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Old Testament Literature

3/28/2022

## Assignment 2

Before I begin to compare the accounts 2 Kings chapter 2 and 2 Chronicles 31:1-20, I would like to give a brief summary of what they are basically about. Both accounts tell of the life and reign of King Manasseh in Jerusalem, where he began ruling from an early age and did so for approximately fifty-five years. In both stories they talk about the decisions that Manasseh made, which were mostly polemic.

To begin with, I would like to talk about the similarities between the two accounts. In both, it is explained that Manasseh was a 12-year-old boy who had the job of beginning to rule Jerusalem and did so for fifty-five years. Furthermore, it is described that the king throughout his rule has defied God, angering him in various ways by disrespecting his word. Also, another clear example is that in both accounts Manasseh rebuilt the high

places that his father had previously destroyed and built altars in the temple of the Lord, in which he had said that his name would remain in Jerusalem for eternity. Finally, both accounts show how Manasseh's personality was by sacrificing his children in the Valley of Ben Hinnom. Nevertheless, here we have a difference which is that in the account 2Kings chapter 21 the king only killed one son instead of all of them, how it is shown in the account chronicle 30:1-20. To conclude the similarities that both accounts have, I want to make more emphasis in what is, in my opinion, what are the writings trying to show, which is that Manasseh is consider one of the worst kings Jerusalem could have ever had. His decisions had offended God and there were consequences in both accounts, different, but consequences in the end.

Secondly, I will describe some of the differences I have noticed while I was reading both accounts. Before going into details, one of the overall distinctions noticed was that in storiestold is much more violent and bloodroot than the other. In this one it is shown how Manasseh took thousands of lives and more important innocent lives. Moreover, it is portrayed that in one account he had killed all his sons, instead of one. Besides, another big and considerable difference is that at the end of the account 2 chronicle 31:1-20, King Manasseh deliver himself to God looking for forgiveness, and in order to do that he suffered a big humiliation from God, in front of all Jerusalem. Another crucial difference that I realized was that in 2Kings chapter 21 at the end it is described how King

Manasseh died and his son stayed with his thrown and then his grandson. In 2 chronicle 30:1-20 it is not describe this part.

Last but not least I would like to tell what I have learnt to use in my Christian life from the life of Manasseh. First, a good character is not transmitted by genetic inheritance, because Manasseh had good genes from his father, but still had a totally different behavior. Also, idolatry and unfaithfulness, do not affect God but us. Manasseh was disloyal and idolatrous and that made his character perverse. Finally, be careful with our example, there is always someone imitating our way of living. A change of life is only possible by the grace of God and that you receive God's care and blessings.

