

## HEZEKIAH'S EVIL SUCCESSORS (2 Kings 21:1-26)

- I. The Reign of Manasseh (2 Kings 21:1-18)
  - A. The context of Manasseh: became king at age 15 and reigned 55 years (21:1)
  - B. The SINS of Manasseh (21:2-7a)
    - 1. He was as EVIL as the CANAANITES
    - 2. He rebuilt the HIGH PLACES
    - 3. He instituted worship of BAAL and his consort ASHERA
    - 4. He devoted himself to ASTROLOGY
    - 5. He built altars to these gods IN THE TEMPLE
    - 6. He practiced HUMAN SACRIFICE, even his own SON
    - 7. He practiced the OCCULT
    - 8. He placed an image of the FERTILITY GODDESS in the Temple
  - C. The INDICTMENT of Manasseh (21:7b-9)
    - 1. By not following DAVID'S example, he broke the Davidic COVENANT
    - 2. By DEFILING the sanctuary, he BLASPHEMED the Lord
    - 3. By disregarding the LAW of MOSES, he FORFEITED the land
  - D. The SENTENCING of Manasseh (21:10-15)
    - 1. Pronounced by God through "His SERVANTS the PROPHETS"
    - 2. Pronounced coming CALAMITY

3. Demonstrates God's PATIENCE

[E. The REPENTANCE of Manasseh (2 Chron. 33:10-17)]

1. He was CAPTURED by the Assyrians and taken to Babylon

2. His REPENTANCE was GENUINE

3. His REFORMS changed NOTHING

F. The SUMMATION of Manasseh (21:16-18)

II. The Reign of Amon (2 Kings 21:19-26)

A. The context of Amon: became king at age 22 and reigned 2 years (21:19)

B. The SINS of Amon: Just like his FATHER (21:20-22)

C. The END of Amon (21:22-26)

III. Lessons

A. Judah's pursuit of PAGANISM illustrates that humanity's propensity for SELF-DECEPTION is UNBOUNDED

B. The LENGTH and CHARACTER of Manasseh's reign demonstrates that we rarely know why God allows the WICKED to PROSPER

C. The commentary on Manasseh's reign implies that sometimes WICKED RULERS are not just the REASON FOR but are PART OF God's judgment

1. It is possible for sin to reach a POINT OF NO RETURN

2. A LATE conversion can be TOO LATE for one's POSTERITY

D. Judah's FIDELITY to the dynasty of DAVID reminds that God's PROMISES are TRUSTWORTHY while the world is in TURMOIL