nation.
  - a. The altar of online pornography, adult shops, magazines and so called Gentlemen’s Clubs.
  - b. The altar of pornography industry, legal prostitution, like in Nevada.
  - c. Sadly the Supreme Court could not determine what was obscene or porography.
    - \* We are to be simply concerning evil. Rom. 16:19d
- 2. The shrines to worship nature and the creature, reverting us to ignorant pagan worship and our leaders have made them as a national law.
  - a. Evolution is the religion of the Public School System, in the name of science denying God.
  - b. Everyone is being indoctrinated into the worship of nature, through the “Green

Movement”, a subtle way our industry and jobs are being destroyed.

- c. The “Global Warming downright lie” of Al Gore that has made him very wealthy.

\* Professing to be wise they become fools.

Rom. 1:22

- 3. The shrines to the occult throughout our nation.
  - a. The rise in interest and involvement into witchcraft, Harry Potter was a great instrument to recruit young children and young adults.
  - b. There are people on the radio, who are necromancer and speak to dead relatives for those who call in, as well as T.V.
  - c. Oprah Wimpre is the greatest promoter of authors and books, promoting channelers, wizards, necromancers and spiritist of the New Age and “Contemplating Prayer” of the Emergent Church Movement.
  - d. The Public Schools have introduce perverse sexual methods and practices to be taught to every student, under the guise of “safety and educational”, but it won’t take long to see the destructgve affects on the children and society.
    - \* “When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, *or* a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who

conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.” Deut. 18:9-11

*These were the vile works of Manasseh!*

### III. The bona fied repentance of Manasseh. vs. 12-17

\* This sectin is unique of Second Chronicles.

- A. The repentance of Manasseh was by calling on God. vs. 12
  - 1. The oportune situation God used to deal with Manasseh evil heart, “Now when he was in affliction.” vs. 12a
    - a. The word affliction “tsarar”, means to distress, bind up or vex, literally when being narrow, restricted and confined.
    - b. Manasseh is in prison by the judgment of God, perhaps around 648 B.C.
  - 2. The response of Manasseh was to repent by calling God, “he implored the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.” vs. 12b-d
    - a. The word implored “chalah”, means to beseech, beg with the idea of being weak.
      - 1) Reflecting on his evil heart and deeds.
      - 2) Repenting to the God of his father, Hezekiah with a genuine heart.
    - b. The evidence of his genuine repentace is stated, he humbled himself before “the LORD his God”. vs. 12b

- 1) The word humble “kana”, means to abase oneself or make oneself low, in contrast to his past arrogant pride.
- 2) He did this before the covenant God Yahweh “his God”, who alone knows the motives and intents of the heart.
- 3) This magnifies the grace and mercy of God, there is no one too far gone, if they respond to God’s repentance.
- 4) This is not a promise that all will come back or be saved at the end!

**B.** The restoration of Manasseh was also by God.  
vs. 13

1. God was called upon by Manasseh, “and prayed to Him.” vs. 13a
  - a. The word prayed “palal”, means to intreat or request of God.
  - b. This is after he repented.
2. God heard the request of Manasseh, “and He received his entreaty. vs. 13b
  - a. The word entreaty “athar”, means to plead.
  - b. Realizing his sin and the consequences.
3. God heard his petition. vs. 13c
  - a. The word supplication “t@chinnah”, means beg for favor.
  - b. Begging for the mercy of God.
4. God delivered Manasseh from his Assyrian imprisonment, “brought Manasseh back to Jerusalem into his kingdom.” vs. 13d

- a. The implication is clear, God had forgiven Manasseh for all his wicked works and deeds.
  - b. The demonstration is also clear, Manasseh is set on his throne again.
5. God saved Manasseh, “Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.” vs. 13e
- a. His personal spiritual understanding now.
    - 1) The word knew “yada”, means to find out by discerning and perceive spiritually.
    - 2) This is in contrast to the pagan gods he worshipped and served before.
  - b. His spiritual understanding was specific.
    - 1) He knew that the covenant God Yahweh was God.
    - 2) No longer looking to the multiplicity of the pagan gods for help.
- C.** The reforms of Manasseh were genuine, but too late. vs. 14-17
1. Manasseh rebuilt the physical walls to secure the city from the. vs. 14a-c
    - a. The old city of David, “After this he built a wall outside the City of David on the west side of Gihon, in the valley,” vs. 14a-b
      - 1) Assyria began to decline in power around 647 B.C.
      - 2) Manasseh reigned till 642 B.C.

