

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
CONSEQUENCES OF MANASSEH'S AND JUDAH'S EVIL
2 KINGS 21:9-16; 2 CHRONICLES 33:6, 9-11

Introduction

Last time we were *in 2 Kings 21 and 2 Chronicles 33*, we saw **MANASSEH**, the son of **HEZEKIAH**, ascend to the throne of **JUDAH** at the age of 12, but he was nothing at all like his father!

While we saw that **HEZEKIAH** was the best of the kings of **JUDAH**, we saw that **MANASSEH** was the **MOST WICKED** of the kings of **JUDAH**!

Let me remind you that last time we saw MANASSEH'S EVIL WAYS: The last phrase in *2 Chronicles 33:6* summarizes this by saying, *"...he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger."*

How much evil did he do in the sight of the LORD?

MANASSEH led JUDAH back into her idolatrous ways but at a whole new level that had not been seen during the reign of any king before him!

MANASSEH started BAAL worship again along with all the immorality that went with it!

MANASSEH worshiped all the hosts of heaven!

MANASSEH defiled the TEMPLE again with worship of his false gods!

MANASSEH sacrificed his son (children) to MOLECH!

MANASSEH was involved in the occult!

MANASSEH caused JUDAH to do worse than the heathen! (*Vs 9*)

MANASSEH FAILED TO HEED THE WARNINGS OF GOD!
2 Chronicles 33:10—*"And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken."*

We left off last time saying that trouble was coming MANASSEH'S way and JUDAH'S way because of these great sins! Let's look at that trouble beginning with *2 KINGS 21:10-16*.

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I. WE SEE THE LORD PRONOUNCED JUDGMENT UPON JERUSALEM AND JUDAH. (*2 KINGS 21:10-16*)

Some of this had a partial fulfillment in **MANASSEH'S** day but most of this was fulfilled much after his reign!

A. We See Why These Judgments Were Coming! (*Vs 11*)

1. Because Of MANASSEH'S Abominations And Wickedness!

They were more than even the heathen **AMORITES** who dwelled in the land before **JUDAH**!

2. Because Of MANASSEH'S Causing JUDAH To Sin With His Idols!

2 Chronicles 33:9—*"So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel."*

GOD'S judgment was determined and not even MANASSEH'S later change would turn the LORD from HIS wrath! MANASSEH and JUDAH had gone too far!

B. We See The Severity Of These Judgments Described!

1. *Vs 12* – here we see a strong metaphorical form of announcing an extraordinary and appalling event!

A similar metaphor was used by the **LORD** in **HIS** pronouncement of judgment against **ELI** and his family: *1 Samuel 3:11*—*"And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle."*

This same metaphor was used in **JEREMIAH'S** day speaking of some of these same prophesied events! *Jeremiah 19:3*—*"And say, Hear ye the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel;*

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Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, the which whosoever heareth, his ears shall tingle.

A similar metaphor is used by the LORD to describe this same coming judgment to JUDAH in:

Habakkuk 1:5—“Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: For I will work a work in your days, Which ye will not believe, though it be told you.”

2. *Vs 13a – “I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab” — Captives doomed to destruction were sometimes grouped together and marked off by means of a measuring-line and plummet.*

David did such a thing that is recorded in:

2 Samuel 8:2— “And he smote Moab, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground; even with two lines measured he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive.”

The LORD also did this in the judgment of the northern kingdom of ISRAEL according to what HE told the prophet AMOS. (*Amos 7:7ff*)

So this “*line of Samaria*” means the line drawn for the destruction of SAMARIA would be the same for JUDAH and “*the plummet of the house of Ahab*” speaks of a demarcation line the LORD used for exterminating AHAB’S apostate family...the same plummet or plumb line would be applied for the kings of JUDAH!

Here is the implication/application that I see here:

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Though the LORD is longsuffering and full of mercy, **there comes a time when judgment will come in both the nation and the leadership of those who commit and continue in their sin!**

So, the LORD is saying here is that JUDAH and her kings would be utterly destroyed and carried away into captivity just as SAMARIA had been.

3. *Vs 13b – “I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish wiping it, and turning it upside down.”*
i.e. To ensure that any leftover scraps are totally removed. Even the LORD’S remnant would not be spared, but would also be removed from the land!
(*Vs 14*)

This happened when NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S army invaded JUDAH and JERUSALEM carrying away its inhabitants into captivity in BABYLON!

C. We See The Reasons For The LORD’s Judgments Reiterated! (*Vs 15-16*)

1. **JUDAH’S doing evil in the LORD’s sight!**
2. **JUDAH’S provoking the LORD to anger!**
3. **MANASSEH’S shedding of innocent blood! Much of that innocent blood shed had to do with the sacrifice of their children to MOLECH in their idol worship. (It makes one wonder just how much trouble our own nation is in because of the shedding of innocent blood in our land?)**

Some of the innocent blood shed is believed to be many of those of the believing remnant who refused to be forced to worship MANASSEH’S idols.

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The JEWISH historian JOSEPHUS put it this way:
“Manasseh slew, and did not spare even the prophets”

JEWISH tradition says that MANASSEH slew
ISAIAH the prophet by having him sawn asunder.
(Cf. Hebrews 11:37)

4. **MANASSEH'S sinning in causing the people to sin!**
Notice how the **LORD** ties their disobedience here to their disobedience all the way back to the time the **LORD** redeemed them out of **EGYPT!**

THE LORD PRONOUNCED JUDGMENT UPON JERUSALEM AND JUDAH.

II. WE SEE THE LORD BROUGHT THE ASSYRIANS AGAINST JUDAH IN A JUDGMENT BEFORE THE JUDGMENT!

(2 CHRONICLES 33:11)

Now this is something that we see happening over and over again in the **SCRIPTURE** in both **ISRAEL'S** and **JUDAH'S** history! Yet there are people today who don't believe that **GOD** does such things!

We need to remember several things here:

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof!

Psalm 24:1—“1 The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; The world, and they that dwell therein.”

HE is **SOVEREIGN GOD** and can do with both nature and the occupants of earth as **HE** pleases to accomplish **HIS** purposes!

He can bring one individual against another individual!

He can bring one wicked nation against another wicked nation!

He can bring the forces of nature in judgment against those that need it! (Nahum 1:3-6)

The LORD alone determines HIS judgment and its severity!
(We can choose to do wrong, but we cannot choose what the consequences will be!)