

Ernest Gonzalez

Professor David Emanuel

BIB 102 NA Old Testament Literature

February 8, 2023

*Hope is Found*

King Manasseh's life was written in 2 Kings 21 and in Chronicles 33:1-20, these two accounts tell us readers how Manasseh lived his life on earth as a King of Israel. It is interesting to me to have two sources of the same story both equal to each other and more. I felt like a detective, I have often heard that detectives question multiple people on a case, and this just felt like a case of Manasseh's life.

In both accounts Manasseh is told to be stepping up as king as little as twelve. Both Chronicles and Kings begin with the same line, "Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned for fifty-five years in Jerusalem." Chronicles and Kings then quickly skips to the misconduct of Manasseh towards God. Both accounts reveal his idol worship and his unbelief towards the God of Israel. Such a conduct can be found in 2 Kings 21:7, "He even set a carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of which the Lord had said to David and to Solomon his son." and Chronicles 33: 7 states, "He even set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son." Here we see Manasseh going into far measures to disrespect and anger the God of Israel, "Why?" I am not sure, but Manasseh's attitude quickly changes once he is stuck in a situation in which God meets his needs.

King Manasseh soon encounters the power of the God of Israel when he is captured by the king of Assyria. What caught my attention was the book of Kings not mentioning the redemption of King Manasseh. The book of Kings ends with Manasseh's death and the reign of his son Amon. Amon followed his rebellious father's footsteps and his death followed him too. 2 Kings 21:23 states, "Then the servants of Amon conspired against him, and killed the king in his own house." Instead Chronicles makes whole the unfinished painting of Manasseh's reign, and the unrighteous life his son Amon lived and died for.

Chronicles 33:13 states, "and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God." The author of this Chronicle shows the reader Manasseh's transformation after humbling himself before God. It further speaks on the peace and thanks offerings Manasseh offered to God. This reveals Manasseh's knowledge on how to pay respects to the God of Israel, and because the Old Testament is more than a History book it seems to me that both Chronicles and Kings were delivered a certain way to deliver an individual lesson in both of them. To find more depth in the way these were written I searched for the author's background.

The common theme throughout Chronicles is of someone starting good and turning bad, or vice versa. The theological stance of the Chroniclers highlighted important theological ideas and themes of God rewarding faithfulness, and humbleness before God. Whereas in the major theological theme in 1 and 2 Kings is wholehearted devotion, so writers wanted to emphasize Deuteronomic phrases such as doing "what was evil in the site of the Lord", and the writers wrote

on obedience to the Law bringing blessings and prosperity, whereas in disobedience brought curses from God's covenant with Israel.

I believe the Chronicler made the changes in the text because he most likely wanted to emphasize the message of judgment and hope, and confirm God's holding of hope even for the most treacherous sinner. This is demonstrated with the story of Manasseh and multiple ones from the book of Chronicles. From these two readings I learned the importance of a humble posture towards God, in which I should be aware of God's reign over my life and respect Him. It is disrespectful to Him for me to worship other things if it is not Him, and to put my trust on things that are not Him. I should repent and stop walking the ways I want to walk, but in everything that I do, honor God. Even though I may disrespect God a hundred or more times, God is faithful to forgive, this gives me hope to come to God with a humble heart and give my supplications to Him.