- b.** The extent of the wall is stated, “as far as the entrance of the Fish Gate; and it enclosed Ophel.” vs. 14c-d
  - 1)** Towards the northeast from the Damascus Gate across the valley Gihon to the Fish Gate, at the northeast corner of the city of David.
  - 2)** Ophel was a ridge of hills in the old city of David.
- c.** The wall was also make higher, “ and he raised it to a very great height.” vs. 14e
  - 1)** Remember Isaiah had prophesied to Hezekiah that rising empire of Babylon would take Judah captive.
  - 2)** Without doubt all of this now became a reality to Manasseh and he made preparations.
- 2.** Manasseh secured armed soldiers in the cities, “Then he put military captains in all the fortified cities of Judah.” vs. 14f
  - a.** The cities were the first defence against the enemy.
  - b.** They would be the first to be taken and captured.
- 3.** Manasseh removed all the idolatry. vs. 15
  - a.** He demonstrated the evidence of his faith by cleansing the temple, “He took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD.” vs. 15a
  - b.** He demolished the pagan shrines that the people not continue in their corruption,

- “and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem.” vs. 15c
- c.** He discarded all of them, “and he cast them out of the city.” vs. 15d
- 4.** Manasseh re-establishing of the worship of Yahweh. vs. 16-17
  - a.** The undeniable return to true worship. vs. 16
    - 1)** Restoring the way of atonement, “He also repaired the altar of the LORD, sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it.” vs. 16a-b
    - 2)** Redirecting the people to return to their God, “and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.” vs. 16c-d
  - b.** The regrettable lasting evil influence. vs. 17
    - 1)** The pagan affiliation was hard to break, “Nevertheless the people still sacrificed on the high places.” vs. 17a
    - 2)** The obedience of the people was not complete, but syncretistic, “but only to the LORD their God.” vs. 17
    - 3)** Amon the son of Manasseh did not escape it, he did evil in the sight of the LORD, sacrificed to carved images Manasseh made and served them. vs. 22

### Illustration

The chief danger of the twentieth century will be: religion without the Holy Ghost, forgiveness without regeneration, heaven without hell.” William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army

### Application

1. The consequences of sin in this life is two-fold.
  - a. The temporal difficulties and problems we bring on ourselves, broken relations, loss of time, regrets and God at times brings judgment on some on earth, believer and non-believer.
  - b. The eternal devastation we bring on ourselves after death, for the believer the loss of rewards, but for the non-believer separation from God for all eternity punished in the Lake of Fires.
    - \* Jesus revealed the horror of perishing, “And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is **better** for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.” Matt. 18:9
  - c. The grace, goodness and patience of God is magnified in Manasseh, for he called on God and repented and God forgave him, even restored him, but the judgment of the nation was **irreversible**.
2. Jesus our God is Jewish; He keeps good books.
  - a. Noting will be missed in the judgment.
  - b. No one will escape the judgment.
  - c. No one will explain away their judgment.

- d. No one will say anything before the judgment.
  - \* “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and **books** were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the **books**.” Rev. 20:12

3. Nations throughout history have been judged by God, despite their world dominance, due to their evil leaders, who rejected good and promoted evil.
  - a. Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome.
  - b. Germany and others that we don’t know.
  - c. Russian will have her day in the near future.
  - d. Is God judging our nation for all of our evil?
  - e. Niveneh repented and God spared it by the preaching of Jonah, so we know God is able, but what we do not know is our nation willing!
    - \* Isaiah says, “As for our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name, The **Holy One** of Israel.” Is. 47:4

### *The bona fide repentance of Manasseh!*

### Conclusion

We have looked at the wicked life of Manasseh characterized by three things.

- I. The evil character of Manasseh!
- II. The vile works of Manasseh!
- III. The bona fide repentance of Manasseh!