

II CHRONICLES

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to II Chronicles chapter 32 as we continue our study through the Word of God. As you remember from our last study, Hezekiah is the king in the Southern Kingdom of Judah and he was a good king. Hezekiah loved the Lord and he brought revival back to the land, he brought the people back to the true and living God. And things are going well and most people would think that nothing can go wrong. The people love the Lord and the Lord will honor that!

It is true that the Lord will honor our faithfulness but that does not mean that there will not be a reaction from Hell when we draw close to God! You see, that goes for our own personal revival, a church that is experiencing revival or even a nation, all Hell will break loose and try to put a halt to it! Folk's, we know what the Bible says, that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against the spirit world, against the demonic forces!

Why does God allow this when His people have returned to Him? I think God allows it to test us so we can see what is in our heart, who we are going to put our trust in during those difficult times. Those are the times that our faith grows as we take the Word of God and apply it to our daily lives, apply it to the situations that we are facing. And we will see that here with Hezekiah and the Southern Kingdom of Judah in our study this evening. And keep in mind that as this revival under Hezekiah is under way, there is going to be an attack of Satan against them and he will work through others to bring about his plan as we will see. With that said let's begin reading in II Chronicles chapter 32, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

II CHRONICLES 32**VERSE 1**

1. I think it is important that we understand that “**After these deeds of faithfulness**” the enemy came against the Southern Kingdom of Judah. And, as I have said, this was not a judgment from God upon them, it was a test or trail to draw them closer to God and Satan was using it as a temptation to draw them away from God. And you know what can happen in our own lives. We get into situations like this and we throw our hands up in the air and say, “What is the use, I am serving the Lord and now this happens to me!” That is the wrong perspective to have. God is working and all He wants you to do is to draw close to Him, trust in Him and see the salvation that He will bring to the situation. It may not be easy as we see here with Hezekiah, as the Assyrians, under the leadership of Sennacherib came against them!

2. Now we are not told about this here in II Chronicles but in II Kings 18:13-16 we are told that when this first took place that Hezekiah caved in and paid the Assyrians off not to harm them. Maybe he thought it was better to give in and be safe than fight against them. A better red than dead mentality might have been what he was thinking.

And keep in mind that at this time the Northern Kingdom of Israel had already been taken away captive, in 721 B. C. And Now Sennacherib is leading a campaign against the Southern Kingdom of Judah in the 14th year of Hezekiah's reign or around 701 B. C. And the Assyrian records claim that he captured 46 Judean towns before he went after Jerusalem. So this was not an empty threat. Hezekiah was not overreacting when he caved in. The fate of the nation was a stake. The problem was that Hezekiah did not trust the Lord at first.

And again, we need to understand that the Assyrians were a very cruel people. They would go and cut off the heads of their enemies and place them on poles. They would then take these pole's and place them around the city they were fighting against to strike fear in their hearts. All this was done to make the people surrender without a fight. They would also put their prisoners to death very slowly and painfully. One way was to peel off the skin of their victim over 4 or 5 hours, until they died. They would put hooks through the noses or lips of their captives and lead them away, back to their land, to Nineveh, northwest of Syria. With that information, you can easily understand why Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh and preach of a coming judgment unless they repented. Jonah wanted the Assyrians destroyed and he knew God's mercy, that if they did repent, He would spare them. So Jonah took a boat to try and get away from what God wanted him to do, but God brought a fish that acted as a submarine for Jonah to pick him up and bring him to Nineveh to complete the work he was suppose to do. And so we can understand also why Hezekiah was a little nervous when the Assyrians came down upon them.

3. Here in Chronicles we get the positive things that Hezekiah did in this situation, so let's read on and see, as their backs are up against the wall, the nation is getting ready to fall to the Assyrians, and see what Hezekiah will do. And keep in mind that these are lessons for us to learn from when our backs are up against the wall!

VERSES 2-8

1. Hezekiah sees what is happening and stopped the water supply outside the city of Jerusalem so that the Assyrians would not be able to have a fresh water supply. You see, Jerusalem's water supply was very vulnerable to attack because they were located outside the city. Thus, to get fresh water you would have to open the gates of the city, which gave the enemy free entrance. Jerusalem had two main sources of water, the spring of Gihon in the Kidron valley and the spring of En-Rogel which was two miles to the south.

