

Manasseh Repents

2 Kings 21

2 Chronicles 33

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After the death of Hezekiah, his son Manasseh became king of Judah. He undid much of his father's good work. He rebuilt the pagan shrines Hezekiah had broken down. He worshiped a wide range of idols. He built pagan altars inside the Temple of the Lord. He even sacrificed his own sons to these false gods. Manasseh practiced sorcery, divination, and witchcraft. He consulted with mediums and psychics. He led the people of Judah astray into the same types of evils he himself committed.

Manasseh and the people ignored the Lord's warnings. So the Lord sent the Assyrian army to take Manasseh prisoner. They put a ring in his nose and led him off to Babylon. This was a low point for Manasseh. In his distress he humbled himself and prayed to the Lord, the God of his ancestors. God forgave Manasseh and brought him back to Jerusalem to resume his kingship.

Manasseh was a new man. He removed the idols and altars he had erected to foreign gods. He restored the Temple to its previous state and encouraged the people of Judah to worship the Lord, the God of Israel.

When Manasseh died, his son Amon became king. His reign was short. He did as his father had done early on. He set up idols and altars and worshiped foreign gods. But unlike his father, Amon never turned to the Lord, but rather he deliberately turned further and further away.

Eventually Amon's officials conspired against him and killed him. But they were then killed by the people of Judah, who made Amon's son Josiah their next king.