

2 Chronicles 33 – God’s Grace – Manasseh’s Reign, Repentance and Restoration – Great Hope!

1/11/16 CCM Missions Conf. #4 – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

AMAZING GRACE! – Newton – sung by Judy Collins

1. *Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now I’m found; Was blind, but now I see.*
2. *’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.*
3. *Through many dangers, toils and snares, we have already come; ’Twas grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead us home.*
4. *When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun. (Repeat verse 1)*

2 Chronicles 33 – Manasseh's evil reign.

As we have seen, Hezekiah had been sick unto death, but he had prayed to God and Isaiah had prayed with him. He had some sort of boil which may well have been a cancer. God healed him and extended his life for fifteen years. That was a gracious dispensation on the part of God in answer to prayer. But when one looks at this in the full light of the history that followed, one wonders if it was the best thing that could have taken place. First of all, it was during that fifteen-year period after his life had been spared that Hezekiah displayed the wealth of his kingdom to the ambassadors from Babylon. This opened the door for Nebuchadnezzar to come years later and take the city. He knew exactly where the gold was, and he took it by force. That gold in Israel tempted Babylon to come and take it. It had been a very foolish thing for Hezekiah to show that gold to them. Secondly, you will notice here that Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign. This means that this boy was born during the fifteen-year period after God had extended the life of Hezekiah. Manasseh was the most wicked king of all. During his reign there was such godlessness that God had to intervene.

Manasseh (means to forget) Reigns in Judah

2Ch 33:1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem.

2Ch 33:2 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.

2Ch 33:3 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.

2Ch 33:4 He also built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem shall My name be forever."

2Ch 33:5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

2Ch 33:6 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.

2Ch 33:7 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;

2Ch 33:8 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."

2Ch 33:9 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.

Manasseh's Repentance

2Ch 33:10 And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen.

2Ch 33:11 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.

2Ch 33:12 Now when he was in affliction, he implored the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,

2Ch 33:13 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.

2Ch 33:14 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.

2Ch 33:15 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.

2Ch 33:16 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.

2Ch 33:17 Nevertheless the people still sacrificed on the high places, but only to the LORD their God.

2Ch 33:18 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, his prayer to his God, and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of the LORD God of Israel, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel.

2Ch 33:19 Also his prayer and how God received his entreaty, and all his sin and trespass, and the sites where he built high places and set up wooden images and carved images, before he was humbled, indeed they are written among the sayings of Hozai.

2Ch 33:20 So Manasseh rested with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house. Then his son Amon reigned in his place.

Amon's Reign and Death

2Ch 33:21 Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem.

2Ch 33:22 But he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done; for Amon sacrificed to all the carved images which his father Manasseh had made, and served them.

2Ch 33:23 And he did not humble himself before the LORD, as his father Manasseh had humbled himself; but Amon trespassed more and more.

2Ch 33:24 Then his servants conspired against him, and killed him in his own house.

2Ch 33:25 But the people of the land executed all those who had conspired against King Amon. Then the people of the land made his son Josiah king in his place.

SUMMARY:

- We've said good bye to Hezekiah, one of the greatest kings of Judah, who had reigned 29 years.
- Manasseh became king at 12 years old. Born about 3 years after Hezekiah's illness. He reigned 55 years.
- Although raised in the most godly environment, Manasseh, demonstrating his sin nature, was the most wicked king in Israel during the first portion of his reign, tearing down good things and introducing bad things!
- Hezekiah practiced all the evil of the unbelieving nations that God had driven out. He rebuilt the high places of orgies. He built altars, worshipping idols and a carved image into the house of God. He re-introduced the sacrifice of babies to Baal, and caused his sons to pass through the fire! He practiced soothsaying, witchcraft, sorcery, consulting mediums and spiritists, provoking the LORD to anger! He demonized and seduced Judah and Jerusalem! He didn't listen to God, speaking through prophets, such as Isaiah, probably killing him by sawing him in half.
- God caused Assyria to come and take Manasseh to Babylon, captive in nose hooks and fetters.
- Now in affliction in Babylon, he implored the LORD, humbled himself greatly; prayed; making entreaty.
- God, in his great grace, heard his supplication and brought him back to Jerusalem – "*then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God*", doing a complete 180 turn to being a most Godly king! Manasseh must have been thinking, although I'm so guilty, now I'm "Accepted in the Beloved"!
- This is such a remarkable and wonderful example of God's grace! As soon as God heard Manasseh's call, He picked that call right up! Who is a God like unto Thee? A holy love based on Christ's sacrifice.
- What hope it brings for all unbelievers and for our prayer and supplications for their salvation!

THE LORD'S PRAYER – Jim Naborb

Please Note: You may see/download past notes/audio of the Bible Prayer Devotionals by going to: www.ptwente.com