To build this tunnel Hezekiah had two groups of workers. One group was working from the Spring of Gihon digging a tunnel through solid rock towards the city, and another group digging from the Pool of Siloam out of the city. His goal was to bring the water supply into the city. And this tunnel, which is some 1,777 feet long, was a constant source of fresh water once it was completed. In fact, you can go to Israel today and see this tunnel that Hezekiah built and it is amazing. And all this was done so when the Assyrians came to attack, they would be the ones without the water, which is not a good thing, especially in that part of the world!

2. I want you to see that in these verses there are two important facts that come out. First of all Hezekiah fortified the city, built up that which was broken, built towers on the walls, prepared weapons for war. In fact, Selman tells us, “Part of a *wall* which could well be Hezekiah’s has been uncovered on the western hill. At seven meters thick, it is the thickest Iron Age wall known in Palestine, and was presumably designed to withstand powerful Assyrian battering rams.”

Hezekiah did all that he could do, and then he committed the rest to God. Too many times we are so passive in our Christian walk. We expect God to do it all, when many times He works through us. We need to do our part and then let God do His. There are those who, for instance, will just sit around and wait for God to drop a job in their lap. We need to see the example here of Hezekiah, a kind of “Do your best and commit the rest!” mentality!

The second thing that Hezekiah did, besides preparing the city for attack, was that he not only strengthened himself but he strengthened his people by sharing with them the Word of God. How important that is for each of us to understand and apply to our lives. You see, the Word of God strengthens us. And Hezekiah uses the illustration of what happened when the Syrians had surrounded Elisha and his servant in the city of Dothan. You remember when Elisha’s servant went out of the tent one morning and he saw something that troubled him deeply and he brought that bad news to Elisha.

That news was that the enemy, the Syrian army, had surrounded the city of Dothan, which they were in, to capture them. It was a hopeless situation. But Elisha tells his servant, “**. . . ‘Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’**” II Kings 6:16. You see, the servant did not see what Elisha saw, that the armies of God had surrounded the Syrian army. Here’s the thing, you need to get the right perspective on each situation, and the Word of God will help you to do that. As Psalm 34:7 says, “**The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.**” May we not forget that in the battles that we are facing! Prepare yourself and then place your life in the hands of God!

3. Remember what we said took place in II Kings, that Hezekiah tried to make a deal with the Assyrians so they would let them go, not take them captive. Well, at some point Hezekiah got his eyes off the situation and back on the Lord. And when he did he had the proper perspective of the situation. It did not matter how bleak or how hopeless the situation seemed. He put into practice that which he believed, that God is still on the throne and He is still in control. Never forget that fact!

VERSES 9-19

1. Here we see that Sennacherib was fighting in Lachish, which was about 30 miles southwest of Jerusalem. So he sends his representatives to Jerusalem to give the people an ultimatum, to either surrender or die fighting. And the Rabshakeh will be the spokesperson for the king of Assyria.

Now what is interesting here is that Archaeologists have a pit in this area, in Lachish, with the remains of about 1,500 casualties of Sennacherib's attack. In fact, in the British Museum you can see an Assyrian carving that depicts their siege of Lachish. Dillard gives to us this insight regarding what happened at Lachish, "An interesting wall relief taken from the excavation of Sennacherib's royal palace in Nineveh is preserved in the British Museum. It portrays the Assyrian king on a portable throne in his military camp outside Lachish. Prisoners of war are marching by on foot, and all the booty from the city is being displayed on ox-wagons." Also, keep in mind that Lachish was an important fortress city of Judah and it is falling to the Assyrians!

2. One of the representatives of Sennacherib was the Rabshakeh and he was like the chief of staff. And he is trying to intimidate the people of Jerusalem to surrender. You see, intimidation played a big role in what the Assyrians were doing. And the Rabshakeh is telling them that their God is not going to spare them when their own king has destroyed all the high places, the places of worship. This spokesperson had no idea what their faith was all about. Hezekiah was removing the places of false worship, but this spokesperson saw no difference, it was a place of worship to him. And that is so true today. How many times do you see people shoot off their mouth about Christianity, about the Bible, about the God we serve, and yet they haven't got a clue what they are talking about? They speak as an authority on something they are truly ignorant on, just as the Rabshakeh was doing.

