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BIB 101 NA

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In 2 Kings 21 and 2 Chron 33:1-20, we see similar accounts of Manasseh, who became King at a very young age, and his life as king. While both passages talk about the same account, they differ as well in their details and outcomes. In both passages, Manasseh succeeded his father Hezekiah on the throne as King of Jerusalem and reigned for fifty-five years. Both passages continue to share how Manasseh did evil in the eyes of the lord; by worshipping false gods and practicing divination. In both passages, we also see that Manasseh placed Asherah poles that he had built in the temple, which was a grave offense to God, and aroused his anger as a result. In both passages, we also see that the lord spoke to Manasseh and warned him of the coming punishment he and the nation would endure due to his disobedience and idolatry. The first nine verses of each passage share very similar accounts of the life and reign of Manasseh.

However, the passages take totally different routes beginning in verse ten. The first identifiable difference noticed is the difference in the content focus of both passages, though they give an account of the same story. The author of 2 kings 21 includes two separate stories in the chapter, but The Chronicler dedicates the entire chapter to the story of Manasseh's tenure as king. This is very significant, as we begin to see a difference in the ideological approaches of both authors. In 2 Kings 21:13, God said "I will wipe out Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down." However, in 2 Chron 33:11 the lord "brought against them, the military commanders of the king of Assyria." The interesting contrast here is

that God punished Manasseh only and not the entire Israelite community as stated in 2 Kings 21. It is also important to note that in the account of 2 Chron 33, Manasseh repented and sought the favor of the lord, after being taken into captivity. He removed the foreign gods and idols from the temple.

I believe the author of Chronicles made the changes by omitting the account's details to preserve a positive image of the Davidic lineage, history, and temple worship. The Chronicles were written as one whole book but later divided into two books around 200. B.C, in the Septuagint, which is the Greek Old Testament translation. The Chronicler appeared to be very selective in this book, and careful as to what was shared; as they sought to remind the nation of Israel about God's covenant to them and his promises to the nation; although they were going through difficult times. The Chronicler also wrote in a way to remind Israel of her spiritual heritage in God; thus encouraging them to remain faithful to God and to serve him only. Studies show that over fifty-five percent of the writings in Chronicles are different from the writings of 1 and 2 Kings in reference to David and his Kingship.

As I look at the life of Manasseh, there are a few things that can be applied to my life as a child of God. He was very wicked in his Kingship; as he murdered his sons, desecrated the temple, and worshipped Idols. As a result, God in his righteousness and justice punished Manasseh and the nation. However, Manasseh recognized that he sinned against God, repented, and sought forgiveness from God. Like Manasseh, we all sin and fall short of God's glory. I am reminded through this story that a repentant heart is extremely important to God. No matter the gravity of sin, God is willing and able to forgive me of my sin. Furthermore, I am reminded from this passage, of the importance of observing the statutes of God, by applying his

word to my life daily. Manasseh not only repented in words but also in action. It is also crucial to not repeat what we ask God’s forgiveness for; true repentance is to turn away from a sinful act and not to intentionally repeat it.