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Old Testament  
Assignment #2

## King Manasseh

King Manasseh was a very bad king in both of the bible verses we read but there were definitely some similarities and differences. 2 Kings 21 and 2 Chronicles 33:1-20 both talk about the story of King Manasseh. They share many similarities like King Manasseh becoming king at the age of twelve and worshipping his idols of the city before the Israelite that God tore down and defeated. King Manasseh was a horrible king who sacrificed his kids, sought out omens, and even built statues and shrines of his idols and put them in the same temple as God. Both scripture verses make this very clear, they go into details about how King Manasseh was an evil king. His reign brought the people of Israel away from God and eventually led to them going so far that it angered god. This is where the contrast begins to show in each passage. In the book of Kings god's punishment is harder and kind of just ends Manasseh's story. In the Book of Kings, God Spoke through his prophets and said King Manasseh has led the people to do such horrible and evil things that he is angry and out of his anger he is going to give Manasseh and the people to the enemy and wipe out Jerusalem. In the Book of Chronicles God takes a different approach to punishing Manasseh. He sends the army commanders of the King of Assyria to come against Manasseh. They took him hostage and he began to seek the forgiveness of the lord. This is a very different punishment and I think it makes sense why they changed this in chronicles. With Manasseh in captivity it gives him a redemption story and does not cut him off as the bad king that god wiped out. When God frees Manasseh he does everything he can to redeem himself to the lord. He removes the statue of his idols in the temple of god and builds the outer wall of the

city of david. He then tells his son Judah who's going to be the new king to only worship and serve god. This concludes his reign as king and this version does not make him feel like a completely evil human. I think the author of kings made this change to cause a fear of god effect over the story. It is to know that God is also strong and powerful and can and will punish us at any moment. God is the one who judges us but oftentimes God's mercy is shown more in stories of the bible that people forget god is our coming king at the end of the day. Yes he loves us and yes he forgives us but if you do not make change after all the times he has tried to warn you, he will have to punish you for your sins and acts of evil.

Manasseh had an incredibly evil life when he was a king but he still managed to turn it around and become completely devoted to God. I believe that everyone should be able to take something from these stories and apply it to their own spiritual journey as christians. A lot of people will not admit it but they do worship their idols sometimes more than they worship god and this was a key sin that Manasseh committed. A lot of people do not listen to God when he tells them to do things or follow certain rules yet they still claim to be a follower of jesus. Some of the things I can take from Manasseh's story is listening to god. In both verses God reached out to Manasseh and the people of Jerusalem and told them to be careful and to come back to him and be his followers. He warned them not to follow their king who was leading them to sin yet they did not listen. This is extremely relatable to me as I feel god telling me I could be better and I could do better by him as his follower but yet I never listen to him. I always push him off and put my plans first yet his mercy always brings me back. God is my savior and I believe that is the difference between me and the people of Jerusalem who followed King Manasseh. Another thing I take from the story is the mercy god showed Manasseh in Chronicles. He still punished him for his sins but gave him the chance to learn from his sins and repent and give his life to god. This is

beautiful and I know that God loves me and his son and is willing to show me grace and forgiveness even if I wander completely away from him.

To conclude, 2 kings 21 and 2 Chronicles 33:1-20 talk about the story of King Manessah who was an evil king who wandered from the path of God and Christianity. The verses share many similarities but also contrast each other. We as the readers can take many lessons from the two stories that will help us on our own spiritual journey with God and faith.