

Royal Lessons for Life

Manasseh and Amon

(Judah)

Manasseh's Biography

- Manasseh takes the throne at age 12 and reigns for 55 years, the longest reign of any Jewish monarch – II Kings 21:1, II Chronicles 33:1
- His reign is generally considered the worst of any of the kings.
 - He encouraged idolatry and put pagan altars in the Temple courtyard – II Kings 21:2-8, II Chronicles 33:2-8
 - He offered his own children as sacrifices - II Kings 21:6, II Chronicles 33:6
 - He caused the nation to be more wicked than the pagans that surrounded them - II Kings 21:9, II Chronicles 33:9
 - The prophets spoke against him, but he would not heed their warnings - II Kings 21:10-16, II Chronicles 33:10
 - Tradition says that he killed the prophet Isaiah by sawing him in half.
- He loses favor with the Assyrians who imprison him – II Chronicles 33:11
 - I think this is related to the rebellion of Shamash-shum-ukin, who was in charge over Babylon, against his younger brother Ashurbanipal, who was the great king of Assyria. This would be 5-10 years before his death.
- During his captivity, he repents and turns toward God – II Chronicles 33:12-13
- He is released (possibly proven innocent of his charges?) and is again on the throne – II Chronicles 33:13
- His return is marked by renewed military defenses, removal of idolatry, and a return to worshipping God – II Chronicles 33:14-17
- He dies is succeeded by his son Amon - II Kings 21:17-18, II Chronicles 33:18-20

Amon's Biography

- Amon reigns for two years and was a very wicked king - II Kings 21:19-22, II Chronicles 33:21-23
- He is slain after a conspiracy in the palace – II Kings 21:25-26, II Chronicles 33:24
- The people kill the conspirators and put his eight-year-old son Josiah on the throne - II Kings 21:4, II Chronicles 33:25

Lessons from the Lives of Manasseh and Amon

- Manasseh is a great example that even the most wicked person can still find forgiveness in God – Romans 10:11-13
- Amon is an example of someone who failed to learn from another's mistakes – Proverbs 13:20