

Manasseh's Sin and Repentance

ILLUSTRATED SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Alfred J. Buescher

Scriptures—II Chronicles 33



Manasseh did not follow in the footsteps of his good father, Hezekiah. He built altars to heathen gods, even in the house of the Lord, although the Lord had said, "In Jerusalem shall be My Name forever."

The Lord spoke to the people of Judah but they would not listen. To punish them He allowed the Assyrian hosts to overcome them. They made Manasseh prisoner, binding him with fetters, and taking him to Babylon.

Manasseh then began to see how wicked he had been. He bitterly repented of his evil deeds. He sought out the Lord and humbly sought forgiveness. And the Lord listened and brought him back to Jerusalem.

After the restoration of his kingdom, Manasseh took away the idols from the holy temple. He built up the altar of Jehovah and commanded his people to serve only the Lord.

MEMORY VERSE—Psalm 143:10.

Manasseh's Sin and Repentance

HUMBLY ACKNOWLEDGING HIS SINS, JEHOVAH FORGAVE HIM

Scripture—II Chronicles 33

By NEWMAN CAMPBELL

AGAIN we have the story of a wicked king set to rule over Judah. Hezekiah was one of the best kings of that country. He was wise, brave, gentle and strong, and he trusted in the Lord, and served Him always.

How his son came to be so different from him, apparently degenerating in doing all the things his father would have abhorred as a mystery. It sometimes happens in our own time that good, God-fearing parents have a child who brings shame upon them. We are too much inclined to blame the parents, adding to their heart-break.

Manasseh was only 12 years old when he began to reign and he ruled about 45 years. His father, Hezekiah had broken down the altars of Baalim and the groves where that false god was worshipped.

Hezekiah turned his people again to the Lord their God who had brought them out of bondage in Egypt and given them the Promised Land. Manasseh rebuilt these high places and worshipped there, and all his people with him. He even brought the heathen idols into the holy place of the Lord in Jerusalem.

son of a good and mighty king, being led miles through the desert sands to an enemy city? What does any prisoner arrested for a crime think as he is led away to be shut up, especially if he is a member of an honored and respected family?

In his misery Manasseh began to realize his evil deeds and to repent. In his agony he appealed to his God, humbly asking pardon. And the merciful Lord forgave him and sent him back to Jerusalem and his throne.

We, too, may be forgiven our sins if we truly and humbly repent and ask for such forgiveness, for God is love. How much happier we will be if we do this, even though we will always be unhappy thinking of how we have sinned.

To show his full repentance, Manasseh knew that "the Lord, He is God," and he tried to undo some of the evil he had done. He took the idols out of God's temple; and "repaired the altar of the Lord and sacrificed thereon peace-offerings and thank offerings, and commanded Judah to serve the Lord God of Israel." After that the people did sacrifice still in the high places, "yet unto the Lord their God only."

Manasseh also strengthened the defenses of Jerusalem—building "a wall without the city of

peoples, even "caused his children to pass through fire," sacrificing at least "one son for this abominable custom. He also used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards."

There were various types of divination then in vogue among the primitive peoples—attempts to ascertain the future by casting lots—things that only God could reveal.

And he set a carved image (the idol which Manasseh had made) in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house, and in Jerusalem which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put My name forever."

So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel."

The Lord spoke to the children of Judah—through his prophets, we suppose, but "they would not hearken."

Then the Lord brought the captains of the host of Assyrians upon them, and they took Manasseh prisoner, bound him and took him to Babylon.

What did Manasseh think—this based on copyrighted outlines produced by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and used by permission. Distributed by King Features Syndicate.

CEDAR GROVE

Have you noticed the Boy Scouts striding through the village over the last weekend? Weighted down with everything from a frying pan to a bed roll they have been making their way from Agincourt to Markham via Cedar Grove and Box Grove. Their instructions are to note the terrain and find out all they can about the local history of the district. The reward is the usual and coveted badge.

One of the most unusual and lovely points of interest in Cedar Grove at the moment is the Booth's lemon tree. It is reaching for the moon in the greenhouse and loaded with rapidly maturing lemons and sweet smelling blossoms. The Booth's greenhouse is always a fascinating place to visit but the lemon tree is one of its most interesting inhabitants yet.

