

Aurellia Hodge

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Bib102 Old Testament literature

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King Manasseh

Manasseh was the king of Judah. He was the son of Hezekiah and Hephzibah. Manasseh was 12 years old when he reigned. He reigned in Jerusalem for fifty-five years. During his reign, he did witchcraft, made idols in the temple of the Lord, and sought out spiritists and mediums. He leads the innocent children of Jerusalem to do the same. The Lord was not pleased with the sins of Manasseh. The Lord was angry. He warned Manasseh and the children of Israel that they would be handed over to their enemies. Manasseh humbled himself and prayed to God once he was captured. God had mercy on him and allowed Manasseh to return to Jerusalem to reign. Manasseh took down the idols and altars, then rebuilt the temple of the Lord.

We find the story of Manasseh in **2 Chron** 33 and **2 Kings** 21. The scripture of the story takes a different approach to explaining to the audience the story of Manasseh. I find differences between the scriptures, but the theme stays the same. The main difference between 2 Chronicles and 2 Kings is that Chronicles mentions Manasseh's repentance, whereas 2 Kings does not (2 Chronicles 33:12–13). This results in the reader having a different perspective. Another difference is that Chronicles talks about Manasseh being captured, while 2 Kings does not (2 Chronicles 33:11). The most profound difference to me is that 2 Chronicles talks about the location of where he sacrificed his son, while 2 Kings does not (2 Chronicles 33:6). Although these differences make up the story of Manasseh, they are intended to allow the audience to see it from a different perspective of God.

For the story to remain true, the scripture must have constant similarities. Both scriptures show how Manasseh sacrificed his son to provoke the anger of God. Both scriptures write about the vengeful death of Amon and how he followed in his father's footsteps by rebuilding the idols and temples. Both scriptures talk about when and who he ruled and how he sinned before the Lord. Both explain how and why the covenant he has made makes the sins of Manasseh detestable to the Lord. This is all to emphasize the facts of the story of King Manasseh.

I believe that the changes in the story of King Manasseh were told in a different way to emphasize and express how God operates. I believe they tried to show the reader the different outcomes of God's response when you repent and when you don't. I believe that the author of Kings wanted to display the fear of the Lord, whereas the author of Chronicles displayed the aspect of God's mercy and grace. When I first read 2 Kings, I was upset that he disrespected the Lord's name. I thought Manasseh was ruthless and heartless. For he deserved the warning that came upon him, but when I read 2 chronicles, I felt ashamed for judging the poor man when he repented, and I thought it was unfair, but when I understood as to possibly why they were written the way it were, I began to learn that I am not far from Manasseh. For I should not judge one man's mistake when I have sinned before the Lord.

Overall, despite the differences in the style of writing of the scriptures, I've learned not to judge a person until you know the full picture. Even when you don't know the full picture, listen to what is being said to understand how you know how to respond in a godly way.