FIRST FRUITS FIRST Seduced to Do Evil March 1, 2024

“*So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the*

*nations whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel* [2 Chronicles 33:9].

Have we been seduced by evil? Is our prideful desire for attention, isolating struggle against loneliness, stumbling over poverty, or emotionally strained relationships causing us to stumble? What idol has taken over our moral conduct? Have we forgotten Who is in charge of our life?

This verse warns us that Manasseh encouraged Jerusalem to accept sinful behavior. He stepped outside of God’s desire for His children. Only 12 when he became king over Judah, Manasseh was not alive to see his father’s sin, or his spiritual reawakening. The young king was not around to witness Hezekiah get right with his Maker. His immaturity distracted the error of his ways.

Thus, the Southern Kingdom of Israel inherited an untested, inexperienced king who seduced the inhabitants by allowing unclean spirits to take hold of the city. And, like his father, he learned the hard way that people could be seduced – BUT, not the God of the promised land!

We are grateful that both father and son humbled themselves before the Lord. In Manasseh’s case, he was hauled away with hooks and fetters before repenting and before God blessed him. Nevertheless, these seasons of seduction bore bad fruit.

Due to the fall, all humanity has been seduced by some form of trickery and sin. Let us all repent and humble ourselves, so we can rediscover our essential need for our Savior. By the grace of the King of kings, He sent His Firstfruit to restore our broken relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Rise up. The Kingdom of God must align itself with a King that will never seduce us. We stand in awe as our Lord defeats every foe that stands between us and Yeshua’s desire for the abundant life that only He can promise and provide. Don’t do evil; DO GOOD!

Learn the lessons of Hezekiah and Manasseh. Don’t be seduced. Bear Good Fruit that lasts!