

2 Chronicles 33:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,

Analysis

Wicked King Manasseh's repentance demonstrates amazing grace: 'And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.' Manasseh was Judah's worst king - promoting child sacrifice, occult practices, and temple desecration (33:2-9). Yet affliction (Assyrian captivity) drove him to repentance. The verb 'humbled himself greatly' (kana me'od) suggests profound contrition. God's response - hearing, restoring him to Jerusalem, and accepting his repentance (33:13) - showcases sovereign grace extending even to the vilest offenders. This anticipates the gospel truth that no sinner is beyond redemption in Christ.

Historical Context

Manasseh's 55-year reign (c. 697-642 BCE) was Judah's longest but most wicked. His Assyrian captivity (mentioned here but not in 2 Kings) occurred mid-reign, producing genuine conversion that led to reforms (33:15-16), though not reversing the nation's downward trajectory toward exile.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Manasseh's extreme wickedness followed by genuine repentance encourage hope for those you consider 'too far gone'?
2. What role does affliction play in driving people to humble themselves before God?

Interlinear Text

וְכִבֵּצֵךְ	רָא	לִזְבֹּחַ	הַמְלֵפֶנְתִּי	אַתָּה	מִלְפְּנֵי	הַיְהִי
And when he was in affliction		he besought		before	the LORD	
H6887	H0	H2470	H853	H6440		H3068
אֱלֹהִים	אֱלֹהִים	מִלְפְּנֵי	אֱלֹהִים	אֱלֹהִים	אֱלֹהִים	אֱלֹהִים
his God	and humbled	himself greatly	before	his God	of his fathers	
H430	H3665	H3966	H6440	H430	H1	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 50:15 (Parallel theme): And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Exodus 10:3 (References God): And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.

2 Chronicles 32:26 (References Lord): Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah.