

IN DEEP DISTRESS

BUT WHILE IN DEEP DISTRESS, MANASSEH SOUGHT THE LORD HIS GOD AND SINCERELY HUMBLLED HIMSELF BEFORE THE GOD OF HIS ANCESTORS. AND WHEN HE PRAYED, THE LORD LISTENED TO HIM AND WAS MOVED BY HIS REQUEST. 2 CHRONICLES 33:12-13

MANASSEH WAS A WICKED KING AND DESERVED HELL IF ANYONE EVER DID. HE SACRIFICED HIS OWN SONS BY FIRE TO PAGAN GODS. HE SET UP IDOLS IN THE SACRED TEMPLE WHICH HAD BEEN FILLED WITH THE GLORY OF GOD AND HOUSED THE ARK OF THE COVENANT. IN THE BOOK OF 2 KINGS, WE READ THAT HE FILLED JERUSALEM WITH THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT PEOPLE HE MURDERED. THE TALMUD ATTRIBUTES THE DEATH OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH, THE ONE WHO SAW THE LORD HIGH AND EXALTED, TO BEING SAWN IN TWO ON MANASSEH'S ORDERS.

THEN JUDGMENT FELL ON MANASSEH. A HOOK WAS PLACED THROUGH HIS NOSE, AND HE WAS TAKEN PRISONER TO BABYLON. THERE HE SHOULD HAVE ROTTED IN A DARK DUNGEON, THE EARTH BETTER OFF WITHOUT HIM. YET IN THAT PLACE, HE SOUGHT THE LORD.

HE SINCERELY HUMBLLED HIMSELF. HE PRAYED. THE LORD LISTENED, AND WAS MOVED.

THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS MEAN AND ANGRY, AND READY TO JUDGE. HERE WE SEE THAT HE HEARS ANY WHO SEEK HIM, WHO CRY OUT TO HIM IN SINCERE REPENTANCE AND HUMILITY.

IF THE LORD ANSWERED THE PRAYERS OF SOMEONE LIKE MANASSEH, HE WILL ALSO HEAR OUR PRAYERS. IF GOD IS MOVED BY THE PRAYERS OF SOMEONE WHO MURDERED COUNTLESS INNOCENTS, INCLUDING HIS OWN CHILDREN, WON'T HE BE MOVED BY OUR PRAYERS AS WELL?

HE IS FOUND BY ALL WHO SEEK HIM. LET'S NOT WAIT UNTIL WE ARE IN THE DUNGEONS OF BABYLON. WE DON'T HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL WE ARE IN DEEP DISTRESS. WE CAN CRY OUT NOW. WE CAN HUMBLE OURSELVES NOW. WE CAN CALL ON THE LORD, KNOWING HE WILL ANSWER.

*Father, we cry out to You.
Come and rescue us and restore us to the story
You have written for our lives.*

- SINCERE REPENTANCE AND HUMILITY ARE POWERFUL; THEY CHANGE DESTINIES WHEN DIRECTED GODWARD.
- RECALL YOUR EXPERIENCE OF CALLING OUT TO GOD IN SINCERE REPENTANCE AND HUMILITY. THOSE PRAYERS ARE POWERFUL, FULL OF POTENTIAL.