

**THE RISE AND FALL OF THE GOLDEN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL**  
I and II Kings - Session 7 / Wednesday, October 10, 2018

**THE MOST EVIL KING OF THEM ALL**

II Kings 21

1 When we last met, we studied briefly the life of one of Israel's greatest kings, King  
2 Hezekiah. He reigned over Judah for 29 years, 716 - 687 B.C. As we have already  
3 seen, the southern kingdom of Judah had 20 kings, 7 of them good. The northern  
4 Kingdom of Israel had 19 kings, all of them bad.

5  
6 Hezekiah became quite ill and implored God to give him an additional 15 years of life,  
7 which was granted. Unfortunately, during that time, he sired a son called Manasseh, not  
8 only evil, but EXCEEDINGLY wicked. Hezekiah, as was the case with David, was a  
9 good king, but a horrible father.

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11 **THE SHEKINAH GLORY**

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13 The word "shekinah" does not appear in Scripture; however, the concept does. It was  
14 believed that the earthly, physical presence of God dwelt between the wings of the golden  
15 cherubim, which rested on the lid (the mercy seat) of the Ark of the Covenant. However,  
16 the "glory departed" perhaps during the reign of this evil man, Manasseh. As one writer  
17 observed, "*When God's presence left the Temple, it became a desolate place, forsaken by*  
18 *God.*"

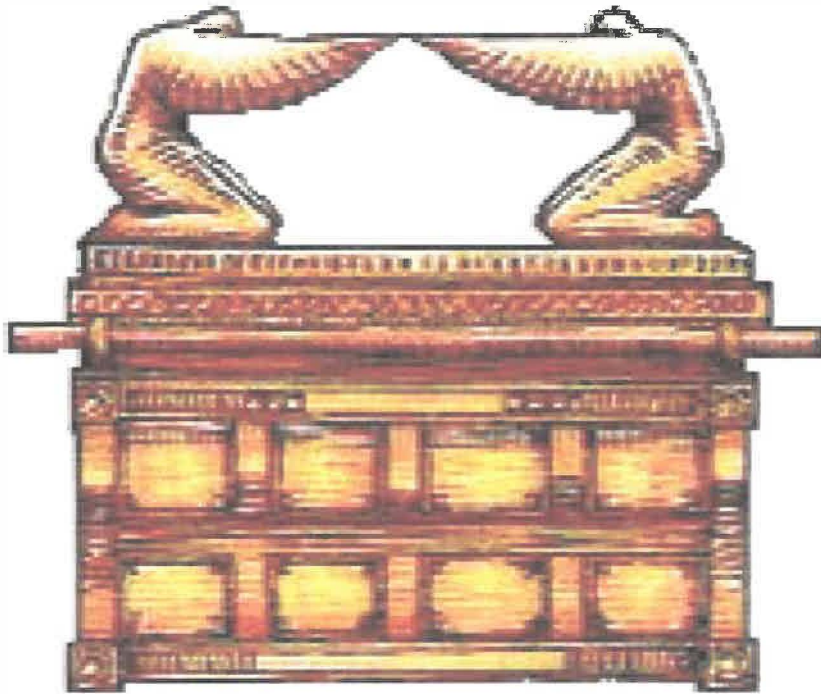
19  
20 Manasseh had no time for God's presence or glory. Let's take the biblical look at this  
21 vile monarch:

22  
23 2 Kings 21:1-2

24 **Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five**  
25 **years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzi-bah. [2] And he did that**  
26 **which was evil in the sight of the Lord, after the abominations of the heathen, whom**  
27 **the Lord cast out before the children of Israel.**

28  
29 Let's stop for a moment for a look at this woman's name. While a strange one to us, it  
30 was not strange in scripture and it had a terrific meaning: Isaiah 62:4

31 **Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be**  
32 **termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzi-bah, and thy land Beulah: for the**  
33 **Lord delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.**



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18 The Ark of the Covenant was situated in the Holy of Holies. On the lid of it, also called the “mercy seat,” were two  
19 golden angels (cherubim) with their wings extended toward each other. It was believed that the earthly presence of  
20 God, called the “shekinah,” dwelt between them.

21  
22 Apparently Manasseh’s mother was a wonderful woman - and his father Hezekiah was  
23 terrific, too. However, sometimes bad children come from good parents.

24  
25 In what ways did the evil inside this young king become evident?

