

## Lesson 22: 2 Kings 21:1 to 23:37 More Evil than Good Kings

In our last lesson, King Hezekiah reigned over Judah. He was a good king, he is thought by many to be one of the best kings. Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, attacked ***Samaria*** and laid siege to it. Then King Sennacherib, king of Assyria, attacked all the fortified ***cities of Judah*** and captured them. The Assyrians began to attack and conquer cities in Judah. King Hezekiah listens to the prophet Isaiah for guidance and is firm in his faith in YHWH when he is confronted by the Assyrians who were about to attack Jerusalem. Then an **angel of the Lord** at night, struck down one hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. Sennacherib went home to Nineveh the capital of Assyria. When the Assyrian king was worshipping his god there, he was struck down and killed ***by his own sons***. Some time later, King Hezekiah of Judah became ill. While on his death bed, he prayed to God to extend his life. God sent **Isaiah** to Hezekiah to tell him his life would be extended 15 years. The second part of the chapter documents how Hezekiah showed off all the treasures of Jerusalem to a Babylonian envoy. Isaiah, by the Spirit of God, prophesied that one day, all those precious things in Jerusalem would be carried away to Babylon.

### 1. Read 2 Kings 21:1-9 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.

- a. Who is the king of Judah in these verses?
- b. Who was his father?
- c. What were the accomplishments of the king in the following verses

2 Kings 21:3

2 Kings 21:4-5

2 Kings 21:6

2 Kings 21:7

d. Read 2 Kings 21:8-10. The LORD gave Judah a chance for redemption in Verse 21:8. What is it the LORD required of Judah?

### 2. Read 2 Kings 21:10- 18 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.

- a. Compare translations from your bible for 21:9-11. The numbering of verses varies from translation to translation in this chapter.
- b. How is Manassa's reign described in verses 9b-10, and 16?
- c. The LORD sent a prophet to speak the word of the LORD. What does the prophet say about King Manassa?
- d. How does the prophet describe the fate of Judah?
- f. What action does the LORD say, (through his prophet), He will take against Judah and why? (See 21:14-15)

### 3. Read 2 Kings 21:19-26 and footnotes. Share any footnotes.

- a. What do we know about King Amon in verses 19-22, and 26?
- b. How did he die?
- c. Who avenged his death? (in this period, "*people of the land*" referred to the important citizenry, whose influence sometimes extended to the selection of royal successors)

### 4. Read 2 Kings 22:1-11 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.

King Josiah reigned from ~640 BC to 609 BC.

- a. What do we know about King Josiah from these verses?

- b. What project is King Josiah beginning in 22:4-7?
- c. What important discovery was made in 22:8-11?
- d. How did the King respond to hearing the words read aloud to him in 22:11

5. Read 2 Kings 22:12-20 and footnotes.

- a. To whom does King Josiah send his entourage of trusted men, to consult the LORD for him and Judah?
- b. What is the message from the LORD in 22:16-17?
- c. What message is given for *King Josiah personally*? See 22:19-20.

6. Read 2 Kings 23:1-20 and footnotes. *Share any helpful footnotes.*

- a. What actions does King Josiah take in 23:1-3?
- b. How does King Josiah “clean house” in the following verses?
  - 23:4
  - 23:5
  - 23:6
  - 23:7
  - 23:8-9
  - 23:10
  - 23:11-12
- c. Josiah destroys evidence of King Solomon’s apostasy in 23:13-14. What does he undo in these verses?
- d. Next Josiah destroys some of the evil places that *King Jeroboam* made. What does he do in 2 Kings 23:15-16a?
- e. Read 1 Kings 13:1-2, 26-32 to recall the unnamed prophets mentioned in 2 Kings 23:16b-18. Why did King Josiah leave this burial place undisturbed?
- f. More “house cleaning” is done in 2 Kings 23:19-20. What is the king doing in these verses?

7. Read 2 Kings 23:21-37 and footnotes.

- a. What sacred holy day did King Josiah call Judah together to celebrate?
- b. Did all of King Josiah’s reforms change the fate of Judah? (2 Kings 23:25-27.)
- c. How did King Josiah die?
- d. What do we know about King Jehoahaz?
- e. Under what circumstances was King Jehoahaz removed from the throne?
- f. Who became king after King Jehoahaz?

8. Reflection on King Josiah. If *you* knew that your community was in danger of destruction no matter what you do, would you still try to save it anyway?