

*How long did king Manasseh do evil in the sight of God before he repented?*

The bible does not reveal *at what age* Manasseh repented.<sup>1</sup> We are told only that he was a wicked king who did evil in the sight of the Lord (2 Ki 21:2). Regarding 2 Kings 21:1, J. Vernon McGee writes:

Manasseh began his reign as a twelve-year-old boy. He was a rascal, but someone says, "He is young. He will outgrow it." Well, he did not outgrow it. He got worse and worse and worse. He reigned for fifty-five years. God gave him ample opportunity to change his ways. In 2 Chronicles we find that he did finally repent. God is always patient and long-suffering. He is not willing that any should perish.

Manasseh's mother's name is mentioned. Her name was Hephzibah. She will have to accept the responsibility for her son. If there is any credit, she will receive that, too. She may have been a wonderful mother. I don't know how Hephzibah raised this boy, but Manasseh was as wicked as he could be, and the damage he did to his country was irreparable.<sup>2</sup>

The bible encourages men to repent sooner rather than later: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation (2 Co 6:2). Jesus said: I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work (Jn 9:4). There comes a time of which only God knows when he gives an individual up to his own depraved mind. After that time, he is no longer able to repent (Heb 12:17). The apostle Paul wrote: Because they did not think it worthwhile to acknowledge God, God delivered them over to a worthless mind to do what is morally wrong (Ro 1:28, HCSB). The bible warns:

When someone hears the words of this oath, he may consider himself exempt, thinking, 'I will have peace even though I follow my own stubborn heart'....The Lord will not be willing to forgive him. Instead, His anger and jealousy will burn against that person, and every curse written in this scroll will descend on him. The Lord will blot out his name under heaven. Dt 29:18–20

There is only one resurrection for men. God's gift of salvation is a one-time pass, so to speak, to heaven:

For it is impossible to renew to repentance those who were once enlightened, who tasted the heavenly gift, became companions with the Holy Spirit, tasted God's good word and the powers of the coming age, and who have fallen away, because, to their own harm, they are recrucifying the Son of God and holding Him up to contempt. Heb 6:4–6

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<sup>1</sup> The writer of 2 Chronicles (probably Ezra) merely states: When he was in affliction, he besought the Lord (2 Ch 22:12a).

<sup>2</sup> McGee, J. V. (1997). *Thru the Bible commentary* (electronic ed., Vol. 2, p. 350). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Alexander Maclaren wrote: We may note, too, that at the beginning of the chapter Manasseh is said to have done '*like* unto the abominations of the heathen,' while in verse 9 he is said to have done '*evil more* than did the nations.' When a worshipper of Jehovah does *like* the heathen, he does *worse* than they. An apostate Christian is more guilty than one who has never 'tasted the good word of God,' and is likely to push his sins to a more flagrant wickedness. 'The corruption of the best is the worst.' We cannot do what the world does without being more deeply guilty than they. Maclaren, Alexander *Manasseh's Sin and Repentance: Expositions of Holy Scripture*. BibleHub.com, 27 Mar 16:

[http://biblehub.com/library/maclaren/expositions\\_of\\_holy\\_scripture\\_g/manassehs\\_sin\\_and\\_repentance.htm](http://biblehub.com/library/maclaren/expositions_of_holy_scripture_g/manassehs_sin_and_repentance.htm) 27

God doesn't play church. Adrian Rogers said, "God does business with those who mean business." He won't take it lightly when men trample on the Son of God:

For if we deliberately sin after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire about to consume the adversaries. If anyone disregards Moses' law, he dies without mercy, based on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment do you think one will deserve who has trampled on the Son of God, regarded as profane the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know the One who has said, Vengeance belongs to Me, I will repay, I and again, The Lord will judge His people. It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God! Heb 10:26–31, HCSB

There is only one unforgivable sin—that is rejecting the Holy Spirit who tries to woo and win individuals to himself (Mt 12:32). One would not want to be given up to a powerful delusion so that he believes a lie (2 Thess 2:11).