26  
27 2 Kings 21:3-6

28 **For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed;**  
29 **and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and**  
30 **worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. [4] And he built altars in the**  
31 **house of the Lord, of which the Lord said, In Jerusalem will I put my name. [5] And**  
32 **he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord.**  
33 **[6] And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used**  
34 **enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much**  
35 **wickedness in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger.**

36  
37 His father had destroyed almost all traces of idol worship in Judah; now, his son wipes  
38 out this good work by reestablishing idolatry throughout the land. He even made his  
39 own son pass through fire - a human sacrifice. A statue was heated until it was red hot,  
40 and then a baby was placed inside it as an offering to the false god.

1 Continuing the list of grievances against our holy God:

2  
3 2 Kings 21:7-9

4 **And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house, of which**  
5 **the Lord said to David, and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem,**  
6 **which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever: [8]**  
7 **Neither will I make the feet of Israel move any more out of the land which I gave**  
8 **their fathers; only if they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded**  
9 **them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them. [9] But**  
10 **they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the**  
11 **nations whom the Lord destroyed before the children of Israel.**

12  
13 All of this evil was just priming the pump for the Babylonians to sweep down from the  
14 east to conquer Jerusalem and all Judah - with three separate invasions from 608 to 586  
15 BC in which Daniel, Ezekiel and thousands of other Jews would be taken in exile. There  
16 seemed to be no depths of perversion that Manasseh would not explore.

17  
18 Urged on by the religious liberals of his kingdom hierarchy, the king mercilessly  
19 persecuted those who urged reform and devoured the prophets like a destroying lion.  
20 Even old Isaiah, after a long and useful career in state and church affairs, was sawn in  
21 two near the pool of Siloam.

22  
23 But God keeps solid records and judgment was soon to come to this wayward nation:

24  
25 2 Kings 21:10-13

26 **And the Lord spake by his servants the prophets, saying, [11] Because Manasseh**  
27 **king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that**  
28 **the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his**  
29 **idols: [12] Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such**  
30 **evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall**  
31 **tingle. [13] And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet**  
32 **of the house of Ahab: and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it,**  
33 **and turning it upside down.**

34  
35 Note carefully God's words on line 32: "I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish,  
36 wiping it and turning it upside down!" *You may be very clever and sophisticated and*  
37 *think you don't need God, but you are walking on His earth, breathing His air, using His*  
38 *sunshine, and drinking His water. But He wipes His dishes! Nations throughout the*  
39 *centuries lie along the highway of time in rubble and ruin. Do you know why? They did*  
40 *the same thing that our nation is doing today: living without God, feeling no need of Him.*

1 The people of Judah had forgotten that God was their defense, their fortress. And since  
2 they had forsaken Him, He would pull His finger out of the dyke, so to speak, and let  
3 Judah's enemies flow into the land:  
4

5 2 Kings 21:14 and 15

6 **And I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the**  
7 **hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies;**  
8 **Because they have done that which was evil in my sight, and have provoked me to**  
9 **anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day.**

10  
11 Yet still the people went deeper and deeper into their defiance of God -  
12

13 2 Kings 21:16

14 **[16] Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled**  
15 **Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin,**  
16 **in doing that which was evil in the sight of the Lord.**  
17

18 One of the reasons why this study of II Kings is so important to you and me is because we  
19 are seeing our beloved country rule out God at point after point.  
20

21 2 Kings 21:17-18

22 **Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, and all that he did, and his sin that he**  
23 **sinned, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? [18]**  
24 **And Manasseh slept with his fathers, and was buried in the garden of his own house,**  
25 **in the garden of Uzza: and Amon his son reigned in his stead.**  
26

#### 27 MANASSEH'S SUCCESSOR, AMON - A BIRD OF THE FEATHER

28

29 2 Kings 21:19-26

30 **Amon was twenty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two**  
31 **years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Meshullemeth, the daughter of**  
32 **Haruz of Jotbah. [20] And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, as his**  
33 **father Manasseh did. [21] And he walked in all the way that his father walked in,**  
34 **and served the idols that his father served, and worshipped them: [22] And he**  
35 **forsook the Lord God of his fathers, and walked not in the way of the Lord.**

36 **[23] And the servants of Amon conspired against him, and slew the king in his**  
37 **own house. [24] And the people of the land slew all them that had conspired against**  
38 **king Amon; and the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his stead. [25]**  
39 **Now the rest of the acts of Amon which he did, are they not written in the book of**  
40 **the chronicles of the kings of Judah? [26] And he was buried in his sepulchre in the**

1 **garden of Uzza: and Josiah his son reigned in his stead.**

2  
3 Now we come to a reprieve as a young man - just eight years of age - takes the throne and  
4 totally reverses the evil of his grandfather, Manasseh, and father, Amon. His name is  
5 Josiah, the last of the great kings of Judah, under whose reign revival came to the land!

