

God's Patience, Justice, and Hope

2 Kings 21:1-25:30

Key Verse: 21:25-26

“Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did - with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses. Nevertheless, the Lord did not turn away from the heat of his fierce anger, which burned against Judah because of all that Manasseh had done to provoke him to anger.”

1. What kind of a king was Manasseh and how great was the evil Manasseh did in the eyes of the LORD? Compare with his father Hezekiah. (21:1-7a) What was the people's problem? (7b-9) Why would God bring disaster upon Jerusalem and Judah? (10-15) Besides leading Judah astray, what other sins did Manasseh commit? (16-18) Describe Amon who was Manasseh's son. (19-26)
2. What sort of king was Josiah? (22:1,2) What did he do in the eighteenth year of his reign? (22:3-7) What did Josiah want to know when he heard the words of the Book of the Law? (8-13) What did the prophetess Huldah prophesy? (14-20)
3. What did Josiah do first upon hearing the prophecy? (23:1-3) How thorough were Josiah's reforms? (4-14) How did he extend his reforms? (15-20) To what extent did he uphold the Law of Moses? (21-25) Why did Josiah carry out such sweeping and thorough reforms? (22:13)
4. Nevertheless, why would the LORD not turn away from his anger that burned against Judah? (23:26,27) Think about Israel's wickedness so deeply rooted that nothing could remove it in spite of Josiah's reform. How was God's word fulfilled which said Josiah wouldn't see the disaster to take place? (23:28-30; 22:20) What sort of kings were Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim? (31-37)
5. Why was the LORD going to destroy Judah by King Nebuchadnezzar's hand? (24:1-4) Who became king after Jehoiakim, and which nation became a superpower? (5-7) What sort of king was Jehoiachin in the sight of the LORD? (8,9) How did the LORD's anger burn against Jerusalem and Judah? (10-20)

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6. Why did Zedekiah rebel against the king of Babylon, and what was the result? (25:1-7) (2 Ch. 36:12,13) How was Jerusalem and the temple of the LORD destroyed, and what happened to Judah? (25:8-21) What was God's purpose in taking Israel and exiling them from the land? What happened among the people staying on the mainland? (22-26) How does the book of 2 Kings close? (27-30) What does this tell us?