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The Accounts of King Manasseh: Compare and Contrast 2 Kings 21 and 2 Chronicles 33:1-20

Most of the writings in both the first and second Kings are repeated in the Chronicles. One such proof is evident in the accounts of King Manasseh which is present in 2 Kings 21 and 2 Chronicles 33:1-20. At the age of 12 years, Manasseh, the son of Hezekiah became King of Jerusalem. Another similarity is the duration of his reign which was for 55 years and both authors of these two texts wrote the sinful acts committed by King Manasseh. He did everything contrary to the will of God, such as worshipping false gods and sacrificing his sons to a false god named Molech. Both accounts also highlighted the effects his sinful lifestyle had on the legacy of his father Hezekiah.

Although both accounts of the life of Manasseh are relatively the same, there are some events mentioned in 2 Chronicles 33 but are not presented by the author of 2 Kings 21. The main difference is that of the repentance of Manasseh and the events that came after. While 2 Kings conclusion highlighted the murderous sinful acts of King Manasseh in Jerusalem, the author of the account in 2 Chronicles wrote of God's judgment on Manasseh for his sins. Where he was held captive by the vicious Assyrian army and was afflicted. Thus, Manasseh cried out to God in repentance, and God in His mercy granted forgiveness. Some of the acts of Manasseh that followed included getting rid of false gods, repairing the altar of the Lord, and providing security for the people and things of God.

I do believe that the author of 2Kings, did not see the need to record Manasseh's repentance because most of his acts were evil and was also responsible for the judgment of God on the nation of Jerusalem. However, it is important to note that the writers of Chronicles focus were on the events that took place in the Southern Kingdom with the intent to project a message of hope. The life story of King Manasseh is a reminder that the penalty of our sins can affect the lives of others. God is merciful and when we humble ourselves in repentance, He is willing to forgive us, It is also important for us to be mindful not to take on the role of God when someone else sins.