

A LESSON IN CONTRASTS
2 CHRONICLES 33:9 / 4-15-18 / PM

I. THE WORST OF MANASSEH.

A. His father, Hezekiah was one of the best kings of Judah—2 Kings 21:3.

2 Kings 21:3

3 He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had destroyed....

B. He became king at age 12 and had the longest reign of any of Israel's kings, 55 years (687-645 b.c.)--2 Kings 21:1.

2 Kings 21:1

21 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years.....

C. He was the first king of Judah not to have a contemporary in Israel because Israel fell to the Assyrians in 720 b.c.

D. He is mentioned in Jesus' genealogy in Matthew (Matt. 1:10).

E. God sent a succession of prophets to warn Manasseh what would happen to him and Judah if he persisted in his evil ways.

1. One of those prophets was Isaiah.

2. Jewish tradition says Manasseh was responsible for having Isaiah killed--Hebrews 11:37

F. Manasseh's story is found in (2 Kings 21:1-17; 2 Chronicles 33:1-12) and Jeremiah 15:4.

Jeremiah 15:4 (God to Judah)

4 I will make them abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth because of what Manasseh son of Hezekiah king of Judah did in Jerusalem.

G. Manasseh's sins chronicled—2 Chron. 22:2-9.

II. THE BEST OF MANASSEH.

- A. Manasseh refused to listen to God's warnings through His prophets—33:10.
- B. The only way some people listen to God is the hard way of disaster and judgment—33:11.
- C. Manasseh finally got God's message and he repented—33:12-13.
- D. As proof that Manasseh's repentance was real he tried to undo all the evil he had done—33:14-16.
- E. Unfortunately, Manasseh's evil influence had already done irreversible harm to the nation he led—33:17.

III. LESSONS FROM MANASSEH'S LIFE.

- 1. Length of service to God doesn't guarantee faithfulness to God.
- 2. Godly parents don't always produce godly children.
- 3. One ungodly person can have far reaching negative influences on others.
- 4. One godly person can have far reaching positive influences on other.
- 5. Failure to listen to God has severe consequences.
- 6. Each of us has some kind of influence on others, either negatively or positively.
- 7. Everyone has the potential to change.
- 8. God is patient and merciful—2 Peter 3:9.