

**BOOK OF 2 KINGS  
MANASSEH'S EVIL  
2 KINGS 21:1-9; 2 CHRONICLES 33:1-10**

**Introduction**

We are getting down to our last five kings of **JUDAH**. After **HEZEKIAH'S** death, his son **MANASSEH** began to reign in his stead at the age of 12.

**MANASSEH** had the **LONGEST** reign of the kings of **JUDAH** (55 years) and he had the **MOST WICKED** reign of the kings of **JUDAH**!

There is a little more told about his reign in the account in **2 CHRONICLES** than in the **2 KINGS** account! Nevertheless, we will be looking at some things in both of these places so it would be best to keep them both handy.

**I. WE SEE MANASSEH'S MOTHER'S NAME IS MENTIONED IN THE 2 KINGS ACCOUNT.**

*2 Kings 21:1– “Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother’s name was Hephzi-bah.”*

Now his **mother’s name** is most probably mentioned because he was only **12 years-old when he began to reign**. So his mother likely **wielded a strong influence on the young man and judging from his actions, that influence does not appear to have been a good one!**

**Dr. Herbert Lockyer** in his book *ALL THE MEN OF THE BIBLE* called **MANASSEH** “*the prodigal king*” of the **OLD TESTAMENT**! He called him that because **MANASSEH** initially cast off all the godly ways of his father **HEZEKIAH**!

But after the **LORD** allowed him to be locked up in a prison in **BABYLON** for 12 years, we will see that, in the end, he repented and was restored of the **LORD** and returned to most of his father’s godly ways throughout the rest of his reign.

**II. WE SEE MANASSEH'S EVIL WAYS!  
(2 KINGS 21:2-16; 2 CHRONICLES 33:2-10)**

As we look at **MANASSEH'S** idolatrous ways, we see that he really had a problem with the first two of the **TEN COMMANDMENTS**!

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In fact, **MANASSEH** took his idolatry to a whole new level!

**A. MANASSEH Started Baal Worship Again!  
(2 Kings 21:2-3; 2 Chronicles 33:2-3)**

We’re familiar with **BAAL worship** at this point in our studies! As the *storm god* and *bringer of rain*, **BAAL** was recognized as sustaining the *fertility* of crops, animals, and people.

**BAAL'S** followers often believed that immoral sex acts performed in his temple would contribute to **BAAL'S** work in **increasing fertility of crops, animals, and people** and so that is what made it so attractive! **It was driven by fleshly desires and lusts of people!**

**BAAL** was a part of the religion of virtually every culture of the ancient Near East.

**BAAL**, of course, had been a favorite of the **NORTHERN KINGDOM** of **ISRAEL** after **AHAB** married the heathen, **JEZEBEL**, whose father was priest of **BAAL**!

In fact, **BAAL** was even brought into **JUDAH** initially by **AHAB** and **JEZEBEL'S** daughter, **ATHELIAH**, who married **JEHORAM** king of **JUDAH**. **ATHELIAH** reigned over **JUDAH** after the death of her husband and her son, **AHAZIAH** and established **BAAL** worship even more!

After **JEHOIADA THE PRIEST** had **ATHELIAH** slain and prior to **JOASH'S** reign, he and the people of **JUDAH** eradicated **BAAL worship** from **JUDAH**!

But **BAAL worship** was then restored by king **AHAZ**, **HEZEKIAH'S** father only to be eradicated by **HEZEKIAH** once he began to reign!

But now, we see **MANASSEH** bring **BAAL** worship back!

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In addition he built again the **HIGH PLACES** of worship that his father **HEZEKIAH** tore down AND he made a **GROVES!**

**GROVES** were where gods would be carved into trees or wooden poles that folks would worship.

But we're about to see that was only the beginning of **MANASSEH'S** idolatry!

- B. MANASSEH Worshiped All The Hosts Of Heaven!**  
*(2 Kings 21:3b; 2 Chronicles 33:3; Cf. Deuteronomy 4:14-20)*  
This was also a common heathen practice!

**Some of the heathen worshiped the SUN!**  
(I read where Egypt actually had 5 sun gods)

**Some of the heathen worshiped the MOON!**

**Some of the heathen worshiped the STARS and/or the  
CONSTELLATIONS made up of the STARS.**

**Some worshiped the SKY itself!**

**Hang on we're not done yet...**

- C. MANASSEH Defiled The TEMPLE Again With Worship  
Of His False Gods!** *(2 Kings 21:4-5, 7-9a; 2 Chronicles  
33:4-5, 7-8; Cf. 1 Kings 8:27-30; Jeremiah 7:30)*  
Now, we've seen several others who defiled the **TEMPLE!**  
We've also seen others who defiled the **TEMPLE** by  
**bringing idols into the TEMPLE!**

(e.g. In fact, we saw **MANASSEH'S** grandfather, King **AHAZ**  
send back plans from **DAMASCUS** for **URIJAH** the priest to  
duplicate a god that he saw when he met the **ASSYRIAN** king  
in **DAMASCUS!**)

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(Then he had the audacity to take the sacrifices and offerings  
people were bringing for the **LORD** and have them offered on  
the altar of the false god in the **TEMPLE** of the **LORD!**)

**But that's still not all...**

- D. MANASSEH Sacrificed His Son (Children) To MOLECH!**  
*(2 Kings 21:6a; 2 Chronicles 33:6a)*  
Consider this, if it had not been for his grandmother rescuing  
his father from his grandfather's same shenanigans, he would  
never have been born!

**We're still not done...**

- E. MANASSEH Was Involved In The Occult!**  
*(2 Kings 21:6b; 2 Chronicles 33:6b; Cf. Deuteronomy 18:9ff)*
- 1. He Observed Times – i.e. astrology**
  - 2. He Used Enchantments – i.e. charm; whisper. To  
seek or to give omens or fortell.**
  - 3. He Used Witchcraft – i.e. practice sorcery. (e.g.  
potions)**
  - 4. He Dealt With A Familiar Spirit– i.e. a person  
controlled by an evil spirit which professes to be a  
medium with the dead.**
  - 5. He Dealt With Wizards – i.e. one who deals in magic  
and sorcery in an attempt to pry into the secrets of the  
spirit world.**

The only King I remember who was involved in any of this was  
King Saul who went to a witch to call up Samuel's spirit .  
**Now we go literally off the charts of the wickedness of those  
kings before him!**

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**F. MANASSEH Caused JUDAH To Do Worse Than The  
Heathen! (2 Kings 21:6f, 9; 2 Chronicles 33:9)**

Now, there is no detail given us about what this entailed!

Let's suffice it to say that **if it was worse than the heathen, it had to be really, really bad!**

**G. MANASSEH FAILED TO HEED THE WARNING OF  
GOD! (2 Chronicles 33:10)**

**No surprise there as everything he did up to this point was anti-God!**

**Conclusion**

Now that's our Bible Study for this evening! From what we have seen thus far in **MANASSEH'S** reign, even if you haven't read ahead, can't you feel that trouble is coming his way?

**The last phrase in 2 Chronicles 33:6 says "...he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger."**

Trouble is coming his way and **LORD** willing we'll look at that next week!