6  
7 CHAPTER 22

8  
9 2 Kings 22:1-2

10 **Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one**  
11 **years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of**  
12 **Boscath. [2] And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in**  
13 **all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.**

14  
15 There are many issues in the world today that cause us great concern; but the one that  
16 seems to concern me the most is the apathy in the church and a growing denial of veracity  
17 of the Word of God. In a moment when we continue with these verses, we will see that  
18 the great Temple in Jerusalem was in dire disrepair. The church, in general today, is in  
19 about the same shape. I am not referring to the buildings; there are many beautiful ones  
20 around. I speak of the pulpit, the messages coming from the pulpit. Let's read on:

21  
22 2 Kings 22:3-6

23 **And it came to pass in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, that the king sent**  
24 **Shaphan the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, the scribe, to the house of the**  
25 **Lord, saying, [4] Go up to Hilkiyah the high priest, that he may sum the silver which**  
26 **is brought into the house of the Lord, which the keepers of the door have gathered of**  
27 **the people: [5] And let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the work, that**  
28 **have the oversight of the house of the Lord: and let them give it to the doers of the**  
29 **work which is in the house of the Lord, to repair the breaches of the house, [6] Unto**  
30 **carpenters, and builders, and masons, and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair**  
31 **the house. [7] Howbeit there was no reckoning made with them of the money that**  
32 **was delivered into their hand, because they dealt faithfully.**

33  
34 Apparently the only thing the Temple was used for when Josiah was young was as a  
35 storehouse for stuff. A warehouse, if you will. King Josiah, wise beyond his years,  
36 said, "No more of this! Repair the Temple and let it be used for the right reasons!"

37  
38 Now read on! It's incredible!

39  
40 2 Kings 22:8

1 **And Hilkiyah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book**  
2 **of the law in the house of the Lord. And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he**  
3 **read it.**

4  
5 Until the priest Hilkiyah found it, no one had the Torah, the books written by Moses,  
6 Genesis through Deuteronomy! The Word of God had been lost!

7  
8 I believe that is the picture of the church in general today. Even some ministries that  
9 purport to be Bible based declare some form of teaching that is foreign to Scripture. I  
10 heard a televised sermon just last week by a preacher who equated the Word of God with  
11 numerology! That's about as close to being a cult as anything I know. There are  
12 thousands of books ABOUT the Bible....but how about just declaring....THE BIBLE!

13  
14  
15

### THE BIBLE LITERACY INITIATIVE

Our Assemblies of God General Superintendent, Doug Clay, has launched a major program that has two main ingredients:

- ✓ Read the Bible on a regular basis
- ✓ Understand what the Scriptures mean

This is a major undertaking because, across the board, people don't read the Bible and, when they do, all too many haven't a clue what it means. I think what Superintendent Clay has begun is the most needed initiative undertaken in our fellowship in a long, long time.

16  
17 Now back to repairing Solomon's Temple and finding the Word:

18  
19 2 Kings 22:9-11

20 **And Shaphan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and**  
21 **said, Thy servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have**  
22 **delivered it into the hand of them that do the work, that have the oversight of the**  
23 **house of the Lord. [10] And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiyah the**  
24 **priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. [11] And it**  
25 **came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent**  
26 **his clothes.**

27  
28 Whether the Temple money had been lost or hidden on purpose we are not told. But the  
29 funding for the repairs was found.

1 Then the Word was read to King Josiah and... “he rent his clothes.” In those days,  
2 tearing your clothes was an expression of deep emotion. In this case - repentance.

3  
4 2 Kings 22:12-13

5 **And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and**  
6 **Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the**  
7 **king's, saying, [13] Go ye, enquire of the Lord for me, and for the people, and for all**  
8 **Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the**  
9 **Lord that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the**  
10 **words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us.**

11  
12 The young king was very frightened because he knew that the people of his nation  
13 deserved God’s anger. Note God’s response:

14  
15 2 Kings 22:16-17

16 **Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the**  
17 **inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath**  
18 **read: [17] Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods,**  
19 **that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my**  
20 **wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched.**

21  
22 But even as God’s anger was hot against the nation, His great heart was tender toward the  
23 young King Josiah:

24  
25 2 Kings 22:19-20

26 **Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the Lord,**  
27 **when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants**  
28 **thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes,**  
29 **and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the Lord. [20] Behold therefore, I**  
30 **will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace:**  
31 **and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they**  
32 **brought the king word again.**

33  
34 Next week, we will study all the reforms initiated by King Josiah. They were many  
35 and they were highly effective!