

The Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah

King Manasseh

Sunday 12th February 2017

God is speaking!



Are we listening?
How should we respond?

You're very welcome to join us here
as we explore the Biblical books of
1 and 2 Kings
and
1 and 2 Chronicles
in January and February.
Sunday mornings at 11.00am

munichchristianfellowship.org.uk

2 useful bits of paper:

Reading Plan

Background Paper

Background



The three Kings before Rehoboam:

Saul, David and Solomon

all reigned over a "united" Israel.

Reading plan finished this Thursday, but easy to start it on any date. Can download it from our website.

So far we've investigated:

Rehoboam
Jeroboam I
Ahab
Jehoshaphat
Jehu
Hezekiah



So far we've investigated:

Rehoboam	
Jeroboam I	<u>Still to come:</u>
Ahab	Manasseh
Jehoshaphat	Josiah
Jehu	Zedekiah + Hoshea
Hezekiah	



King Manasseh



King Hezekiah

Dad

Good King

King Manasseh



King Hezekiah

Dad

Good King

King Ahaz

Grandad

Evil King

Manasseh would have had a good childhood? He became King in about 697BC when he was 12 – that’s when a boy is just about to become a man in Jewish culture at his bar mitzvah, but the first 10 years of his reign was co-regency with his dad – it was on the job training. His dad was Hezekiah who was a good King. He probably taught Manasseh to do the right thing.

His grandfather, King Ahaz allowed all kinds of evil in the land.

King Manasseh



A good King?
An evil King?
A mixture?

King Manasseh



2 Kings 21:1-18
2 Chronicles 33:1-20

The Northern Kingdom had already gone into exile by the time he became King and he is listed in Assyrian records as a vassal King. His was the longest reign (55 years) of all the Kings of the Divided Kingdom, and a long reign was thought of as being blessed by God. Archaeologists suggest that there is evidence that economically Judah did well whilst Manasseh reigned, but the destruction of Jerusalem, 50 years after his reign is partly down to him.

Then the Lord said to me, “Even though Moses and Samuel were to stand before Me [interceding for them], My heart would still not be [turned with favour] toward this people [Judah]. Send them away from My presence *and* out of My sight and let them go! And it shall be that when they say to you, ‘Where should we go?’ then tell them, ‘Thus says the Lord:
“Those [destined] for death, to death;
Those for the sword, to the sword;
Those for famine, to famine;
Those for captivity, to captivity.”’

I will appoint four kinds of destroyers over them,” says the Lord, “the sword to slay, the dogs to tear *and* drag away, and the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth to devour and to destroy. I will make them an object of horror to all nations of the earth because of Manasseh [the despicable] son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, for the [evil and detestable] things which he did in Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 15:1-4 [*Amplified Bible*]

Manasseh reverted back to King Ahaz’s ways. His dad’s reforms were undone. High places re-established, other gods were worshipped, even in the Temple in Jerusalem. Human sacrifice happened again. Manasseh led the people astray v9. V10f anonymous prophets challenged him. Judgement is coming. V13 Wiping out the bowl – a complete action. Hezekiah and Manasseh are a stark contrast to each other.

Jewish tradition says that Manasseh wanted Isaiah dead. Isaiah knew this and hid in a hollowed out trunk of a cedar tree. Some men were sent to cut that tree down in order to find Isaiah. He died by being sawn in two. Writer to Hebrews in 11:37 comments on this.

High Places are mentioned a lot when describing the activities of the Kings of the Divided Kingdom. They weren't just elevated places, but were places where people worshipped false gods. They weren't harmless places.

Do we have High Places in our own lives? Perhaps they're not a physical place, but your mind might visit, spend time at and worship bad things?

Our own High Places?

Our own High Places?
attitudes
emotions
thoughts
actions

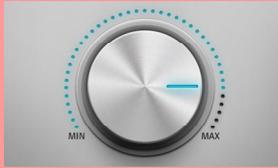
How different are my
attitudes emotions
thoughts actions
to the Kings
I have been reading about?