And here's the thing. The Rabshakeh is comparing the God of Israel with other gods. His point is very clear, "If the other nations were not spared by their god's, don't think you will be spared by your God." And the people knew what destruction and devastation that the Assyrians had brought upon other nations, even the Northern Kingdom of Israel. It seemed like no one could escape their power.

Now, as the Rabshakeh was speaking, a gathering of Jews assembled on the wall. And this spokesperson gave all his warnings in Hebrew so all could hear and understand. In II Kings 18:26 we are told that the representatives of Hezekiah said to the Rabshakeh **“. . . Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, ‘Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it; and do not speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people who are on the wall.’”** But he refused, trying to intimidate the people and cause them to rebel against their king and surrender.

3. Folk's, we see the same thing happening today. Too many times Christians put themselves on the wall and listen to the foolishness of men yelling up at them. And what ends up happening is that those on the wall begin to have their thoughts perverted, they can become confused with these critical views on what we believe. That is the pressure that is coming from the Seeker Friendly Churches, the Purpose Driven Churches, the Emergent Churches and whatever other false teaching will come down the pike! They try to discourage us and get us to surrender to what they are saying and tragically, many listen to what they are saying! Don't waste your time, spend it in the Word!

Now let me just share with you how dangerous this is. Some of you went to Lifest this year and once again they had a Catholic Mass at this so-called Christian event. Please understand that the Mass is performed to atone for your sins, that is one of the ways your sins are atoned for in the Catholic Church. Now maybe there are those that don't have a problem with this, but I do and when you listen to what they are doing, I hope you see why this is wrong. Jesus alone atones for our sins! And this year Green Bay Bishop David Ricken led the Mass as Lifest in Oshkosh! And just listen to part of this article by Cheryl Anderson and you tell me if what they are doing is deceptive, is wrong, is leading people away from the true God! She wrote,

“We want to get all the flavors of the church,” Lifest founder Bob Lenz said. He's also founder and president of the sponsoring Life Promotions, a non-profit organization reaching more than 350,000 youth each year. Since 1982, Lenz has spoken to millions of hurting youth in all 50 states and around the globe, teaching a message of grace and love.

Protestant devotions, a children's service and the Catholic Mass each were held separately before joint worship at 11 a.m. on the grandstand featuring Lenz; Greg Laurie, senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, Calif., and head of the international Harvest Crusades; and acclaimed worship leader Lincoln Brewster.

During the five-day event, the diocese held special activities for festival-goers such as handing out free Holy Hotdogs, Blessed Brats and Sacred S'mores, said the Rev. Daniel Schuster, diocese vocation director and a Lifest speaker.

“It was very successful and created a bridge between the different (faith) communities that are here,” he said. That's the goal of Lifest, Lenz said.

- Cheryl Anderson writes for The Post-Crescent of Appleton

Do you see who is standing with the Catholic Church and then what the goal is, to bridge the gap! Folk's, there is a gap because there is a difference in doctrine. The Catholic Church believers in a salvation by works and not by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. And yet, they are yelling out at us to give in, don't fight this, there is nothing wrong with this and all I can say is **GARBAGE!** Don't listen to them, I don't care if they are popular or not, listen to God, He is always right!

VERSES 20-23

1. As these threats are made against the nation, we see Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah humbly and passionately come before the Lord in prayer. Folk's, don't ever underestimate the power of prayer. Hezekiah and Isaiah are prayer partners, lifting their concerns up to the Lord, the only one who could truly help them and give them peace in the middle of this storm.

I think we have lost sight of the power of prayer and when we do pray many times it is when we are in trouble and there is nothing else we can do. We should be praying all the time. Listen to this story that happened many years ago. A group of men were going to hear Spurgeon preach and in their excitement they arrived a little early. As they stood by the door a man came up to them and asked them if they wanted to see what made this place run, where the power was coming from. Assuming it was the janitor, and not wanting to offend him, they followed this man to the basement of the building. They thought he was going to show them the boiler room.

To their surprise he took them to a room filled with people, praying for the service that was going to take place shortly. This man told them, “This is the power that makes this place run!” That man directing them was none other than Spurgeon himself! I hope you are praying for this church, its leaders, and this community and-so-on. We need to stay connected to the power source!

