

# Today:

# March 30, 2014

**Scripture Focus:** 2 Kings 20-21; Isaiah 38-39

*Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king. He ruled for fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hephzibah. In God's judgment he was a bad king—an evil king. He reintroduced all the moral rot and spiritual corruption that had been scoured from the country when God dispossessed the pagan nations in favor of the children of Israel. He rebuilt all the sex-and-religion shrines that his father Hezekiah had torn down, and he built altars and phallic images for the sex god Baal and sex goddess Asherah, exactly what Ahaz king of Israel had done. He worshiped the cosmic powers, taking orders from the constellations. He even built these pagan altars in The Temple of God, the very Jerusalem Temple dedicated exclusively by God's decree ("in Jerusalem I place my Name") to God's Name. And he built shrines to the cosmic powers and placed them in both courtyards of The Temple of God. He burned his own son in a sacrificial offering. He practiced black magic and fortunetelling. He held séances and consulted spirits from the underworld. Much evil—in God's judgment, a career in evil. And God was angry....*

*God, thoroughly fed up, sent word through his servants the prophets: "Because Manasseh king of Judah has committed these outrageous sins, eclipsing the sin-performance of the Amorites before him, setting new records in evil, using foul idols to debase Judah into a nation of sinners, this is my judgment, God's verdict: I, the God of Israel, will visit catastrophe on Jerusalem and Judah, a doom so terrible that when people hear of it they'll shake their heads in disbelief, saying, 'I can't believe it!'*

*"I'll visit the fate of Samaria on Jerusalem, a rerun of Ahab's doom. I'll wipe out Jerusalem as you would wipe out a dish, wiping it out and turning it over to dry. I'll get rid of what's left of my inheritance, dumping them on their enemies. If their enemies can salvage anything from them, they're welcome to it. They've been nothing but trouble to me from the day their ancestors left Egypt until now. They pushed me to my limit; I won't put up with their evil any longer."*

(2 Kings 21:1-6, 10-15, Message)

## **Notes from Worship:**

(What caught your attention? What do you want to reflect on more this week?)

## **Notes from Formation Station:**

(Discussion, Bible Study, Bible Memory, Praying the Scriptures)

## **Family Discussion Questions:**

- What are the worthless idols in your life? How can they make you worthless as well?
- How does worshipping the living God help you to truly live?
- In light of Judah's corruption, what commitments would you like to make in your life?

# *This Week:* **March 31-April 5**

## Scripture Readings:

<b>Monday</b> 3/31	<b>Tuesday</b> 4/1	<b>Wednesday</b> 4/2	<b>Thursday</b> 4/3	<b>Friday</b> 4/4	<b>Saturday</b> 4/5
Isaiah 59-63	Isaiah 64-66	2 Kings 21; 2 Chronicles 33	Nahum 1-3	Zephaniah 1-3	2 Kings 22-23; 2 Chronicles 34-35

## Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

### *Monday*

- What in these chapters brings you the most hope? Why?

### *Tuesday*

- What do you learn in these chapters about God's future plans? How does this fit with your current understandings?

### *Wednesday*

- What was the worst thing that King Manasseh did? Why?

### *Thursday*

- What do you learn about God's judgment in the book of Nahum?

### *Friday*

- What do you learn about God's judgment in the book of Zephaniah? How is judgment portrayed similarly between Nahum and Zephaniah? How is it portrayed differently?

### *Saturday*

- What do you find most significant about King Josiah's reign?

## Scripture Memory:

As we focus on the prophetic voice, our key memory verse is still ***Micah 6:6-8***. In only a few verses, this passage summarizes the heart of what many of the prophets teach to God's people during the time of the kings. That being said, there are many other powerful passages throughout the prophetic literature. Consider choosing other passages in addition to the one from Micah 6 that you could memorize.

—

## ***Next Sunday: April 6***

**Theme: *Prophetic Vision: Judah*** (Lent 5: *Renewal*)

**Scripture Focus: *2 Kings 22-23; Zephaniah*** (2 Kings 23; Zephaniah 3)