It's easy to look at the faults of others and to deliberately ignore our own faults - cp Matthew 7:3-5. Do we look at the way other people do wrong things at work maybe and even keep a mental list of what they have done, when and how bad it was in your opinion? It's been pretty easy to think we're much better than the evil Kings we've read about recently. We are not!

We are the same as the Kings.

We are the same as the Kings.
For everyone has sinned;
we all fall short of
God's glorious standard.
Romans 3:23 [New Living Translation]

At what level
is your Default Setting?



“A lie doesn’t become truth
wrong doesn’t become right
and evil doesn’t become good
just because it is accepted
by a majority.”

Rick Warren

How much does sin make you shudder in your own life? Am I generally tolerant of my own evil tendencies but quick to notice every time someone else makes a mistake or does something I consider wrong? Do I allow the devil to seduce me with lies that my sinful thoughts and actions won’t hurt anyone? It isn’t helpful to flirt with temptation. We shouldn’t have a casual attitude towards sin. Sin is sin! We all deserve death, but God has given us life.

2 Kings 21 shows us that Manasseh’s life was terrible and that because of his position of power, he influenced many others to do the same thing. The Message describes him as having “a career in evil.” However, Manasseh’s life wasn’t all evil and awful. 2 Chronicles tell us how he changed.

The Prayer of Manasseh
is part of the Apocrypha.

It is 15 verses long.

2 Chronicles 33:18 says how Manasseh prayed to God. There are a few similar prayers in the Old Testament. Scholars think this Prayer was written much later and isn’t really the actual prayer of Manasseh.

You might feel that part of your life is pretty horrible, but you keep it hidden. All is not lost! Just as Manasseh was able to turn his life around with God’s help, so did Paul of Tarsus. Paul described himself in **1 Timothy 1:15-17**. He was the worst. Manasseh is in same category. Probably on occasion we are all are. God can transform *your* life.

We all have different talents and abilities. Perhaps 10 years ago you could do something well, but now it is much harder as you don’t do it very often.

Our talents and abilities change over time. So does our character! Our relationship with God is in a state of flux too. We have to work at it to make it grow, just like many of us have Continuing Professional Development in our jobs.

Athletes, like musicians, train hard to do their best. It's a daily part of life. Being a disciple of Jesus should be the same.

Thy Kingdom Come 2017
25th May – 4th June

"The most important thing I've ever done is to follow Jesus..... He is the heart and foundation of all I am."

Justin Welby

Video of Justin Welby.

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.

Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Romans 12:1,2 [*The Message*]

Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould.

Romans 12:2 [*J.B. Phillips*]

Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse.

Philippians 4:8 [*The Message*]

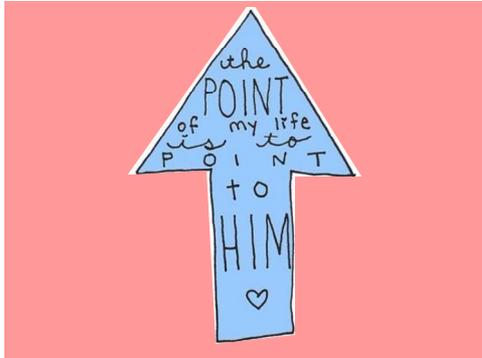
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Philippians 4:8 [*The Message*]

think *continually* on these things [centre your mind on them, and implant them in your heart]. [*Amplified Bible*]

If we're praying at home regularly during the week or reading the Bible, then this will overflow from our lives in a housegroup or on a Sunday morning. It will also overflow in the office or on a bus or a restaurant. Many of the things that happen

when we meet together should be very similar to the things that we do individually during the week. Authentic Christianity is attractive to people – putting on a religious show isn't so good. People can see whether something is real or is put on "for the cameras."



We can't live dual lives if we want to point non-believers to Jesus. We have to be serious with God, we need to not just say He is our Saviour and Lord, but act that way in our lives too.



God is speaking. How will we respond to Him today?