2. The result of their prayers was that the enemy was destroyed and we are told back in II Kings that this one angel wiped out 185,000 Assyrians in one night, so that when Israel woke that morning, they saw all the dead bodies of their enemy. Not bad for one night's work! Then, Sennacherib, king of Assyria heads home in retreat and he goes into his temple to worship his god - Nisroch, and while there his two sons, Adrammelech and Sharezer kill him with the sword. Just a short time earlier they were putting down the God of Israel, saying he could not defeat them, but now they have seen that the true and living God is able to respond, that He is all powerful!

3. What a great victory God had given them and with the Southern Kingdom of Judah victorious, Hezekiah is exalted, and this may have been the spark that sent him on a downward trend. Pride is a horrible thing in our life and we will see that in the life of Hezekiah!

VERSES 24-26

1. Here in II Chronicles we have a shortened explanation of what transpired. In II Kings chapter 20 and Isaiah 38 we are told more of the details of this event. God told Hezekiah to get his house in order for he was going to die. But the king was not ready to die and wept before the Lord all night. And that morning God told Isaiah that Hezekiah's life will be extended another 15 years. And the sign that this will take place will be that the sun dial will go backwards 10 degrees or about 40 minutes.

2. And as you read that, that God extended Hezekiah's life for another 15 years, you may be thinking that is great. What a miracle and it was a miracle, Hezekiah was sick and he was going to die but God did spare him. The problem was that was not the best thing for Hezekiah, it was time for him to go home and he did not want to.

You see, there is the **perfect will of God**, and that perfect will was that it was time for Hezekiah to die. Then there is the **permissive will of God**, and that permissive will was that God extended his life another 15 years. The reason I say that these 15 years added to Hezekiah's life were not God's perfect will is because of what transpired during that time. First of all pride filled Hezekiah's heart. Secondly, Hezekiah shows the ambassadors from Babylon all the treasures of Judah. And thirdly, Manasseh, his son, was born to Hezekiah during those 15 years and Manasseh was Judah's most wicked king, even worse than his grandfather, Ahaz.

After God healed Hezekiah he did not give the Lord the praise, the honor, the glory, the gratitude that he should have. Maybe the reason being is that he saw himself as an important person, pride was in the way of his praise unto the Lord for what He had done. Poole puts it like this, “All which probably raised in him too great an opinion of himself, as if these things were done, if not by his power, yet, at least, for his piety and virtues. And instead of walking humbly with God, and giving the glory all entirely to him, he took the honour to himself, and vain-gloriously showed his riches and precious treasures to the Babylonish ambassadors.” And yes, Hezekiah did humble himself but judgment was still going to come, not in his days but in his sons!

3. Now let me say this because I do believe it is important that we understand this. Some today would have you believe that praying, “Thy will be done” is a cop out. Not true! I would rather have God’s perfect will done in my life than my own will. Notice what is said in Matthew 6:10, **“... Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.”**

You see, it is not our will we are praying for but for God’s perfect will to be done through us. Thus, prayer is not to change God’s will but to conform our will to His! You don’t go ordering God around telling Him what you want done; I don’t care how positive your confession is! And if you do get your will, if you do get what you want instead of what God wants for you, you will lose out. Listen to what is said in Psalm 106:15 to those that desire to get their will instead of God’s will done in their life. We read, **“And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.”** You see God’s permissive will you may receive, but it will affect your spiritual life. And I think you can see that we should desire God’s perfect will for our lives!

VERSES 27-33

1. Hezekiah greatly prospered which again lead to pride in his life, a kind of worldly pride, he had much wealth. As these ambassadors from Babylon came, he opened all the storehouses and showed off his wealth to them. And because of that Isaiah tells him he did very foolishly and because of his actions the following would happen. In Isaiah 39:6-7 we read, **“Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,” says the LORD. ‘And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.’”**

2. Now keep in mind that the Assyrians were still in power at this time, but their power was on the decline. The Babylonians were on the rise and the next world power to come on the scene. They would be the nation that God will use to bring judgment on the Southern Kingdom of Judah for their idolatry and they will be taken captive to Babylon!

