

## 22.7 Manasseh<sup>14</sup> ⊗, Amon<sup>15</sup> ⊗ (2 Kings 21:1–26; 2 Chronicles 33:1–25)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud, and they show answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Scroll of the prophets’ message (This is found at end of this lesson. Print it and roll it like a scroll.)
- A measuring tape (carpenter’s would be better than a seamstress’s); a plumb line; a cup or bowl (not paper) with a bit of water in it; a dish towel
- A large metal hook; metal chains

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *abominable*: detestable things or people; so bad that a person feels ill
- *remnant*: a part that is left over
- *prey*: an animal that is hunted and killed by another for food; used of disobedient people in this story
- *humble*: to think of oneself as lowly; the opposite of proud
- *to repent*: to turn around from doing bad or one’s own will to doing God’s will; to be sorry for sin

### Scripture: (ESV)

2 Chronicles 33:1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. 2 And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel. 3 For he rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had broken down, and he erected altars to the Baals, and made Asheroth, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. 4 And he built altars in the house of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, “In Jerusalem shall my name be forever.” 5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord. 6 And he burned his sons as an offering in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and used fortune-telling and omens and sorcery, and dealt with mediums and with necromancers. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger. 7 And the carved image of the idol that he had made he set in the house of God, of which God said to David and to Solomon his son, “In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name forever, 8 and I will no more remove the foot of Israel from the land that I appointed for your fathers, if only they will be careful to do all that I have commanded them, all the law, the statutes, and the rules given through Moses.” 9 Manasseh led Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem astray, to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord destroyed before the people of Israel. Manasseh’s Repentance

2 Kings 21:10 And the Lord said by his servants the prophets, 11 “Because Manasseh king of Judah has committed these abominations and has done things more evil than all that the Amorites did, who were before him, and has made Judah also to sin with his idols, 12 therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing upon Jerusalem and Judah such disaster that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle. 13 And I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria, and the plumb line of the house of Ahab, and I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down. 14 And I will forsake the remnant of my heritage and give them into the hand of their enemies, and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies, 15 because they have done what is evil in my sight and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day.”

16 Moreover, Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another, besides the sin that he made Judah to sin so that they did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.

2 Chronicles 33:10 The Lord spoke to Manasseh and to his people, but they paid no attention. 11 Therefore the Lord brought upon them the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria, who captured Manasseh with hooks and bound him with chains of bronze and brought him to Babylon. 12 And when he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. 13 He prayed to him, and God was moved by his entreaty and heard his plea and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.

14 Afterward he built an outer wall for the city of David west of Gihon, in the valley, and for the entrance into the Fish Gate, and carried it around Ophel, and raised it to a very great height. He also put commanders of the army in all the fortified cities in Judah. 15 And he took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the Lord, and all the altars that he had built on the mountain of the house of the Lord and in Jerusalem, and he threw them outside of the city. 16 He also restored the altar of the Lord and offered on it sacrifices of peace offerings and of thanksgiving, and he commanded Judah to serve the Lord, the God of Israel. 17 Nevertheless, the people still sacrificed at the high places, but only to the Lord their God.

18 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, and his prayer to his God, and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of the Lord, the God of Israel, behold, they are in the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. 19 And his prayer, and how God was moved by his entreaty, and all his sin and his faithlessness, and the sites on which he built high places and set up the Asherim and the images, before he humbled himself, behold, they are written in the Chronicles of the Seers. 20 So Manasseh slept with his fathers, and they buried him in [the garden of his house, in the garden of Uzza; 2 Kings 21:18], and Amon his son reigned in his place.

2 Kings 21:19 Amon was twenty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah. 20 And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, as Manasseh his father had done. 21 He walked in all the way in which his father walked and served the idols that his father served and worshiped them. 22 He abandoned the Lord, the God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the Lord. 23 And the servants of Amon conspired against him and put the king to death in his house. 24 But the people of the land struck down all those who had conspired against King Amon, and the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his place. 25 Now the rest of the acts of Amon that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? 26 And he was buried in his tomb in the garden of Uzza, and Josiah his son reigned in his place.

### **Introduction/Review:**

[Finish the lesson on Isaiah if, like me, you were unable to complete it in one session.]

