

PLEASE NOTE - The references below are taken from the 86-22 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

(2 Kings 20:7) 7 Isaiah then said: "Bring a cake of pressed dried figs." So they brought it and applied it to the boil, after which he gradually recovered.

*** w03 5/15 p. 25 Each One Will Sit Under His Fig Tree ***

Pressed figs also had medicinal value. A poultice of pressed, dried figs was applied to a boil that threatened the life of King Hezekiah, though his subsequent recovery was principally due to divine intervention.—2 Kings 20:4-7.

*** w03 5/15 p. 25 Each One Will Sit Under His Fig Tree ***

H. B. Tristram, a naturalist who visited the Bible lands in the middle of the 19th century, observed that the local people still used a poultice of figs for treating boils.

(2 Kings 20:12-17) 12 At that time the king of Babylon, Be-ro'dach-bal'a-dan son of Bal'a-dan, sent letters and a gift to Hez-e-ki'ah, for he had heard that Hez-e-ki'ah had been sick. 13 Hez-e-ki'ah welcomed them and showed them his entire treasure-house—the silver, the gold, the balsam oil and other precious oil, his armory, and everything that was to be found in his treasures. There was nothing that Hez-e-ki'ah did not show them in his own house and in all his dominion. 14 After that Isaiah the prophet came in to King Hez-e-ki'ah and asked him: "What did these men say, and where did they come from?" So Hez-e-ki'ah said: "They came from a distant land, from Babylon." 15 Next he asked: "What did they see in your house?" Hez-e-ki'ah replied: "They saw everything in my house. There was nothing that I did not show them in my treasures." 16 Isaiah now said to Hez-e-ki'ah: "Hear the word of Jehovah, 17 'Look! Days are coming, and all that is in your house and all that your forefathers have stored up to this day will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left,' says Jehovah.

*** g 11/12 p. 24 Flaunting—Is It Worth the Price? ***

"Wisdom Is With the Modest Ones"

Another problem associated with showing off wealth is well illustrated in the Bible account of King Hezekiah, who lived in ancient Jerusalem. On one occasion Hezekiah showed "all that was to be found in his treasures" to dignitaries from Babylon. Evidently, his great wealth impressed the visitors. However, it may also have excited their greed. After they left, God's prophet Isaiah bravely told Hezekiah that one day all his treasure would "actually be carried to Babylon." Nothing would be left. Those words came true! Years later the Babylonians returned and hauled off all the riches that belonged to Hezekiah's family.—2 Kings 20:12-17; 24:12, 13.

(2 Kings 21:6, 7) And he made his own son pass through the fire; he practiced magic, looked for omens, and appointed spirit mediums and fortune-tellers. He did on a grand scale what was bad in Jehovah's eyes, to offend him. 7 He put the carved image of the sacred pole that he made into the house about which Jehovah had said to David and to his son Sol'o-mon: "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will permanently put my name.

(2 Kings 21:10, 11) Jehovah kept speaking through his servants the prophets, saying: 11 "Ma-nas'seh the king of Judah has done all these detestable things; he has acted more wickedly than all the Am'or-ites before him, and he has made Judah sin with his disgusting idols.

(2 Kings 21:16) Ma-nas'seh also shed innocent blood in very great quantity until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to the other, besides his sin of causing Judah to sin by doing what was bad in the eyes of Jehovah.

*** w21 October p. 4 par. 9 What Is True Repentance? ***

9 Some two centuries later, Manasseh became king of Judah. He may have been even worse

than Ahab! We read: “He did on a grand scale what was bad in Jehovah’s eyes, to offend him.” (2 Chron. 33:1-9) Manasseh set up altars to pagan gods, and he even put a carved image of a sacred pole—likely a symbol of sex worship—right into Jehovah’s holy temple! He practiced magic, divination, and sorcery. He also “shed innocent blood in very great quantity.” His vicious murders included making “his own sons pass through the fire,” in sacrifice to false gods.—2 Ki. 21:6, 7, 10, 11, 16.

*** jr chap. 2 p. 16 par. 5 Serving in “the Final Part of the Days” ***

5 Jeremiah wrote the books of 1 and 2 Kings, in which we read that Manasseh rebuilt the high places that his father had destroyed. Manasseh set up altars to Baal and to the army of the heavens, even in Jehovah’s temple. And Manasseh spilled much innocent blood, having his own son offered as a burnt sacrifice to a false god. In sum, “he did on a large scale what was bad in Jehovah’s eyes.” Because of all that wickedness, God decreed that calamity would come upon Jerusalem and Judah, as it already had on Samaria and Israel. (2 Ki. 21:1-6, 12-16) After Manasseh’s death, his son Amon continued his father’s idolatrous practices, but soon things would change. After two years, Amon was murdered, and his eight-year-old son Josiah came to the throne in 659 B.C.E.