Notes About Neighbours: The Harvey Reesors were in the village over the weekend visiting the Frank Reesors. Frank had an accident, last week, which resulted in several stitches to a very painful finger.

Marg Walton is in the East General hospital (room 380) recovering from an operation which took place Monday night. She has come through very well but will be in hospital for at least a week.

Jessie Sutherland spent the holiday weekend with Bert and Ida Tapscoot.

Here are the Euchre results: Winnie Elson, Elizabeth Hollinger, Edith Coakwell, Wally Reesor, Norman Beare and Artie Milroy.

PINE ORCHARD

(May 26) Miss Beth Johnston spent a few days with her parents here. Miss Phyllis White of Toronto visited Mr. and Mrs. Rae McClure over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Jansen and family have moved from the Hope apartment to Victoria Square. We wish them the best in their new home.

Miss Jean Johnston, Toronto, spent the weekend with her brother Walter and family. They enjoyed a ball game Friday afternoon. Our school and Shrubmount team.

Miss Marie Baker attended a convention at Kitchener on Monday.

Miss Lois Brillinger of Oshawa General Hospital is holidaying with her mother, Mrs. Orville Brillinger.

Friends and neighbours met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Sproffton Friday night to shower Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rawluk with gifts and good wishes following their recent marriage.

Our boys have again entered a team in the Lake Simcoe Softball league — good luck, fellows!

Springtime at Evenhome

We stood before the entrance grand, And gazed at lofty trees, Then entered into fairyland Fanned by a gentle breeze.

Walked slowly through the soft green grass, A row of daffodils All nodded gaily as we passed, Each dressed in yellow frills.

Some cedars were standing straight and tall Like sentinels here and there, And others formed a sturdy wall Around this Eden fair.

Rosebushes near an arbor fair The future rose of June— All kinds of roses sweet and rare Shall be in gorgeous bloom.

Then onward through a neat white gate And o'er a railroad track— A train passed through last night quite late, Up to the mill and back.

Young Peter Rabbit sat and laughed, Here in a mossy glade. Still chuckling as he onward passed, Beyond a spruce tree's shade.

A river and a waterfall — In winter, snow and ice: The charm of spring now over all — A poet's paradise.

—Mrs. A. Weber

CONFIDENTIALLY YOURS

By Byrne Hope Sanders



MONTREAL—I'm so grateful... as a homemaker, for the new liquid detergent GAY—because it has so many virtues, it really makes dishwashing much less of a chore than it used to be! I'm grateful because it's so gentle on the hands—I can feel the difference. Then it has a delightful fragrance—and the nicest-suds! You, too, will find that Gay has an extra grease-cutting power that cleans the toughest grease on pots and pans... while china, silver and glass sparkle with a new beauty. It's very economical, too—one bottle of Gay does fifty washings—more than any two boxes of powder detergent. Hooray for Gay!

Everyone's Blossoming Into Cottons... this Spring. And there's nothing nicer to wear—especially when they're crisp and fresh and smooth because they've been starched with a little GLIDE, the LIQUID STARCH that's ready in an instant! All you do is add water—hot or cold—to Glide. There's no cooking, boiling or starching. You'll find not only your cottons—but table linen, curtains, blouses look better—and stay fresh much longer when you use Glide! Buy it in the 32 oz. jar—or the large 64 oz. jar that you'll later find so handy for pickling, fruit juices—or summer picnics! You'll be delighted with Liquid Glide—I'm positive!



HERE'S NEWS FOR THE BUSY FARMER

Need More Good Seed

The need for more certified seed potato growers in Ontario was stressed at a recent meeting of the Potato Committee, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. It was pointed out that annual supplies of seed potatoes in the Province are never sufficient to meet demands; hence, there are opportunities for those who wish to specialize in the crop.

Goat's Beard A Pasture Pest

Goat's Beard (Trapaogon species) is a weed resembling in many ways the animal from which it gets its name. While domesticated goats provide milk and meat, wild goats provide little but exercise for hunters. So it is with Goat's Beard. In early times when it was cultivated as salsify or oyster plant it provided food for our ancestors. Now that it is no longer domesticated, Goat's Beard furnishes plenty of exercise for farmers whose land becomes infested with the weed.

