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YouTube Prayer Link

God's discipline makes us holy

2 Kings 21

2 Kings 21 describes the reign of Manasseh, the son of Hezekiah, who was Judah. Unlike his father, Manasseh was an evil king who did evil in the eyes of Yahweh. He imitated the customs of the nations around Judah, worshipped other gods, built altars for them in the temple of the Lord, and even offered his own sons to foreign gods.

Because of his wicked deeds, Jehovah promised to bring calamity to Judah and Jerusalem. Manasseh was also responsible for the many innocent bloodsheds, and the author of 2 Kings blamed Manasseh's sins for Israel's exile to Assyria and later Judah's exile to Babylon.

Manasseh was succeeded by his son Ammon, who also did evil in the eyes of Jehovah and followed his father's example. He was eventually assassinated by his own officials, and his son Josiah became king in his place.

Chapter 21 warns us not of the dangers of idolatry and the consequences of turning away from the Lord. Although the Lord can offer mercy and forgiveness, the consequences of sin can have a lasting impact on individuals and entire nations.

The Wrath of the Lord:

And I will forsake the remnant of my people, and will deliver them into the hand of my enemies, and they will become a prey to all their enemies, because they have done evil in my sight, since their fathers came out of Egypt until now, and have provoked me to anger. 』

Manasseh's many evil deeds are related to control, all kinds of false god worship is to get power from false gods to control the surrounding environment, to look at the stars in the sky in order to have control over the future, witchcraft and ghost behavior are also to gain power and control, let his son pass through the fire, he pays the price to get something, observant omen and spells, also to let him have more control over his environment, not to mention killing innocent people, directly controlling people's life and death.

Despite this, Manasseh repented of his actions at the end of his life and prayed to the Lord for forgiveness. The Lord heard his prayer and had mercy on him, but the damage had already been done, and the author noted that Manasseh's sins were so great that they could not be fully forgiven. Manasseh was succeeded by his son Ammon, who also did evil in the eyes of Jehovah and followed his father's example. He was eventually assassinated by his own officials, and his son Josiah became king in his place.

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God chose Israel from Egypt to be a kingdom of priests as a holy nation to bear witness on earth, not only to God's love and mercy, but also to God's justice and holiness. So, God sustains the testimony with blessings when the people are obedient, and discipline sustains the testimony when the people are disobedient.

Romans 2-4: Now God uses "abundant kindness, forbearance, and patience" not to contain sin, but to lead people to repentance by His mercy (Rom. 2:4; 2 Chronicles 33:12-16). "God shall not be mocked" (Galatians 6:7), and when God's people allow their unrepentant hearts to "store up wrath for themselves, so that the day of God's wrath may come to show his righteous judgment" (Romans 2:4), God will "chastise him with the rod of man, and chastise him with the scourging of men" (2 Samuel 7:14).

Today, when we preach the gospel only "God is love" (1 John 4:16) but not "our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:18-29), Matthew 23:15 "seduces a man into religion, and when he is converted, he makes him a son of hell."

In the Bible, God uses the concept of discipline many times. Here are some Bible passages that deal with God's discipline and guidance over humanity: Hebrews 12:5-11

This passage emphasizes God's discipline as a father treats his son, for our good and to share in his holiness.

Revelation 3:19

Here, God tells us that He wants to rebuke and discipline those He loves, so they should be zealous in repentance.

Proverbs 3:11-12

These verses speak of God disciplining those He loves, just as a father disciplines and loves His son.

Psalms 94:12-13

This passage shows that those who are disciplined by God will find rest until evil is removed.

Isaiah 48:17-18

Here, God calls His people to heed His teachings so that they can receive peace and righteousness.

We pray together:

Dear Heavenly Father,

We gather here to pray to you. Please soothe the irritability and confusion in our hearts and let us feel your peace and love. Through your discipline, help us to understand your will more deeply and walk your path. Lead us and let our hearts be at peace and comfort.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

2 Kings 21

21:1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for fifty-five years. His mother's name was Xieba.

21:2 Manasses did evil things in the eyes of Yahweh and the Chinese, and imitated the abominations of the Gentiles whom Yahweh and Hua had done before the Israelis.

21:3 And he rebuilt the high places which his father Hezekiah had destroyed, and made altars for Baal, and made statues of Asherah, after the work of King Ahab of Israel, and worshipped and served all the elephants of heaven.

21:4 and build an altar in the temple of Yahwah. And Jehovah said of this temple, I will put my name upon Jerusalem.

21:5 He built altars for all the elephants of heaven in the two houses of the temple of Yahwa.

21:6 And he caused his sons to pass through fire, and to observe signs, and to use magic, and to make friends with demons and witchcrafters, and to do many things that were evil in the eyes of Yahweh, and provoke him to anger.

21:7 And he set up an image of Asherah carved in the temple. And Jehovah said unto David and to his son Solomon, Jerusalem, and this house, which I have chosen among the tribes of Israel, shall bear my name unto eternity.

21:8 If the Israelites will be careful to do all the laws which I have commanded them, and all the laws which my servant Moses commanded them, I will not cause them to move away from the land which I have given them to their fathers.