Isaiah prophesied to Judah under four kings, the last of which was Hezekiah. Hezekiah was a very good king because he served the one true living God and led the people to serve Him too. Hezekiah had torn down the high places, where people worshiped false gods. He had broken down all the images to false gods. However, just because Hezekiah had led the people to the Lord does not mean they all followed in godly worship. There were many in Judah who still served and worshiped false gods even though they had seen how God had removed Israel from their land because of idolatry (serving other gods).

### **Story:**

#### ***Manasseh's actions***

Hezekiah's extra fifteen years of life had come to an end, and he died. His son Manasseh, who was born during Hezekiah's last fifteen years, became king at the age of twelve. Would he be a good king or a bad king? [Teacher, draw out the next sentence to add suspense.] I must report to you that Manasseh, son of good King Hezekiah, was known as a very—bad king. The Bible states that Manasseh did the abominable things the nations had done in the land before Israel had come there from Egypt.

I will tell you some of the abominable things Manasseh did, but I won't tell you them all because they are too abominable to talk about. What were the places called where the people worshiped God at first but then worshiped false gods? [High places.] What had Hezekiah done to them? [Had torn them down.] Guess what

Manasseh did. Yes, he built them up again. Hezekiah had broken the images of false gods. Guess what Manasseh did. That's right; he made new ones. The Bible states Manasseh "shed very much innocent blood" (2 Kings 21:16). That means he slew people who were good and had done nothing wrong. ✓Some people think Manasseh even slew God's prophet Isaiah. [Teacher, beware of teaching small children the following.] People now kill innocent babies before, and sometimes after, they are born. This murder is called abortion.

Manasseh made altars for Baal just as wicked King Ahab in Israel had done. He worshiped the sun, moon, and stars and built altars for them in the very courts of God's House, the Temple! He put a statue of a goddess, a female god, inside the Temple!

### ***God's prior warning***

God had said to David and to Solomon about this Temple, "In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name for ever; and I will not cause the feet of Israel to wander any more out of the land which I gave to their fathers, if"—listen to this—"if only they will be careful to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them" (2 Kings 21:7, 8). Was Judah keeping the law of Moses? [No.] Would God let them stay in Jerusalem? [No.] Why not? [Because they were not doing what God had said to do.] Rather, "Manasseh did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger."

### ***Prophets' warning***

God's servants, the prophets, had something from God to say about this abominable situation. [Teacher, read from your prepared scroll.] "Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations, and has done things more wicked than all that the Amorites did, who were before him, and has made Judah also to sin with his idols; therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing upon Jerusalem and Judah such evil that the ears of every one who hears of it will tingle. And I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab; and I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down. And I will cast off the remnant of my heritage, and give them into the hand of their enemies, and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies, because they have done what is evil in my sight and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day" (2 Kings 21:11–16).

### ***Warning word pictures***

Did you hear some word pictures in those verse? One was making ears to tingle. ✓This means the evil that God would bring against Jerusalem would be so great that it would be like a great blast to make the eardrums vibrate and to be hurt as a person would shake in fear at the overwhelming news.

Another word picture is the measuring line of Samaria. [Show the measuring tape and the plumb line.] Samaria had been the capital city of Israel just as Jerusalem was the capital city of Judah. The people of Samaria and Israel had been taken captive and were now exiles in Assyria. ✓Sometimes when people were taken captives, they were grouped together and measured off with a line and plummet (plumb line). Also, when nothing was left of a city, people would measure where it had been. The word picture was to show that Jerusalem would be destroyed just as Samaria had been.

The last word picture is of a dish. [Demonstrate with a dish and towel.] God said, "I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down." When I wipe dishes, I make sure all the water is out of them first. [Turn dish upside down.] ✓This pictured how Jerusalem would be emptied of its palaces, houses, riches—everything. Wiping the dish shows how completely God would empty out Jerusalem. Notice, God didn't say He'd break the dish so that it couldn't be used again.

With these word pictures God was saying, "I will cast off the remnant of my heritage, and give them into the hand of their enemies, and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies" (2 Kings 21:14).

### ***God's anger***

Why would all these terrible things happen to Jerusalem? “Because,” He said, “they have done what is evil in my sight and have provoked me to anger” (2 Kings 21:15). The people had been causing God’s anger for years—ever since they had come out of Egypt about ✓760 years earlier. Finally, after all those years of mercy, God was about to judge them, particularly Manasseh.

