**Manasseh’s Hope**

Prepared by Nathan Morrison for Sunday October 17th, 2021

Text: II Chronicles 33:1-17

Intro

1. In all genres of storytelling some of the greatest successes have been stories of redemption.
2. Why do such stories capture our attention and our hearts?
3. People love a story of redemption (even in fiction): the rise and fall of a person or family, then their redemption from the fate they brought upon themselves.
	1. Charles Dickens’ classic, *A Christmas Carol:* The redemption of Mr. Scrooge, a miserly, uncharitable man.
	2. C.S. Lewis’ *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe:* The redemption of Edmund, the selfish child who betrayed his siblings.
	3. George Lucas’ Star Wars movies: The rise and fall of Anakin Skywalker, his transformation into Darth Vader, and ultimately his redemption brought about by his son.
4. These stories and countless others do so well because people love a good story about redemption!
5. Why do we love such a story?
	1. The main theme in God’s Word from the beginning is one of Redemption: the redemption of mankind from the fall in the Garden of Eden.
	2. As Christians it is our story: Christ died and shed His blood to redeem us! (Eph. 1:7)
	3. Redemption means = “to buy back,” “to purchase.”
	4. We sold ourselves to sin and Jesus bought us back with His own blood! (I Pet. 1:18-19)
6. The account of King Manasseh:
	1. II Chr. 33:1-10: The sins of Manasseh. God warned him through the prophets.
	2. II Kings 21:10-16: The judgment of the Lord on Manasseh predicted by the prophets.
	3. II Chr. 33:11: The fulfillment of the prophecy concerning Manasseh. He was captured by the king of Assyria and led away to Babylon as a slave with hooks through his nose.
	4. A sad end to the son of the righteous King Hezekiah!
7. In Manasseh’s life we see the tragic rise and fall of a king, but in his despair, there was hope!
8. **Manasseh’s Sins**
9. During the reign of King Hezekiah, Manasseh’s father, Israel (Northern Ten Tribes) was carried off into captivity by Assyria in 722/721 BC.
10. The reasons for their punishment are given in *II Kings 17:7-23:*
	1. They built high places (altars) all across the land to other gods.
	2. They built golden calves and altars and shrines to Baal and the Asherim.
	3. They worshiped the whole host of heaven.
	4. They served false gods and sacrificed their children as burnt offerings to them.
	5. They practiced witchcraft and entreated Mediums and other false magic.
11. Sound familiar? You could parallel this account directly with Manasseh’s own sins (II Chr. 33).
	1. *II Kings 21:16:* He “shed very much innocent blood until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another.”
	2. Jewish tradition says Isaiah the prophet was killed by being sawn in two – Heb. 11:37
	3. God deported the nation of Israel for all the same sins Manasseh caused Judah to commit in a very short period of time.
	4. Foreshadowing Judah’s judgment later (Jeremiah 52; II Kings 24:3-4), God had him deported to Babylon (by the Assyrian king, under Assyrian rule) – II Chronicles 33:11
12. How could such a person as Manasseh ever be redeemed?
	1. We can look at our own lives and ask the same question: “How could I ever be redeemed from the things I have done?”
13. There was Hope: Manasseh’s tale did not end in a Babylonian prison!
14. **Manasseh’s Redemption**
15. Manasseh had been captured and led away as a slave to the city of Babylon.
16. II Chr. 33:12-13: Manasseh prayed to God from a repentant heart. He humbled himself before God.
	1. God heard his prayer and restored him to his kingdom. We’re not told how he escaped or was let loose from Babylon; what’s important is that God did it and brought him home.
	2. Could a man like Manasseh be redeemed, who “shed very much innocent blood”? *He was by the mercy of God.*
	3. This tells us: *Israel could have been redeemed too, but they did not heed the prophets, nor did they humble themselves before God.*
17. Manasseh lived the part of the Prodigal Son in the parable Jesus told in *Luke 15:11-32*:
	1. Manasseh lived according to his own will & did what was right in his own eyes, with the inheritance from his father (he inherited a kingdom!)
	2. He found himself in a foreign land, separated from his Heavenly Father.
	3. He found himself at the bottom of the barrel; his own strength had failed him.
	4. He humbled himself and was restored back to his family with full honors.
18. We see in Manasseh the spiritual application of that story: He humbled himself in prayer, coming back to God. God heard him and restored him to his full position of power.
19. God has made the same promise to us – I John 1:9
	1. He is an example for us: when we find ourselves in the pit of sin, enemies of Christ, we need to have the heart of Manasseh – He “humbled” himself before the Lord.
20. There was Hope: A repentant heart can be redeemed and restored!
21. **Manasseh’s Reformation**
22. Manasseh was restored to his kingdom. He didn’t just thank God and then continue on as before.
23. He demonstrates what true repentance is: A change of heart (not just saying we’re sorry).
	1. II Chr. 33:14-17: We see that the city of Jerusalem had fallen into disrepair, probably from the invasion that captured him, and he orders the walls rebuilt.
	2. He removed the idols and altars, including the altars from the Temple and didn’t just move them to storage, but he had them thrown outside the city over the city walls.
	3. II Chr. 33:16: He sacrificed peace and thanks offerings to the Lord and commanded the people to serve God.
	4. They could see from his actions he wasn’t just saying it, but that he meant it.
24. The Lord expects a repentant heart to make changes!
	1. Mt. 3:8: John the Immerser told the crowds to “bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”
	2. Acts 26:19-20: Paul declared to Jews & Gentiles that they should perform “deeds consistent with repentance” (NET) – “appropriate to repentance” (NASU).
25. There was Hope: A repentant heart can reform and change their lives completely!

### Conclusion

1. Manasseh’s hope is your hope!
	1. Your sins: We have all sinned (Rom. 3:23; Js. 1:14-16) – Our sins separate us from God
	2. Your redemption: Christ shed His blood to redeem us, to purchase back our souls (Eph. 1:7; I Pet. 1:18-19) – When we repent & obey the gospel, we belong to Jesus
	3. Your reformation: Must no longer live as our former ways (Mt. 3:8; Acts 26:20) – Must “bear fruit in keeping with repentance”
2. *There was hope for Manasseh, there’s hope for you!*
3. Have you been redeemed?
4. If not a Christian, need to be to be redeemed, to have that hope in Jesus – Repent and be baptized!
5. If a child of God who has been redeemed, are you living like it?
6. Whatever your requests, come forward and let them be known ***NOW*** while we stand and sing!