

2 Kings 21:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzi-bah.

Analysis

Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzi-bah.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 21: Unprecedented wickedness brings irreversible judgment. In Judah's later history, we see both genuine reforms and deep-rooted corruption, revealing that external religious activity cannot substitute for heart transformation.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 21 takes place during the final century of Judah's existence, 7th century BCE, including Manasseh and Josiah's reigns. The chapter's theme (Manasseh and Amon's Evil Reigns) reflects the historical reality of the worst apostasy under Manasseh followed by the most thorough reforms under Josiah, demonstrating that external righteousness cannot reverse God's determined judgment. Archaeological evidence from this period includes royal inscriptions, administrative documents, and material culture that corroborate the biblical account while providing additional context for understanding the political and social dynamics at work.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 21 regarding unprecedented wickedness brings irreversible judgment?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's character, particularly His justice, mercy, and faithfulness to covenant promises?
3. In what practical ways should this text shape contemporary Christian thinking about faithfulness, worship, and obedience to God?

Interlinear Text

בָּן	שְׁתֵּי יָמִים	עָשָׂר הַ	שָׁנָה הַ	מְנַשֶּׁה הַ	מָלַךְ הַ	וּמֵנֶשׁ יָמִים
old	was twelve	H6240	years	Manasseh	and reigned	fifty
H1121	H8147		H8141	H4519	H4427	H2572
וּמֵנֶשׁ	שָׁנָה הַ	מָלַךְ הַ	בִּירוּשָׁלַם	וְשֵׁם הַ	אִמּוֹ הַ	חֶפְצִי
and five	years	and reigned	in Jerusalem	name	And his mother's	H0
H2568	H8141	H4427	H3389	H8034	H517	
בָּהּ:						
was Hephzibah						
H2657						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 62:4 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzi-bah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.

