

Innocent Blood

Harmony M.B.C., April 19, 2009 (Morning)

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2Kings 24:1 In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him.

2Kings 24:2 And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD, which he spoke by his servants the prophets.

2Kings 24:3 Surely at the commandment of the LORD came *this* upon Judah, to remove *them* out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did;

2Kings 24:4 And also for the **innocent blood that he shed**: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon.

God has always taken a special interest in the murder of the innocent. In our text, He has determined to give Judah grief over the practice during the rule of Manasseh, the son of Hezekiah. Hezekiah who was a faithful servant of God and a holy man, yet, Jewish history does not record, perhaps, a more wicked ruler than his son, Manasseh. It seems a shame that this man should even carry the same name as the godly son of Joseph who was the founder of the family of this name.

Manasseh had been wicked beyond comprehension. Now most of us know how much wickedness God will suffer to go on at the hands and activity of evil men. We have a proof of it in the very atmosphere in which we live today. But, there is only so much God will take from the deeds of such evil creatures, at which time He will bring judgment. This is what He has revealed that He is doing to Judah as a result of that nation both honoring and following such an evil leader. Incidentally, some of you might be surprised to learn that after all the wickedness Manasseh acted out (see 2 Kings 21 & 2 Chron. 33; defied and reversed all his dad's work at destroying idolatry in Judah, practiced idolatry even so far as to put an idol in the house of God; offering his children to idols; practiced sorcery, divination, etc.), he repented and the bible tells us that God pardoned him (2 Chron. 33:12-13) This should be held forth as proof that there is hope in Christ for even the most wicked sinner on the planet.

Nevertheless, we find that Manasseh's repentance did not happen until he and all Judah were carried away into slavery by the king of Assyria. That is, until God afflicted them greatly in judgment. And the thing that keeps recurring in the Lord's condemnation on Judah and Israel is that they, along with their leader, Manasseh, shed innocent blood. Our text says in v. 4 that the Lord "would not pardon" this sin. There is something strikingly meaningful about the fact that God separated this particular sin from the rest of those which He lumped together as "things that he (Manasseh) did."

It is a fearful thing when a nation, or a man increases wickedness to the point that God says "I will not pardon." Because, when God will not pardon, it means that He intends to execute judgment and get justice that way. He is going to withhold mercy and exact justice. Which is

exactly what He did in this case. We see also, that His judgment would be executed for a specific reason (primarily because Manasseh, and Judah, had shed innocent blood), through a specific set of events.

I. First, God said “there is a specific reason why I am doing this” (vv. 3-4) “...for the sins of Manasseh, **according to all that he did**; 4 And also for the **innocent blood that he shed**: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood

- As we said earlier, the “all that he did” was about wrecking all the righteous works of his dad, idolatry, sorcery, and offering his own children to idols.
 - > Examine Manasseh undoing righteous policies and actions of his dad (2 Kings 21:3; set up the groves and re-established idol worship in Judah): countermanding the policies and national practices that were set in place by the former national leader (Hezekiah).
 - > Examine Manasseh’s idolatry in the light of modern idolatry (2 Kings 21:3-6): placing anything man-made higher in priority than the Lord (including man-made and humanistic agendas); claiming to be a worshiper of Jehovah and then giving equal credibility to other religions and therefore, other gods
 - > Examine Manasseh’s sorcery (2 Kings 21:6): use of evil power to accomplish personal goals
 - Lev. 19:31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I *am* the LORD your God.
 - Deu. 18:10-11 There shall not be found among you *any one* that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, *or* that useth divination, *or* an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.
 - > Examine Manasseh’s offering his children to idols (2 Kings 21:6): In modern day practice, this is replicated by men who raise their children in a humanistic and ambivalent environment in which they are encouraged to eliminate all moral certainties from their thinking, and in which God and His precepts are only just another way of looking a
- Then, in addition to God’s condemnation of the “all that he did” there was the charge against him of shedding innocent blood
 - > We don’t know exactly what this shedding of innocent blood was
 - > God does not focus on the targets of this atrocity, He focuses on the act and the fact that the victims were innocent
 - > He meant it to be a perpetual lesson and warning to all national leaders and people being governed
 - > Manasseh and Judah had their offenses classified by the Lord as shedding innocent blood, our leaders and we have ours (abortion)
 - > As I said at the start, God makes a special note of this kind of sin
 - > He does so for certain reasons
 - None are so unfairly treated as those killed by their society who are innocent
 - None are more vulnerable in a human society that those who are innocent
 - None are more defenseless than the innocent
 - There is no violence more perverse on earth than the killing of innocent humans

- From 1973 through 2005, more than 45 million legal abortions occurred in the U.S.
- How far we have come: "...by 1900 abortion was largely illegal in every state...." -
- Today: legal across the entire U.S.
- Some observations about Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton the two pivotal legal precedents which essentially established this completely permissive attitude by government regarding killing unborn babies:
 - ^ "Jane Roe" of the landmark Roe v. Wade lawsuit, whose real name is Norma McCorvey, is now a strong Pro-life advocate. McCorvey writes that she never had the abortion and became the "pawn" of two young and ambitious lawyers who were looking for a plaintiff who they could use to challenge the Texas state law prohibiting abortion. However, attorney Linda Coffee says she doesn't remember McCorvey having any hesitancy about wanting an abortion. [31]
 - ^ "Mary Doe" of the companion Doe v. Bolton lawsuit, the mother of three whose real name is Sandra Cano, maintains that she never wanted or had an abortion and that she is "ninety-nine percent certain that [she] did not sign" the affidavit to initiate the suit.

II. So, God is executing judgment against Judah. He is doing that through a specific process that He outlines in vv. 1-2

A. They become servants to another nation under their current king (v.1)

- Let us remember that there is a host of routes by which a nation can fall into servitude to other nations:
 - > The most obvious: being defeated in battle
- But, other less obvious:
 - > How about loss of financial status in an economic crash and ending up being controlled economically by somebody else's currency standard?
 - > Or, what about becoming a nation in slavery to providing foreign aid, or simply condescending to demands of other countries who would love nothing so much as to destroy our strength.
 - > Or, what about becoming a nation whose financial institutions are controlled by other foreign countries?

B. V.2: Judah was accosted by multiple forces

- We can easily see the "bands of the Chaldees," or Syrians, or Moabites, or Ammonites as types of marauding circumstances that beset a nation.
- Circumstances empowered by men working conspiracy which come in like pirates:
 - > raiding our industries;
 - > or blockading our efforts to become energy independent,
 - > or tying up our resources chasing after global warming initiatives;
 - > or disabling our people by making them welfare dependent.
- These are the Chaldees, Syrians, Moabites, and Ammonites of our times.

III. I want to close with these last few observations:

God's people (you) have a very important role to play in the unfolding events that God has in store for our nation

That role centers around trusting in the Lord and representing the Lord as events unfold

We must not be cowards and we must not be asleep

Mark 13:37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.