Goat's Beard is a coarse, tall plant reaching a height of about three feet. It has a long tap root which supports an upright stem with long, narrow, pointed leaves and the flowers are large and either yellow or purple in color. In bud, or closed at night, the shape of the seed head resembles a goat's beard. The seeds are long and narrow, tufted for buoyancy and the ripe seed head looks like the seed on an overgrown dandelion. The whole plant is filled with a thick milky juice, soon as possible, and definitely

before June 15th. Other particulars, including forms, may be secured from Agricultural Representatives in each county or district, or from offices of Seed Potato Certification Services, Canada Department of Agriculture, located at Ottawa, Barrie, London, Guelph, or for Northern Ontario, at Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Spraying with herbicides is effective only before the buds form about the first of June. It can be cut before the seeds form in late June or early July, but will in all probability send up new flower shoots so that it may be necessary to cut it several times during the growing season. Pulling the weed is one of the best ways of eliminating it. If sprays are used, 2,4-D or mixtures of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T at the rate of 8 to 12 ounces of acid per acre applied in late May should kill most of the plants.

Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Goat's Beard is not a great problem in cultivated fields, but is a stubborn pest in parks, long term pastures, roadsides and other uncultivated areas.

According to police reports it was an uneventful weekend in this district. Weekend traffic was heavy but orderly. At least four cottage owners at Lake Wilcox and Musselman's Lake found that their summer abodes had been broken into when they arrived over the weekend to open them for the season. No major thefts had taken place, however.

Cottages Entered At Local Lakes

During the thunder and lightning storm the radio tower of the Newmarket Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police was struck, putting the equipment out of commission for a short time.

A Personal Message to You from Premier Leslie M. Frost...



LESLIE M. FROST, Prime Minister of Ontario

Dear Friends:

Your community—along with a thousand others—forms the keystone of Ontario's progress and prosperity. As your population grows, Ontario grows. As your schools, hospitals, utilities and roads improve, Ontario improves. And as you and your community prosper, Ontario forges ahead as the greatest province in Canada.

To keep Ontario—and all its people—going forward to greater progress and prosperity, I ask you to re-elect your Progressive Conservative government in the Provincial Election being held on June 9th. Give the Progressive Conservative Candidate in your riding the opportunity to carry on your government's excellent record of making Ontario a better place for you and your family. As proof of that record, look at these facts:

1. This year, government grants to municipalities amount to \$165 million, or more than 44% of all provincial revenues. This large sum of money will help build new schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, community centres and other services. All this will be done at a saving of about one-third of all the local tax bills.
2. We believe that every child in Ontario has an equal right to free education—and that Ontario should have the finest schooling in the country. In 1955, your government will spend over \$102 million on education, including the greatest school building campaign in our history.

3. Your Progressive Conservative Government has helped bring the modern convenience and comfort of Hydro to over 85% of rural Ontario. Half the cost of bringing in rural Hydro lines has been paid for directly by the province.

4. Jobs for over 175,000 people will be provided by the \$700 million construction program of the province and its municipalities, which is now underway.

5. Your provincial government was the first in Canada to make discrimination illegal. Every citizen of Ontario—regardless of his race, colour or creed—has the opportunity to live where he likes, to work at any job he chooses, and to rise as high in life as his own ability can take him.

6. Ontario's government has provided grants for 74 new homes for the aged, 25 thousand new hospital beds. We have secured Old Age Pensions for all at 70 and for the needy at 65. Ontario is the first province in Canada to provide pensions for the totally disabled and the blind at 18.

The spectacular achievements of the past three and a half years have been accomplished with no new taxes—and with some tax reductions. Ontario's taxes are the lowest in Canada.

On June 9th, I ask for your support of my government. I urge you—in your own best interests—to elect the Progressive Conservative candidate in your riding... for the prosperity and progress of everyone in this great province. Forward ONTARIO!

Leslie M. Frost

Forward ONTARIO

June 9 Vote

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE

The Golden Text



Manasseh setting up the idols. "Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God: Thy Spirit is good, lead me into the land of uprightness."—Psalm 143:10.