### ***Manasseh’s capture***

The army of Assyria came and got Manasseh. They somehow used hooks [show hooks and chains] and bound him in metal chains. They marched him off across the land, ✓probably the caravan route, to Babylon ✓about 1000 miles (500 miles as the crow flies). This distance would be similar to the number of miles from southern Colorado to Canada, and the trip took about four months or 120 days.<sup>1</sup>

### ***Manasseh’s repentance***

Oh, ✓it was a miserable, humiliating experience for Manasseh, but he deserved every bit of it. But, wonder of wonders, something good happened. The good thing was this: Manasseh humbled himself before the Lord his God! Yay!! Manasseh repented of his terrible sins, humbled himself, and asked God to favor him, ✓promising to serve the true God instead of idols.

### ***God’s mercy***

What would you do if you were God? Would you forgive this abominable man? I think it would be very, very hard to extend mercy to such a despicable person, but our great God is not only a God of anger but also a God of great mercy, grace, and love! God heard Manasseh’s prayer and brought Manasseh back to Jerusalem! Manasseh knew now that the Lord is the one true God!

### ***Manasseh’s change***

Back in Jerusalem, Manasseh demonstrated his changed life by fixing up the city so that it would be strong against an army. Best of all, he took away the goddess idol he had put up in the Temple, the altars that he had built in the courts of the Temple, and all the false gods. He threw those idols ✓in the dump outside the city.

Even though Manasseh commanded the people to serve the Lord God, they still wanted to serve idols at the high places. Manasseh, however, restored the altar of the Lord and had God’s priests offer sacrifices to God.

### ***Manasseh’s son***

I wish I could end the story there with Manasseh’s turning to God, but I also need to tell you today about his son, Amon. ✓Perhaps Manasseh’s earlier life influenced Amon. ✓Perhaps all those people who still worshiped false gods at the high places influenced him. Whatever the cause, Amon “did what was evil in the sight of the Lord as Manasseh his father had done” before he humbled himself. He forsook the Lord, the God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the Lord.

Amon ruled Jerusalem only two years before his servants slew him in his house. The people of the land slew those servants for killing the king. Then they made Josiah, Amon’s son, king. We will learn about Josiah next week.

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<sup>1</sup>We don’t know the length of Manasseh’s servitude to the Assyrians, but one source has figured the time to be about ten years ([The Captivity of King Manasseh \(mauricelloyd.me.uk\)](http://mauricelloyd.me.uk)). Assyrian records mention his name at least twice, both in the sense of his being a servant of two Assyria kings and of doing difficult work. The first king, Esarhaddon, stated, “*I called up the kings of the country Hatti and (of the region) on the other side of the river (Euphrates) (to wit) : Ba’lu, king of Tyre, Manasseh (Me,-na-si-i), king of Judah (Ia-ti-di) ...[etc.] ... together 22 kings of Hatti, the seashore and the islands; all these I sent out and made them transport under terrible difficulties, to Nineveh, the town (where I exercise) my rulership, as building material for my palace: big logs, long beams (and) thin boards from cedar and pine trees, products of the Sirara and Lebanon (Lab-na-*

na) mountains.”

Esarhadon’s son, Ashurbanipal, stated similar things about Manasseh: “*During my march (to Egypt) 22 kings from the seashore, the islands and the mainland, Ba’al, king of Tyre, Manasseh (Mi-in-si-e), king of Judah (lati-di)...[etc.]...servants who belong to me, brought heavy gifts (tdmartu) to me and kissed my feet. I made these kings accompany my army over the land-as well as (over) the sea-route with their armed forces and their ships*” ([King Manasseh: An Archaeological Biography – Bible Archaeology Report](#)).

### Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:  
Good King Hezekiah would have wanted his son, Manasseh, to do the things that please God, but Manasseh did abominably wicked, ungodly things. In stark contrast, Jesus told the truth about Himself when He said, “I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. . . . I always do the things that are pleasing to My Father” (John 8:28, 29).
- Even though Manasseh repented and humbled himself before the Lord, he is remembered as a very bad king because during most of his 55 years’ reign he was evil. In fact, his wickedness was the immediate cause of Judah’s soon-coming captivity. Our testimony is affected by the bad we do—oftentimes more than the good we do.
- God is merciful and gracious. Although God may judge us for our sin, He might be, and often is, merciful to those who sincerely repent and seek His ways.

