

# 2 Kings 21:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the children of Israel.

## Analysis

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**But they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the children of Israel.**

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 21: Unprecedented wickedness brings irreversible judgment. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. 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

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**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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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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

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אֶת	לַעֲשׂוֹת	וְזָנָה	וַיִּתְּעַם	שָׁמָּה	עוֹ	וְלֹא
H853	H6213	H4519	H8582	H8085		H3808
them	to do	not	seduced	But they	hearkened	
יְהוָה	הַשֵּׁמַיִם	אֲשֶׁר	הָיוּ	מִן	הַכֹּהֲנִים	עוֹ
H3068	H8045	H834	H1471	H4480		H7451
whom the LORD	destroyed		than did the nations	more evil		
יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּנֵי	מִפְּנֵי				
H3478	H1121	H6440				
of Israel	the children	before				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 29:12** (Evil): If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.