3. As you look at the life of Hezekiah, he was a good king. Yes, he did start out well and he finished weak and that is a lesson for us. The Christian life is a long distance race and we need to forge ahead, keep our eyes on the finish line, on Jesus so we will finish strong! Now, with the death of Hezekiah, Manasseh his son becomes king. And as we will see, he is very wicked, very evil!

II CHRONICLES 33

VERSES 1-9

1. Manasseh was born 3 years into Hezekiah's extended 15 years of life. And Manasseh was the most wicked king that Judah had on the throne as we shall soon see. And he reigned for fifty-five years! Why would God allow this wicked king to live that long? Why not let those that loved Him reign as long as Manasseh? It does not seem fair, it does not seem right. First of all God is sovereign and He does as He pleases, which is always good, always perfect, always right! Secondly, God is so gracious and merciful and it took that long for this wicked king to turn to the Lord!

Maybe some of you don't realize this, but he did turn to the Lord! And we will see that as we read on. It is as Peter said, **"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."** The Living Bible puts this verse like this, **"He isn't really being slow about his promised return, even though it sometimes seems that way. But he is waiting, for the good reason that he is not willing that any should perish, and he is giving more time for sinners to repent."**

II Peter 3:9. That is our God and that is how much He loves us, so much so that He sent His only begotten Son to die for our sins! May you not ignore that gift but receive Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life!

2. Now when you look at the life of Manasseh he was like his grandfather Ahaz. And all the spiritual reform that Hezekiah brought into the land, Manasseh destroyed with a blink of an eye. He even goes as far as setting up an idol in the holy of holies, sacrificing his children to the god Molech, and going after all the abominations that the nations who were driven from the land were into. It is much easier to go downhill than it is to go uphill. And Manasseh gives us that example in how he brought the Southern Kingdom of Judah to the pit! And, like it or not, those that are bringing in false doctrine into the church, this New Age, Eastern Mysticism, they are doing the same thing as Manasseh had done!

3. And without the spiritual leadership of Hezekiah, look at how quickly the people followed after Manasseh and his sins! It just shows us that you can't rest your faith upon another person, you must develop it, you must grow so that if a person does fall or go astray, you will not follow because you are rooted and grounded in the Lord and His Word!

VERSES 10-11

1. When you read this you can't help see that God's grace and mercy is unbelievable! Manasseh should have been wiped out and yet God is calling to him, trying to get him to listen and to get the nation to listen, but they refused. It was during the reign of Manasseh that tradition tells us that he took Isaiah the prophet captive, placed him in a hollowed out log, and sawed him in two. He did not want to hear what the prophets had to say, for they went against what he was doing. Thus, he gets rid of the prophets.

2. Since he refused to listen to the prophets, God tries to get his attention by taken him captive by the Assyrians, as they placed hooks in his nose and fetters on him, and carried him away to Babylon. It is as Trapp tells us, “God sent him into the dungeon to repent; as he did David into the depths, and Jonah into the whale’s belly to pray. Adversity hath whipt many a soul to heaven, which otherwise prosperity had coached to hell.” For Manasseh to look up he had to be brought very low and I think if you could ask him if it was worth it, he would say very quickly, “You bet it was!” And we will see the repentance of Manasseh while in prison in the next few verses.

3. What about us? Remember what the psalmist said in Psalm 119:71, **“It is good for me to be afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.”** It’s when we’re afflicted that, perhaps for the first time in a long time, we pick up the Bible. It’s when we’re afflicted that we finally cry out to the Lord in sincerity and desperation. God will do whatever it takes to draw us back to Him if we have gone astray or we refuse to come to Him. That is not being mean or unfair, that is love in action!

VERSES 12-13

1. How many of us would have given up on this man? How many of us would have written him off thinking he would never get saved, he would never turn to the Lord, he was too far gone? And yet he did turn to the Lord! You see, this is what Manasseh needed before he was broken and would look up. Morgan sees it like this, “Manasseh’s repentance was evidently the chief subject in the mind of the chronicler, and while his sins are painted faithfully and revealed in all their hideousness, all becomes but background which flings into relief Manasseh’s genuine penitence and the ready and gracious response to God.”

