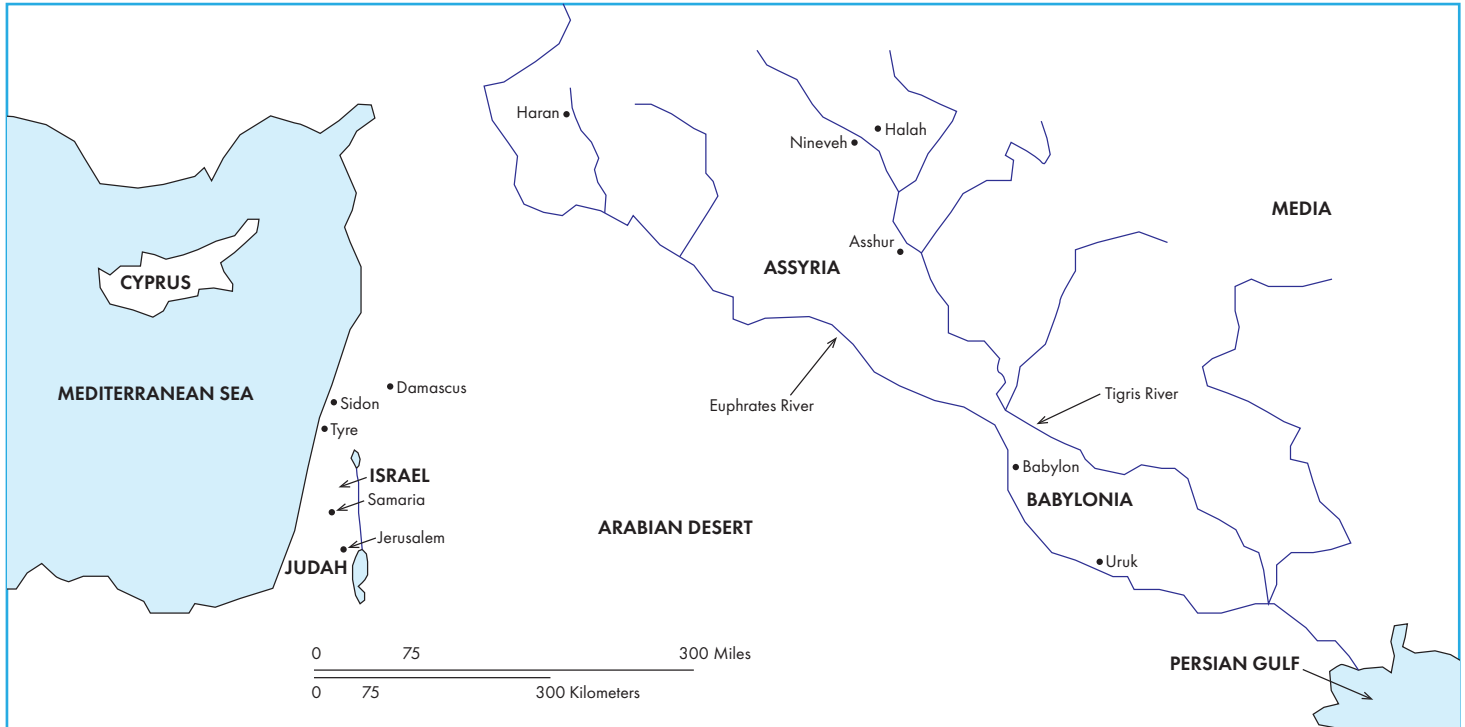




CHAPTER 21

When

- Manasseh and Amon reigned in Jerusalem between approximately 700-635 B.C.



Where

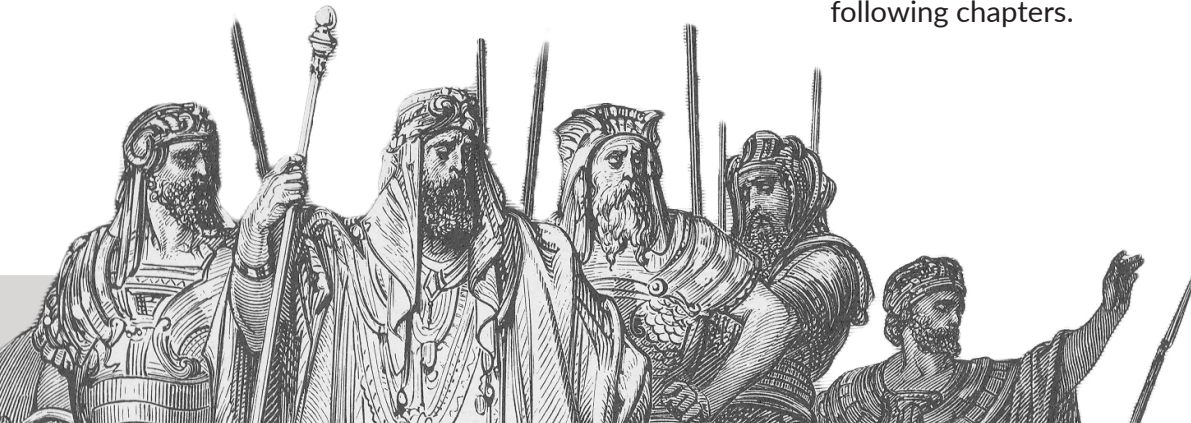
- As the capital of Judah, Jerusalem is the central point of 2 Kings 21.

Key Characters

- **Manasseh** – The son of Hezekiah. He became king of Judah after his father. He reigned 55 years.

- **Amon** – The son of Manasseh. He became king of Judah after his father. He reigned 2 years.

- **Josiah** – The son of Amon. He became king of Judah after his father. His reign is detailed in following chapters.



Outline

- MANASSEH REIGNS AS KING IN JUDAH (21:1-18):

- + After King Hezekiah's death, Manasseh took the throne of Judah.
- + He did not follow in the footsteps of his father, instead he did evil in the sight of the Lord.
- + In fact, Judah became so wicked during his reign, God said they were worse than the nations the Israelites had driven out of the Promised Land during Joshua's day.
- + Manasseh rebuilt the high places his father tore down. He participated in the "despicable practices" of the pagan nations.
- + He "shed very much innocent blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another" (21:16).
- + He rebuilt worship sites for idols like Baal and Asherah. He even dedicated altars to the "hosts of heaven" and put them inside the Lord's Temple in Jerusalem.
- + He welcomed fortune-tellers, mediums, and necromancers in Judah.
- + He took part in the horrible practice of sacrificing children, which was something God hated.
- + As judgement for Judah's wickedness, God decreed He would bring terrible disaster upon Jerusalem.
- + "I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down" (21:13).
- + God said He was going to forsake Judah and give them over to their enemies, in similar fashion to what He did to Israel in 2 Kings 17.
- + But this judgement did not come during Manasseh's lifetime. Manasseh died after reigning 55 years.

- AMON REIGNS IN JUDAH (21:19-26):

- + After Manasseh, Amon reigned for 2 years in Jerusalem.
- + He "did what was evil in the sight of the Lord."
- + "He abandoned the Lord, the God of his fathers." (21:22).
- + Amon's servants assassinated him.
- + Josiah, Amon's son, was made king in his place.

Application:

- It only takes one generation for everything to fall apart and for people to forget God.
- There was only one generation between Hezekiah and Manasseh.
- We need to give every generation of children our best effort.
- We should never assume that, just because previous generations were faithful, our children will be faithful.
- Every generation of children needs to be poured into by loving, godly, committed parents who are intentional about instilling love for God in their children.
- The failure of just one generation can have devastating consequences.