

Was There Any Hope for This Totally Wicked King?

2 Chronicles 33:9-19

Saul of Tarsus considered himself the “chief of sinners” (*1 Tim. 1:15*) for his crimes of persecuting, arresting and even putting to death the beloved disciples of the Lord. And yet Saul obtained mercy and became an example to future generations that no one is beyond the grace of God. Our sins are great; God’s grace is greater.

An Old Testament illustration is the life of King Manasseh, one of the most wicked kings ever to reign on the throne of Jerusalem. He reigned 55 years and “did evil in the sight of the LORD” (*2 Chron. 33:2*). He rejected the path of his godly father Hezekiah and plunged the nation into idolatry. He defiled God’s holy temple. He worshiped the heavenly bodies. He sacrificed and burned his own children to the horrible false god Moloch. He delved into witchcraft and demonism. He caused the people in his kingdom to act worse than the heathen around them. He was also guilty of the blood of God’s prophet Isaiah, whom he murdered by sawing him into two pieces (*Heb. 11:37*). Every aspect of this king’s reign was wicked and an abomination to God.

Was there any hope for one of Judah’s most ungodly kings? God’s ways are so wonderful. God allowed this king to be captured, punished, brought to Babylon and greatly afflicted. As a result, Manasseh cried out to God and humbled himself greatly. He sincerely prayed to God. The Lord received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem. Manasseh then showed fruits of repentance by removing the idols from God’s temple and by sacrificing peace offerings and thank offerings.

Dear one, learn from Manasseh. No matter how wickedly you have lived, and no matter how long you have lived that way, you can still turn to a merciful God.

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



Was There Any Hope for This Totally Wicked King?

2 Chronicles 33:9-19

Saul of Tarsus considered himself the “chief of sinners” (*1 Tim. 1:15*) for his crimes of persecuting, arresting and even putting to death the beloved disciples of the Lord. And yet Saul obtained mercy and became an example to future generations that no one is beyond the grace of God. Our sins are great; God’s grace is greater.

An Old Testament illustration is the life of King Manasseh, one of the most wicked kings ever to reign on the throne of Jerusalem. He reigned 55 years and “did evil in the sight of the LORD” (*2 Chron. 33:2*). He rejected the path of his godly father Hezekiah and plunged the nation into idolatry. He defiled God’s holy temple. He worshiped the heavenly bodies. He sacrificed and burned his own children to the horrible false god Moloch. He delved into witchcraft and demonism. He caused the people in his kingdom to act worse than the heathen around them. He was also guilty of the blood of God’s prophet Isaiah, whom he murdered by sawing him into two pieces (*Heb. 11:37*). Every aspect of this king’s reign was wicked and an abomination to God.

Was there any hope for one of Judah’s most ungodly kings? God’s ways are so wonderful. God allowed this king to be captured, punished, brought to Babylon and greatly afflicted. As a result, Manasseh cried out to God and humbled himself greatly. He sincerely prayed to God. The Lord received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem. Manasseh then showed fruits of repentance by removing the idols from God’s temple and by sacrificing peace offerings and thank offerings.

Dear one, learn from Manasseh. No matter how wickedly you have lived, and no matter how long you have lived that way, you can still turn to a merciful God.

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

