

1. Date of Manasseh's reign 696-642 BC.

Manasseh succeeded his father Hezekiah after being co-regent with his father for ten years. It is an irony that Judah's most flagrantly apostate king reigned the longest of any of the sons of David - 55 years.

The date of Manasseh's and his son, Amon's reign

2. The date of Amon's reign 642-640 BC

His reign, which began when he was 22, was as short as it was ill fated and idolatrous. His assassination by his political underlings was probably the result of a growing rejection of his pro-Assyrian policy. His assassin were slain by the 'people of the land' - landed gentry who feared the full scale revolt against Assyria.

2. Compromise with Assyria and the embracing of the occult:

To the degree that his father Hezekiah was determined to resist any collaboration with Assyria, Manasseh set out to do just that. He was politically submissive to Assyria.

The Assyrian astological cult was celebrated and all manner of magic and soothsaying was practised. High places, altars and images were set up, including the Canaanite Asherah in Solomon's temple. At one time, probably a national emergency, Manasseh sacrificed his own son.

Prophetic opposition was ruthlessly put down and the shedding of blood "filled Jerusalem from one end to the other".

Compromise with Assyria and embracing of many occult practices.

3. His capture and restoration.

2 K21.10 makes clear that the Lord spoke to Manasseh and the people but they did not listen. The king of Assyria captured Manasseh and deported him in fetters to Babylon. While he was there, in distress he prayed to the Lord and He heard him and brought him back to Jerusalem and restored him to his throne. In this way, says the Chronicler, "Manasseh learnt that the Lord was God".

The Chronicler thinks of Manasseh as submissive to the Lord after this episode [2C33.23] and details Amon, in contrast, as much worse.

Manasseh learns God is the Lord in captivity.

4. The prophetic message of disaster.

2 K21.10-16 records that the prophetic message against Manasseh's reign was that He would bring disaster upon Jerusalem and Judah - wiping Jerusalem as one wipes a plate and turns it upside down.

In a sharp recall of the Egyptian release from slavery, the Lord makes clear that ever since then they have rebelled and now He will give them over to their enemies.

Prophets prophesy disaster.