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God forgives those who are evil in his sight

The story of Manasseh's reign in Judah starts at the age of twelve, and his reign was fifty-five years long. In the sight of the Lord Manasseh was seen as evil. He rebuilt what his father had destroyed. He built altars for them in the house of the Lord, scarified his children, he also used all types of sorcerer such as fortune-telling, and omens. Manasseh's wickedness brought God wrath on the Israelites and God gave them up to the hands of their enemy. Ultimately, Manasseh was humbled and moved to repentance. "God heard his please" (2chr 33:13), when God heard him he brought him back to Jerusalem. When Manasseh died and his son started his reign, his reign was short-lived because he was murdered by the people in his home.

In both 2 Kings 21 and 2 Chronicles 33:1-20 we see a lot of similarities between the two stories. For one, we can see that Manasseh's reign started at the age of twelve and it lasted a total of forty-five years.(2 Ki 21:1, 2 Ch 33:1). He was seen as evil in the sight of the Lord. (2 Ki 21:2 ESV, 2 Ch 33:2). We also see that he was rebuilt as his father Hezekiah had destroyed.(). He also built altars to other God's in the house of the Lord and worshiped them, he also led the people of Israel to follow in his footsteps. We see that in both chapters Manasseh's son reigns in his fathers place when he dies. His reign is short lived. His reign lasts two years, follows in his fathers wicked ways and he is killed after two years of reigning by the people. (2 Ki 22:19-24, 2 Chronicles 33:21-25).

We do not see too many differences in both stories. The major difference in both stories is Manasseh's responses to God's judgment on him and the people of Israel. For one, in 2 Kings Manasseh is not shown to repent for his evil way of living. We are only shown that Manasseh lived an evil life that led to the downfall of Israel. (2 Ki 21:16 ESV). We also see God speak through his servant that judgment that will fall on Manasseh and Israel. (2 Ki 21:10-15 ESV). 2 Chronicles on the other hand shows us that Manasseh was moved to repentance. (2 Ch 33:12-13 ESV). Due to his act of repentance we see that God was moved by this act, thus God brought him back to Jerusalem. (2 Ch 33:12-13 ESV).

Based on what I have read through the text I will assume that 2 Kings was written first. First because in class you said that the book of Kings was written to those who were before the exile and the book of 2 Chronicles was written to those after the exile. I want to be honest about that first. Aside from that I would like to say that Kings was written first. The reason for this is because they did not include Manasseh's repentance and how God brought him back. I wanted to say Chronicles was written first because of what Kings say, "Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh and all that he did, and the sin that he committed, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?" (2 Ki 21:17 ESV). Due to this being repeated in 2 Chronicles 33:18 I second guessed this, because it makes no sense to me to repeat this again if it is referencing Chronicles.

The thing that stood out to me about this text is the fact that God views Manasseh as an evil person. We can see how evil Manasseh truly was by his acts. For example in 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles it says this about him. He was evil in the sight of God's eyes, he built idols in the house of the Lord and he worshiped them, He practiced child sacrifice, fortune telling etc.. (2 Ki 21:2-7 ESV, 2 Ch 33:2-7). Despite what evil Manasseh had done, God was still moved by him when Manasseh repented. Not only was God moved by this but God also brought him back to Jerusalem and gave him his kingdom. Taking this class has helped me realize that truly humanity has a serious sin problem, regardless of this fact God forgives us when we are moved to repentance. This gives me hope that I am forgiven and I can run to him.

Works Cited

The Holy Bible, ESV. 2016 ed., Wheaton, Illinois, Crossway, 2016.

2 Kings 22, 2 Chronicles 33:1-20