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The accounts of King Manasseh in 2 Kings 21 and 2 Chronicles 33:1-20 are two different narratives that describe the life and reign of King Manasseh, who ruled the kingdom of Judah for over 50 years during the seventh century BCE. Despite the fact that the two accounts share a common story, there are significant differences between them. This essay will compare and contrast the two accounts, explore the possible reasons for the differences, and discuss the lessons we can learn from the life of Manasseh.

The similarities between the two accounts are evident from the beginning. They both acknowledge that King Manasseh did evil in the sight of the Lord, introduced foreign gods to the kingdom, practiced divination, worshiped the host of heaven, and even practiced child sacrifice. Furthermore, both accounts describe Manasseh's captivity and subsequent repentance, which led to his restoration to the throne.

However, there are significant differences between the two accounts. For example, the Chronicles account is much longer and more elaborate than the Kings account. The Kings account covers Manasseh's reign in only ten verses, while the Chronicles account covers it in almost twenty. This difference indicates that the author of Chronicles may have had more space

and interest in developing the story of Manasseh, while the author of Kings was content with providing a simple historical record.

Moreover, the Chronicles account includes details that are not mentioned in the Kings account. For instance, the Chronicles account describes how Manasseh suffered a series of calamities as a result of his sins, including a severe illness and an invasion by the Babylonians. The Kings account does not mention these events. Additionally, the Chronicles account highlights Manasseh's efforts to reform the religious practices of his kingdom after his repentance, such as removing foreign gods and restoring the temple service. The Kings account does not mention these reforms.

It is possible that the author of Chronicles made these changes to emphasize certain theological and moral themes that were important to his audience. The author may have been interested in highlighting the importance of repentance and reform as exemplified by Manasseh. The author may have also wanted to stress the consequences of sin and the need for God's mercy and grace. In contrast, the author of Kings may have been more focused on providing a simple historical record without emphasizing any particular theological or moral themes.

The life of Manasseh offers valuable lessons that can be applied to our Christian life. First, we can learn the importance of repentance and turning to God in times of trouble. Even when we have sinned and strayed away from God, He is always willing to forgive and restore us if we turn to Him in humility and faith. Second, we can learn the importance of reforming our lives and turning away from sinful practices. As we grow in our relationship with God, we should strive to become more like Christ and live in a way that honors God and reflects His love and grace to others.

In conclusion, the two accounts of King Manasseh in 2 Kings 21 and 2 Chronicles 33:1-20 share many similarities, but also contain significant differences. While both accounts acknowledge Manasseh's unrighteousness and captivity, the Chronicles account is more elaborate and highlights Manasseh's efforts to reform his kingdom after his repentance. The differences between the two accounts may be due to the authors' theological and moral emphasis. Nevertheless, the life of Manasseh teaches us valuable lessons about repentance, reform, and the grace of God.