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CHURCH OF CHRIST

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KNOWING

— **JESUS** —

AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

# Men's Breakfast Talk: **Finish Strong!**



How we finish something is more important than how we start. This is especially true of the Christian life which the Bible refers to as a race.

King Manasseh's rule over Judah started badly but ended well, and his story helps us answer the all important question: **How can we be sure to finish the Christian race strong?**

**Greenwood School Pavilion, Sat 10 March 2018 from 8h45 – 10h30**

*Cost: R 50 incl. full English Breakfast*

# Story of King Manasseh (2 Kings 21)

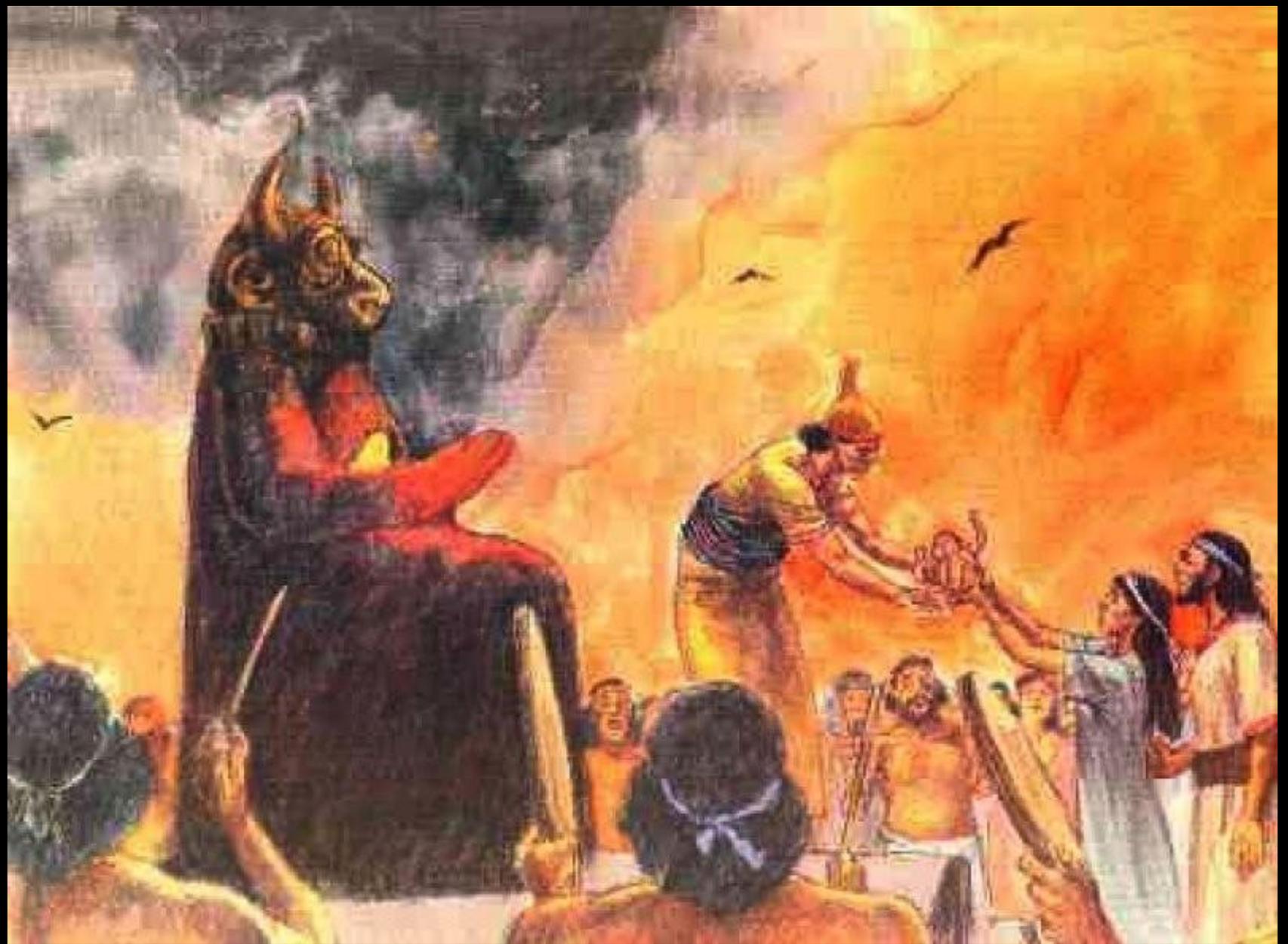
<sup>1</sup> Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. His mother was Hephzibah. <sup>2</sup> He did what was evil in the LORD's sight, following the detestable practices of the pagan nations that the LORD had driven from the land ahead of the Israelites. <sup>3</sup> He rebuilt the pagan shrines his father, Hezekiah, had destroyed. He constructed altars for Baal and set up an Asherah pole, just as King Ahab of Israel had done. He also bowed before all the powers of the heavens and worshiped them.

# Story of King Manasseh

## (2 Kings 21)

<sup>4</sup> He built pagan altars in the Temple of the LORD, the place where the LORD had said, “My name will remain in Jerusalem forever.” <sup>5</sup> He built these altars for all the powers of the heavens in both courtyards of the LORD’s Temple. <sup>6</sup> Manasseh also sacrificed his own son in the fire. He practiced sorcery and divination, and he consulted with mediums and psychics. He did much that was evil in the LORD’s sight, arousing his anger.

<sup>16</sup> Manasseh also murdered many innocent people until Jerusalem was filled from one end to the other with innocent blood. This was in addition to the sin that he caused the people of Judah to commit, leading them to do evil in the LORD’s sight.



# Story of King Manasseh

## (2 Kings 21)

<sup>17</sup> The rest of the events in Manasseh's reign and everything he did, including the sins he committed, are recorded in the book of the history of the kings of Judah. <sup>18</sup> When Manasseh died, he was buried in the palace garden, the garden of Uzza. Then his son Amon became the next king.

# Story of King Manasseh

## (2 Chronicles 33)

<sup>10</sup> The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they ignored all his warnings. <sup>11</sup> So the LORD sent the commanders of the Assyrian armies, and they took Manasseh prisoner. They put a ring through his nose, bound him in bronze chains, and led him away to Babylon.

<sup>12</sup> But while in deep distress, Manasseh sought the LORD his God and sincerely humbled himself before the God of his ancestors. <sup>13</sup> And when he prayed, the LORD listened to him and was moved by his request. So the LORD brought Manasseh back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh finally realized that the LORD alone is God!

# Story of King Manasseh (2 Chronicles 33)

<sup>14</sup> After this Manasseh rebuilt the outer wall of the City of David, from west of the Gihon Spring in the Kidron Valley to the Fish Gate, and continuing around the hill of Ophel. He built the wall very high. And he stationed his military officers in all of the fortified towns of Judah.<sup>15</sup> Manasseh also removed the foreign gods and the idol from the LORD's Temple. He tore down all the altars he had built on the hill where the Temple stood and all the altars that were in Jerusalem, and he dumped them outside the city. <sup>16</sup> Then he restored the altar of the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings and thanksgiving offerings on it. He also encouraged the people of Judah to worship the LORD, the God of Israel.

# Lessons from King Manasseh

1. Our sinful nature can lead us to really bad places
2. We sometimes must get to our lowest point to see our need for God
3. No sin is too bad for God to forgive: He is merciful and gracious
4. But we need to repent with a Godly sorrow
5. Godly sorrow results in clearing oneself, working for God and serving His people

**We can all FINISH STRONG, no matter how weak we may be now!**

***“It ain’t over till it’s over.”***

***(Yogi Berra)***