

¹ Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. His mother was Hephzibah. ² He did what was evil in the LORD's sight, following the detestable practices of the pagan nations that the LORD had driven from the land ahead of the Israelites. ³ He rebuilt the pagan shrines his father, Hezekiah, had destroyed. He constructed altars for Baal and set up an Asherah pole, just as King Ahab of Israel had done. He also bowed before all the powers of the heavens and worshiped them. ⁴ He built pagan altars in the Temple of the LORD, the place where the LORD had said, "My name will remain in Jerusalem forever." ⁵ He built these altars for all the powers of the heavens in both courtyards of the LORD's Temple. ⁶ Manasseh also sacrificed his own son in the fire. He practiced sorcery and divination, and he consulted with mediums and psychics. He did much that was evil in the LORD's sight, arousing his anger. ⁷ Manasseh even made a carved image of Asherah and set it up in the Temple.... ⁹ But the people refused to listen, and Manasseh **led them** to do even more evil than the pagan nations that the LORD had destroyed when the people of Israel entered the land. ¹⁰ Then the LORD said through his servants the prophets: ¹¹ "King Manasseh of Judah has done many detestable things. He is even more wicked than the Amorites, who lived in this land before Israel. He has **caused the people** of Judah to sin with his idols. ¹² So this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I will bring such disaster on Jerusalem and Judah that the ears of those who hear about it will tingle with horror. ¹³ I will judge Jerusalem by the same standard I used for Samaria and the same measure I used for the family of Ahab. I will wipe away the people of Jerusalem as one wipes a dish and turns it upside down. ¹⁴ Then I will reject even the remnant

of my own people who are left, and I will hand them over as plunder for their enemies. ¹⁵ For they have done great evil in my sight and have angered me ever since their ancestors came out of Egypt." ¹⁶ Manasseh also murdered many innocent people until Jerusalem was filled from one end to the other with innocent blood. This was in addition to the sin that he **caused the people** of Judah to commit, **leading them** to do evil in the LORD's sight. **2 Kings 21:1-16 (NLT)**

Manasseh's sin...

- _____ the people to sin - He set the _____
- _____ the people to sin - He was _____
- Led to _____ consequences.

¹¹ So the LORD sent the commanders of the Assyrian armies, and they took Manasseh prisoner. They put a ring through his nose, bound him in bronze chains, and led him away to Babylon. **2 Chronicles 33:11 (NLT)**

But, there is still hope...

¹² But while in deep distress, Manasseh sought the LORD his God and sincerely humbled himself before the God of his ancestors. ¹³ And when he prayed, the LORD listened to him and was moved by his request. So the LORD brought Manasseh back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh finally realized that the LORD alone is God! **2 Chronicles 33:12-13 (NLT)**

Manasseh...

- _____ himself
- _____

- Was _____
- Was _____

¹⁴ After this Manasseh rebuilt the outer wall of the City of David, from west of the Gihon Spring in the Kidron Valley to the Fish Gate, and continuing around the hill of Ophel. He built the wall very high. And he stationed his military officers in all of the fortified towns of Judah. ¹⁵ Manasseh also removed the foreign gods and the idol from the LORD's Temple. He tore down all the altars he had built on the hill where the Temple stood and all the altars that were in Jerusalem, and he dumped them outside the city. ¹⁶ Then he restored the altar of the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings and thanksgiving offerings on it. He also encouraged the people of Judah to worship the LORD, the God of Israel.

My Next Steps Today Is To...

- Meditate on 2 Chronicles 33:12-13.
- Recognize that my actions influence others more deeply than I believed.
- Humble myself so that I might see changes in life.
- Ask Jesus into my life as I turn away from those actions that build walls between me from God.