

Valeesa Johnson

Dr. David Emanuel

BIB 102 OA/OB

October 26, 2021

Assignment 4

### **The Reign of Manasseh**

The story of Manasseh and his rule over Judah as king is told in the Bible in both 2 Kings chapter 21 and 2 Chronicles chapter 33:1-20. In both chapters' verses, 1-9 are basically the same. They begin their accounts with Manasseh becoming king at the age of 12 and mention his mother Hephzibah. Both state he did evil acts in the sight of the Lord. These acts included rebuilding the pagan shrines his father, Hezekiah, had destroyed, constructing altars for Baal, sacrificing his son in the fire, (2 Chronicles 33:6, says in the valley of Ben-Hinnom, NLT), practicing sorcery and divination, consulting with mediums and psychics. In addition, he built pagan altars and made carved images, and set them up in the Temple of the Lord. Both accounts also say that these acts were evil in the Lord's sight, and this made Him angry with them.

In 2 Kings 21, Manasseh is portrayed as one of Judah's worst kings. (Discovering The Old Testament Story and Faith, Alex Varughese, Robert d. Branson, Jim Edlin, Tim M. Green, 2003) He led the Israelite's to do even more evil. He murdered innocent people all over the land. The Lord calls him detestable and goes further into detail about just how evil he is. He is compared to the Amorites who occupied the land before the Israelite's. The Lord then tells them of the disaster that is coming upon them because of their disobedience. The Lord says in (2

Kings 21:12-15, NLT) “I will bring such a disaster on Judah and Jerusalem that the ears of those who hear about it will tingle with horror. I will judge Jerusalem by the same standard I used for Samaria and the same measure I used for the family of Ahab. I will wipe away the people of Jerusalem as one wipes a dish and turns it upside down. Then I will reject even the remnant of my own people who are left, and I will hand them over as plunder for their enemies. For they have done great evil in my sight and have angered me ever since their ancestors came out of Egypt.”

In contrast, 2 Chronicles 33 gives an account of the Lord speaking to Manasseh and his people, but they ignored him. The Lord then sends commanders of the Assyrian Armies to take Manasseh prisoner. A ring is put through his nose, he is bound in bronze chains and led away to Babylon. Feeling distressed, Manasseh seeks God, sincerely humbles himself before Him, and prays. God is moved by his prayer and brings him back to Jerusalem to be king again. He then becomes a true servant to God by removing all things that were contrary to the worship of God. He even encouraged the people to worship God.

The author of 2 Kings 21, writes from a perspective God’s judgment that was upon Israel and Judah as the unleashing of the covenant curses stated in Deuteronomy. The chronicler, however, gives an account of Manasseh being humbled before God. (Discovering The Old Testament Story and Faith, Alex Varughese, Robert d. Branson, Jim Edlin, Tim M. Green, 2003) I believe the writers of both chapters, are portraying Manasseh from their point of view. One is stating the punishment that comes upon God’s people when they are disobedient. (2Kings 21) The other is showing how even after being disobedient, we can come humbly before God, acknowledge our sin, repent and he will forgive us. (2 Chronicles 33:12-13) We can then be

restored to our relationship with Him and back to our former positions but with a new attitude and perspective.

After reading about the life of Manasseh, I have a deeper understanding of the importance of being obedient to God and His will. These chapters, although they are somewhat of the same account, reiterate, that when you do evil in the sight of God, you will bring His anger upon you. He will, however, speak to you and give you the opportunity to turn from doing what is wrong to what is right. The Bible tells us in 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV) “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” We serve a gracious and merciful Father who wants to be in constant fellowship with us. When we stray, although he is not pleased, He will forgive us of our sins. We can start a new slate.