

Extreme evil, extravagant grace

2 Kings 21; 2 Chronicles 33 (p. 311)

I. EXTREME EVIL – MANASSEH'S GREAT EVIL LED JUDAH TO WORSE SIN THAN PAGANS (2 KINGS 21:1-18).

- A. Manasseh reigned 55 years imitating the evil nations God drove out before them (21:1-2).
- B. Manasseh reversed all the godly progress his father Hezekiah had made (21:3-9).
 - He rebuilt high places, restored Baal and Asherah worship, worshipped stars, put false altars and an Asherah pole in God's temple and sacrificed his son in fire.
- C. Through the prophets God declared Jerusalem and Judah would be destroyed and plundered (21:10-18).

II. EXTRAVAGANT GRACE – GOD DISCIPLINED MANASSEH, BUT SHOWED HIM GRACE WHEN HE HUMBLER HIMSELF (2 CHRONICLES 33:10-20).

- A. Assyria took Manasseh as a humiliated prisoner (33:10-11).
- B. Manasseh humbled himself and God was moved by his repentance to bring him back to Jerusalem (33:12-13).
- C. Manasseh got rid of idolatry and told Judah to worship God (33:14-17).
- D. Manasseh left a mixed legacy of great sin, but also God's great grace (33:18-20).
- E. Manasseh's son Amon followed his father's wickedness, not his humility, and was assassinated (33:21-25).

Grace principles

- God's grace is never limited by the seriousness of sin.
- God's grace seeks out humility, not righteousness.
- God's grace to us may not fix the impact of our sin on others.

We are most like God when we show extravagant grace.