
MANASSEH, SON OF HEZEKIAH

An artifact has been found in the annals of archaeology that bears witness to Manasseh, who was the son of king Hezekiah.

Manasseh, who also became king of Judah, is mentioned by the Assyrian king Esarhaddon who reigned 680 to 664 years before the Year of the Lord. The inscription lists kings who were under his submission as contributing materials to furnish his royal palace. It reads as follow:

"I commanded the kings from the region of Hatti as well as the areas on the other side of the Euphrates including Ba'lu, king of Tyre, **Manasseh, king of Judah** . . . ; a total of 22 kings from Hatti, the seashore and islands, all of them were given the difficult task of transporting building materials to my palace in Nineveh, the city over which I am king."

The story of King Manasseh is a story of a man who went from being one of the most vile and wicked sinners ever, to a saint. From an enemy of God to a servant of God. A man under God's judgement to a man under God's Grace and Mercy. His story can be found in 2 Chronicles 33:

'Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. But he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he raised up altars for the Baals, and made wooden images; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. He also built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem shall My name be forever." And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. Also he caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the

Son of Hinnom; he practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

He even set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever; "and I will not again remove the foot of Israel from the land which I have appointed for your fathers; only if they are careful to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses." So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.

And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen. Therefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon.



(Note: The reference to Manasseh's captivity to Babylon was once commonly held by liberals as a mistake on the part of the Bible, because Nineveh was the capital of Esarhaddon's Assyrian empire.

However, inscriptions from Esarhaddon prove that he did indeed rebuild Babylon. One such inscription reads:

"Esarhaddon.... king of Assyria, governor of Babylon.")

"Now when he was in affliction, he implored the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.

After this he built a wall outside the City of David on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, as far as the entrance of the Fish Gate; and it enclosed Ophel, and he raised it to a very great height. Then he put military captains in all the fortified cities of Judah.

He took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem; and he cast them out of the city. He also repaired the altar of the LORD, sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel. Nevertheless the people still sacrificed on the high places, but only to the LORD their God.

LIKE MANASSEH YOU MUST HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE GOD:

"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. James 4:6-9

LIKE MANASSEH YOU MUST REPENT:

Repentance means to change your heart and mind towards God. To turn to him and to turn away from your sins.

Ezekiel 18:30-32: "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord GOD. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. "Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get your-selves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?"

"For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!"

FAITH WITHOUT REPENTANCE IS NOT FAITH AND REPENTANCE WITHOUT FAITH IN CHRIST WILL NOT SAVE:

Acts 20:21: "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:15 "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.

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