21:9 But they did not listen. Manasseh led them into doing evil more than Yahweh had annihilated before the Israelis.

21:10 And the LORD said by his servants the prophets,

21:11 For Manasseh king of Judah did these abominations more than the former Amorians did, and the Jews worshipped his image and fell into sin.

21:12 Therefore thus saith the God of Yahweh and Flower, 'I will bring evil upon Jerusalem and on Judah, so that every one who hears will have a ringing in their ears.

21:13 And I will use the gauge of Samaria and the line of Ahabkiah on Jerusalem, and I will wipe Jerusalem clean, and if anyone wipes a plate, he shall turn it upside down.

21:14 I will abandon what remains of my people (the original work) and hand them over to the enemy, and make them all hostile and prey.

21:15 It is because they have been doing things that are evil in my eyes, and have provoked me to anger since they came out of Egypt from their fathers to the present day.

21:16 Manasseh did evil things in the eyes of Yahweh and the Chinese people, and they made the Jews fall into sin, and shed a great deal of innocent blood, and filled Jerusalem from one side to the other.

21:17 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, all his deeds and all the sins he committed, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah.

21:18 Manasseh slept with his fathers and was buried in the garden of Uzah in his own palace. His sons succeeded him as king.

21:19 Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for two years. His mother's name was Mishulimi, and she was the daughter of Harus of Jotiba.

21:20 Amon did what was evil in the eyes of Hohvah, as his father Marnazi did.

21:21 to do all that his father did, and to the image of his father,

21:22 forsaken the God of Yahweh's fathers, and walked not in the ways of Yahweh.

21:23 And the servants of King Amon rebelled against him, and slew him in the palace.

21:24 But the nation slew those who had rebelled against the kings of Asia, and made his son Josiah king in his place.

21:25 Now the rest of the acts of Amen are written in the book of the kings of Judah.

21:26 Amon was buried in his own tomb in the garden of Uzzah. And Josiah his son succeeded him as king.

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In 2 Kings 21, the key verses are:

Verse 1: "Manasseh was twelve years old when he ascended the throne, and he reigned

Jerusalem 55 years. His mother's name was Hefziba.

Verse 2: "He did evil in the sight of the Lord, and imitated the abomination of the nations which the Lord had driven out before the children of Israel.

Verse 16: "Moreover Manasseh shed much innocent blood, which filled Jerusalem from beginning to end—except for the sin which he had caused Judah to commit, that they might do evil in the sight of the Lord.

These verses describe the reign of King Manasseh, one of the most wicked kings of Judah. Despite his long reign, he was known for his wickedness and idolatry, which led to the fall of Judah. This passage emphasizes the importance of obeying God's laws and avoiding idolatry. These verses can be found in 2 Kings 21:1, 2, and 16.

In 2 Kings 21, we come across the account of Manasseh, one of the kings of Judah, whose reign was characterized by idolatry and wickedness. This chapter offers a few points to think about:

Influence of Leadership: Manasseh's reign was marked by great wickedness as he led Judah to idolatry and abomination. His leadership influenced the spiritual climate of the entire country and led people away from the worship of the true God. This highlights the significant impact that leaders can have on the moral and spiritual direction of a nation or community. It serves as a reminder of the responsibilities that leaders take and the potential consequences of their actions and choices.

Consequences of Sin: This chapter describes the idolatrous and wicked consequences of Judah under Manasseh. God declared that He would bring calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah, leading to their destruction and exile. This is a sobering reminder of the consequences of continued disobedience and rebellion against God. It emphasizes the importance of obedience and fidelity to God's commands, as well as the need to repent and turn to God.

God's Faithfulness and Warning: Despite the severity of Judah's sins, God continued to extend a hand of mercy and sent His prophets to warn the people. He longed for their repentance and restoration. This shows God's faithfulness and his desire to see his people come to him. It reminds us of God's patience and His

constant quest for reconciliation with His children, even in the face of their rebellion.

Defiling the Holy Land: Manasseh's sin extends to the desecration of the temple in Jerusalem. He set up idols and altars in the house of the Lord, defiling the sacred space that should have worshiped only God. This is a powerful reminder of the importance of respecting and revering the sanctity of places of worship. It prompts us to take a look at our own lives and ensure that we give God the reverence and respect they deserve in all aspects of our worship.

The Ripple Effect of Sin: Manasseh's evil influence transcended his own rule. This chapter mentions that he "caused Judah to sin" and led the people to do worse than the nations that God had driven out before them. This highlights the destructive nature of sin, as well as its ability to influence and corrupt others. It serves as a warning to be wary of the effects of sinful actions, to strive for justice, and to recognize that our actions can have a profound impact on those around us.

Overall, 2 Kings 21 reflects on the impact of leadership, the consequences of sin, God's faithfulness and warnings, the defilement of the Holy Land, and the chain effects of sin. It calls us to examine our own lives, leadership roles, and influences, recognizing the importance of obeying God's commands, the need to repent and turn unto Him, and our responsibility in shaping the spiritual climate of our communities. It also reminds us of God's faithfulness in exercising mercy and his desire to see his people return to him.