### Activities:

- Play dough: ears; a dish
- Snack: Elephant ears; recipe made with tortillas is found at [Easy Elephant Ears Recipe - Bitz & Giggles \(bitzngiggles.com\)](#).
- Have a sword drill on the theme of *ears*:

**Exodus 15:26:** “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give **ear** to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer.”

**1 Chronicles 17:20:** There is none like you, O Lord, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our **ears**.

**Proverbs 15:31:** The **ear** that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise.

**Mark 4:23:** If anyone has **ears** to hear, let him hear.

**1 Corinthians 2:9:** But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor **ear** heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.”

- Review questions: (Game: Students who answer a question correctly may briefly wipe the dish used in the word pictures part of this lesson or measure a small area with the measuring tape. [Be careful when retracting a metal tape measure.]
  1. How old was Manasseh when he became king? [Twelve years old.]
  2. Give one example that shows Manasseh was a wicked king. [He built high places, erected altars to the Baals, made Asheroth, worshiped all the host of heaven, built altars and set up an image in the house of the Lord, burned his sons as an offering, and used fortune-telling and omens and sorcery.]
  3. Fill in the blank. Manasseh led \_\_\_\_\_ to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord destroyed before the people of Israel. [The people, or Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.]
  4. When God said, “I am bringing disaster upon Jerusalem and Judah,” He used three different word pictures. Tell about one of these word pictures. [Ears would tingle—hearing about the judgment

would be like a blast in the ears; measuring line and plumb line—God would measure out judgment as He had on Israel; wiping a dish—God would completely empty out Jerusalem.]

5. Where did the king of Assyria take Manasseh? [To Babylon.]
6. What good thing happened in this story? [Manasseh repented and asked God's favor; God forgave him.]
7. What kind of a king was Amon, Manasseh's son? [Wicked; he served idols as Manasseh had done.]
8. What happened to Amon? [His servants slew him.]

### Memory Verses

- Psalm 139:1–18, 23, 24 (NKJV) A very nice song book with black-and-white visuals (I water colored mine) and a CD is available as a learning tool at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](http://thywordcreations.com). Learning this psalm may take six months or more. Some teachers think saying/singing the whole psalm every week is a good way to learn it. However, this Psalm 139 song book breaks the passage after verse 13; therefore, a suggestion is to work on verses 1–13 for thirteen weeks and then the rest of the psalm for an additional eight weeks or more. Take one or two lessons to say/sing the whole psalm.

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

<sup>2</sup>You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

<sup>3</sup>You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

<sup>5</sup>You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>*Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot *attain* it.

<sup>7</sup>Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

<sup>8</sup>If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

<sup>9</sup>*If* I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

<sup>10</sup>Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

<sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;

<sup>12</sup>Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.

<sup>13</sup>For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup>I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

<sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

<sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.

<sup>17</sup>How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup>*If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. . . .

<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

<sup>24</sup>And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- Alternative verse: Jesus said unto him, "You shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37).

### Handwork:

- Make a headband with ears. One is found at the end of this lesson. Cut on dashed lines. Use the Scripture very at the top of the page as the front part of the headband. Cut strips of paper for the other headband parts. Fit the headbands to the students' heads; cut off excess; tape the headband to fit student's head.