You see, God knows what it will take before we are low enough and helpless enough to look up to Him and repent of our sin. Manasseh repents and is restored to the kingdom in Jerusalem! Maybe for you it is your friends, a son, a daughter, a husband, a wife, a co-worker that you are ready to give up on, don’t! Keep praying for them to come to the Lord, you don’t know how close they truly are and those that seem so far away, many are ready to be broken and come to Him!

2. Now how do we know that Manasseh truly repented of his sins and returned to the Lord? Look at the following verses because his words match up with his actions, the things that he was doing!

VERSES 14-17

1. Here we see Manasseh fortifying the city; he removes the false places of worship, except for the high places, and calls for Judah to turn to the Lord. You see, his changed life was reflected in his removal of the false worship places. It is as Meyer wrote and this too is a lesson for us, "Turn to Him with brokenness of soul, and He will not only forgive, but bring you out again; and give you, as He did Manasseh, an opportunity of undoing some of those evil things which have marred your past." What a gracious, merciful, loving God we have. And for Manasseh, he was a changed man. And yes, Manasseh was converted but all the evil he had poured out into the land was just too much. They had a small revival, but it was too little, too late. Judgment was coming. I guess, as Payne wrote, "Half a century of paganism could not be counteracted by half-dozen years of reform."

VERSES 18-20

1. Manasseh's conversion is very similar to that of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar's pride brought him to a state of madness until he finally looked up to the true and living God. And Manasseh also had to be broken before he would look to God.

2. As much as Manasseh turned to the Lord, as we have seen, the nation did not. In fact, the fall of the Southern Kingdom of Judah would be blamed on the sins of Manasseh, the destruction he brought to the people, the nation during his reign before he turned to the Lord. Our sin does affect people and not in a good way! And if you don't think that God saw his sins as responsible for the nations fall, look at a few verses here and I will show you how it was.

First of all in II Kings 23:26 we are told, **“Nevertheless the Lord did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath, with which His anger was aroused against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him.”**

Then in II Kings 24:3-4 we are told, **“Surely at the commandment of the Lord this came upon Judah, to remove them from His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done, and also because of the innocent blood that he had shed; for he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, which the Lord would not pardon.”**

And lastly, in Jeremiah 15:4, **“I will hand them over to trouble, to all kingdoms of the earth, because of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, for what he did in Jerusalem.”** You see, God still held Manasseh responsible for the destruction he brought to the people, leading them away from the true and living God. Yes God forgave Manasseh and received him, but he was still accountable for his actions as well as the people were!

3. So Manasseh has died and they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings but in his own house. And now his son Amon is king in the Southern Kingdom of Judah and let's take a look and see what kind of king he was.

VERSES 21-23

1. Here we see Amon, Manasseh's son, and this nut did not fall far from the tree. You see, he was also a wicked king and he is spinning out of control, away from God. The difference between Amon and his father Manasseh is that Amon does not repent of his sin but remains lost moving in the opposite direction of God. The die was cast, and the nation was sinking lower and lower, drowning in their wickedness.

Look at what has taken place here. Yes, in Manasseh's case he did get right in God's sight. But there is a big problem. You see, the repercussion of his sin is now seen in his son. That's the problem when we sin. It impacts and affects others. I don't care what you say, sin stinks! And not only does sin stink but the repercussions are more brutal than we could ever imagine. May we not forget that!

VERSES 24-25

1. This wicked king, Amon was only king for 2 years before he was assassinated by his own men. We don't know why he was killed, but it was unusual for the Southern Kingdom to see assassinations of their kings. This usually happened in the Northern Kingdom of Israel, who were already in captivity at this point. And I guess the reason is simple. If you don't want to follow the Lord, if you want to follow the ways of the world like the Northern Kingdom of Israel did, then death and destruction will be all around you! We even see the people here, really the leaders rise up and kill those that killed Amon.

But, here is the amazing thing with our Lord. As Amon is assassinated, in his death we see that his son, Josiah is now king and Josiah brings about the last revival before the Southern Kingdom of Judah is taken into captivity by the Babylonians. We are about 34 years away from Babylon's first invasion of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

And I guess, as you look at the life of Amon, "The only positive contribution Amon made to the history of Judah was to produce one of the best kings to reign on the throne of Jerusalem." (Dilday) We will see that next time as we continue our study through the Word of God!