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3/20/2023

Bible Old Testament Literature

Writing Assignment 2

When you look at the two chapters talking about Manasseh's life, it is fascinating that they speak about an evil man, with evil thoughts, that cared about nothing else but himself. Yet, the Lord still forgave him because He is merciful and full of grace.

In both chapters, 2Kings 21 and 2Chr 33:1-9, the comparison between them shows the countless evilness that Manasseh was committing. The text states at the beginning of both chapters that, *“he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel”*. Manasseh rebuilt the *“high places”* that his father had already destroyed, built idols for false gods, and practiced witchcraft while consulting *“spiritists and mediums”*. In addition to other terrible practices, his evilness was so evil he provoked the Lord to anger. Verse 7 of 2 Kings 21, also talks about how he disrespected the temple of God by carving a False idol *“Asherah”* not only did he just carve a false god in the house of the lord, in the text also says he also carved it *“in the house of which the LORD had said to David and Solomon his son,”* and after that Manasseh out of mocker and hate trend he said, *“In this house and Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever”*.

Now the differences between these chapters are very interesting. In 2Kings 21 the entire chapter talks about Manasseh's evil doings and then ends with introducing his son who will now be king and seems to be also forsaking the way of the Lord. However, in 2Chronicles it starts by showing the horrible things to mock God but as mentioned below, demonstrates the changes of Manasseh. Found in 2Chr 33:10-17 Manasseh's repentance is shown by his "**affliction**" and then praying and imploring to God and humbling "**himself greatly before the God of his fathers**". When God heard his cry, Manasseh was taken back to his kingdom in Jerusalem. At that moment, he knew that the Lord was God and after his restoration, his actions started to change everything he had done to provoke the Lord and turn his people away from worshiping him was being fixed. "**He built a wall outside the city of David near the west side of the valley**" and took down the false gods from the Lord's house. Manannessah took "**all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD and Jerusalem**" and he disposed of them. Instead of sacrificing unholy offerings, he gave peace offerings and offerings of thankfulness, commanding Judah to serve the God of Isreal. The people restored their relationship with God. then through time after Manasseh finished reducing his mistakes with God eventually he passed away and was bared in his own home then his son Amon by the influence of his father Bad deeds passed down the role of King after his father and also became a mean King and continued to do the same mistakes Manasseh did. After that, the servants had enough of him so he was killed in his own house and Amon's time as King was over then afterward the people of the land chose Josiah as the new ruler.

In the end, learning from these two chapters and the differences and the comparison I learned that messiah was a very evil king and did very mean things to attempt to anger God but

near the end even though God saw the number of negative things Manasseh did God in the end still forgave Manasseh of his mistakes and because of Manasseh realize the amount of evil he did he wanted to restore his relationship with God again and by the grace and mercy of God he forgave Manasseh. And as I learned from this that God is a very Graceful being and He also gives second chances even to a horrible king like how Manasseh was, and also I learned as well mocking God is never a wise choice to do.