**abominable**

**remnant**

**prey**

**to humble oneself**

**to repent**

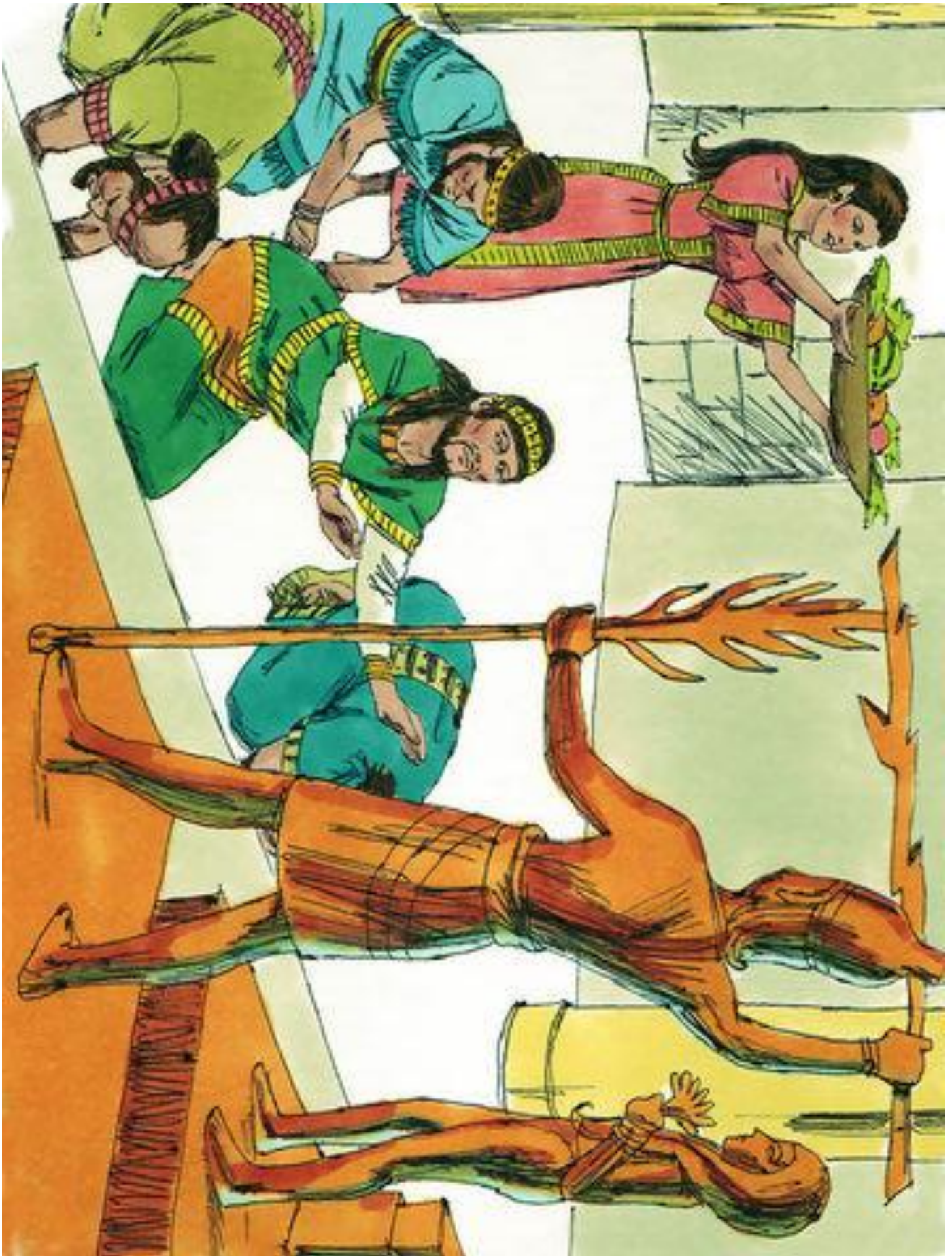
“Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations, and has done things more wicked than all that the Amorites did, who were before him, and has made Judah also to sin with his idols; therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing upon Jerusalem and Judah such evil that the ears of every one who hears of it will tingle. And I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab; and I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down. And I will cast off the remnant of my heritage, and give them into the hand of their enemies, and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies, because they have done what is evil in my sight and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day.”

—2 Kings 21:11–16

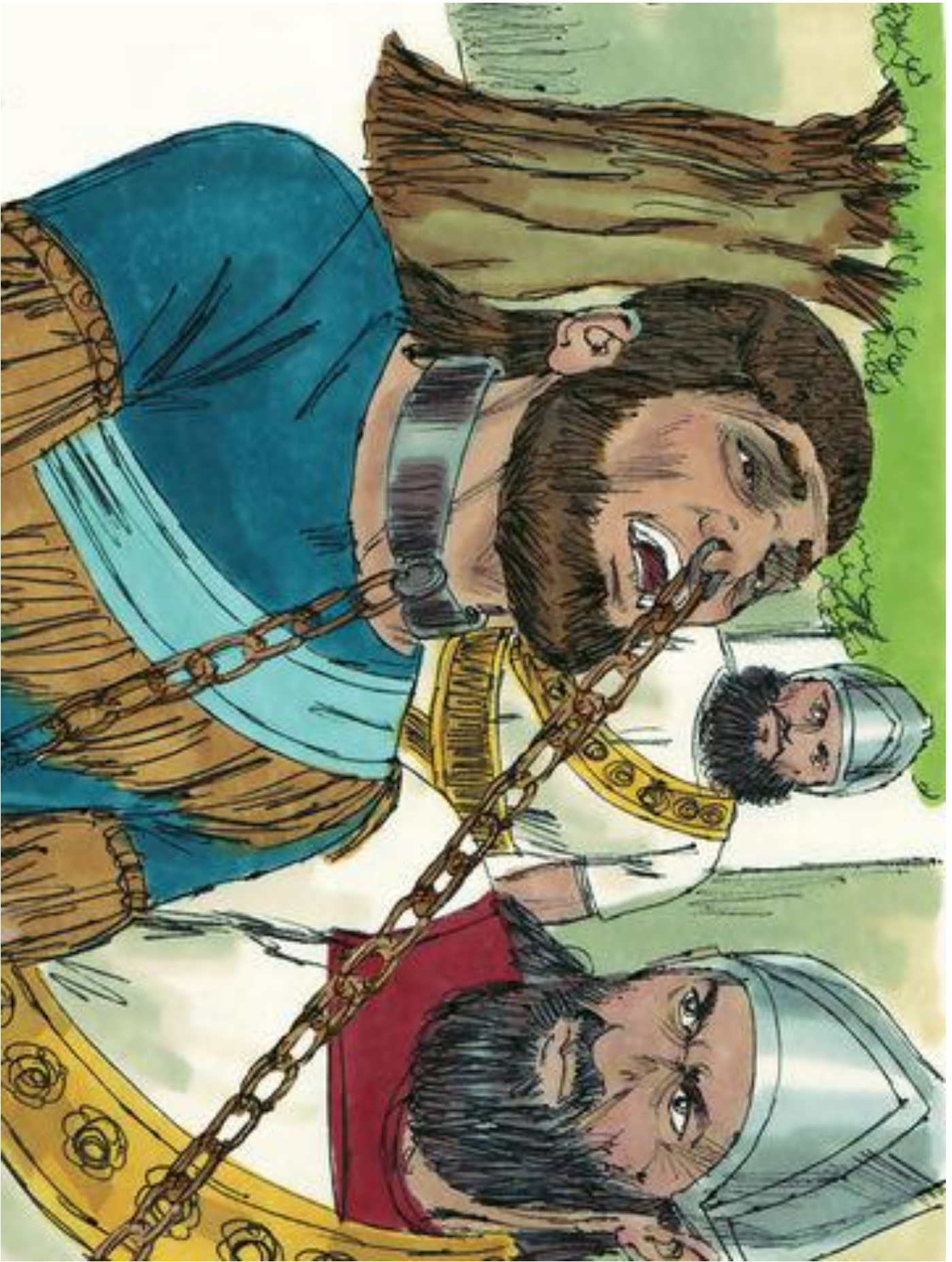




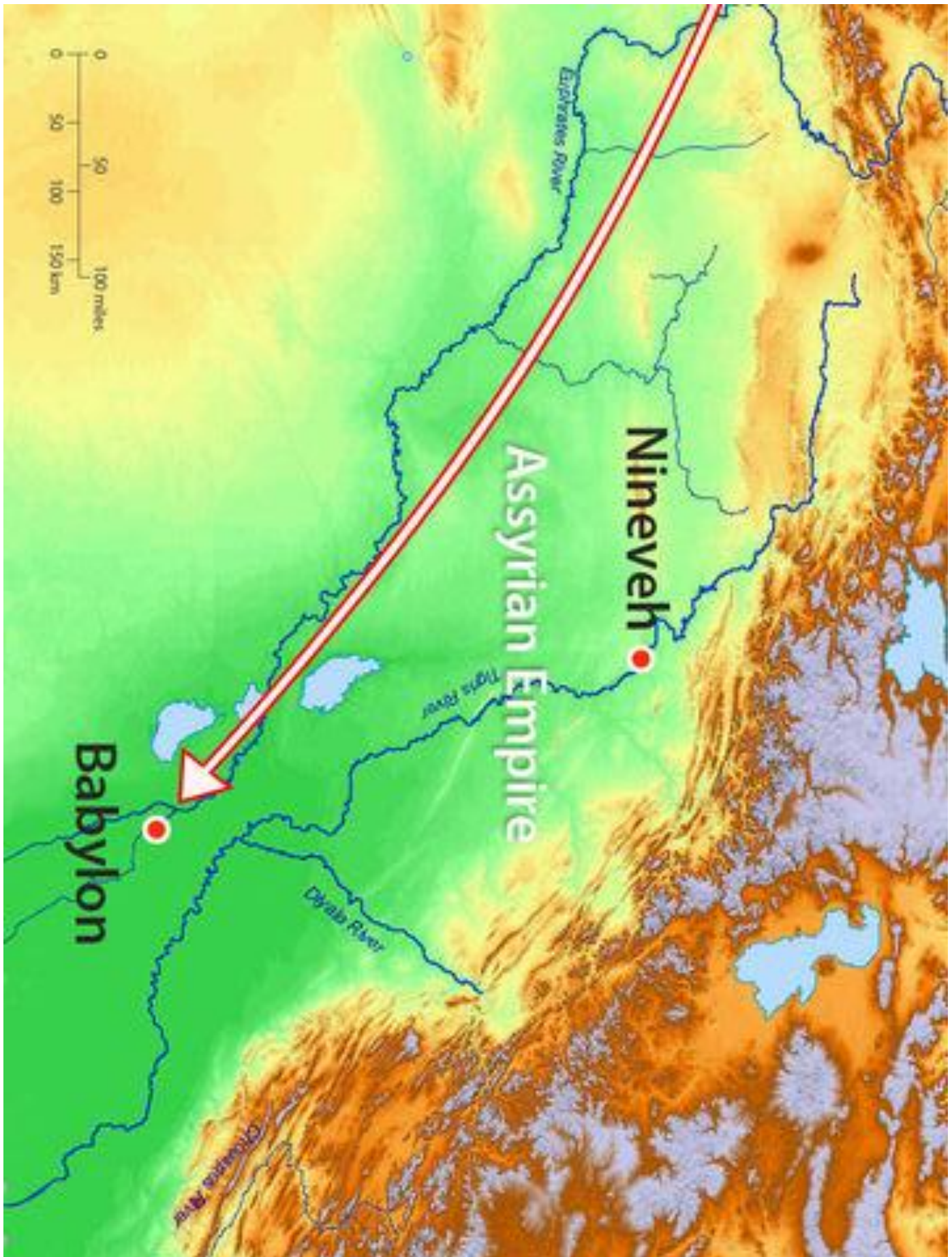
[FreeBibleimages :: Manasseh: The Prodigal King :: Evil King Manasseh is imprisoned, humbles himself before God, repents and is restored \(2 Kings 21:1-18, 2 Chronicles 33:1-20\)](#)



[FreeBibleimages :: Manasseh: The Prodigal King :: Evil King Manasseh is imprisoned, humbles himself before God, repents and is restored \(2 Kings 21:1-18, 2 Chronicles 33:1-20\)](#)



[FreeBibleimages](#) :: [Manasseh: The Prodigal King](#) :: Evil King Manasseh is imprisoned, humbles himself before God, repents and is restored (2 Kings 21:1-18, 2 Chronicles 33:1-20)



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[FreeBibleimages :: Manasseh: The Prodigal King :: Evil King Manasseh is imprisoned, humbles himself before God, repents and is restored \(2 Kings 21:1-18, 2 Chronicles 33:1-20\)](#)



Amon [FreeBibleimages](#) :: [Manasseh: The Prodigal King](#) :: Evil King Manasseh is imprisoned, humbles himself before God, repents and is restored (2 Kings 21:1-18, 2 Chronicles 33:1-20)



Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: "Behold, I am bringing upon Jerusalem and Judah such disaster that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle" (2 Kings 21:12).

### Ears Headband

Decorate ear pieces and sentence strip. Cut along dotted lines. Attach the pieces to a paper headband using the illustration to help you.

