
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 14, Bible Truth 2

The Case of the Slow Sorry 2 Chronicles 33; 2 Kings 21

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. Prince Manasseh was King Hezekiah's son. He grew up hearing about the LORD and knowing the right way to live. He learned God's Word and went to the Temple with his father to offer worship gifts to the LORD. Prince Manasseh did all of this because his father loved the LORD.
2. And when mighty enemies attacked Israel, little Prince Manasseh saw the LORD use His even mightier, marvelous power to defeat them. Prince Manasseh saw all this because his father, King Hezekiah, loved the LORD.
3. But, when Prince Manasseh was just twelve years old, his father died, and he became KING Manasseh. And King Manasseh did NOT love the LORD. He put fake gods in the Temple and offered worship gifts to them. And he ordered all the people of Israel to worship those fake gods, too.
4. King Manasseh and the people of Israel deserved the LORD's punishment for the terrible things they did. But the LORD is a God, so merciful and gracious that He gave King Manasseh and the people of Israel a chance to turn away from their sins and be forgiven.
5. "Turn away from the fake gods! Turn back to Me!" the LORD urged them through His messengers, the prophets. "If you don't, I will discipline you to help you turn back to Me," the LORD warned. But neither Manasseh nor the people listened. So at last, the LORD disciplined them.
6. "March, march, march," came the mighty Assyrian army into Jerusalem and captured King Manasseh. They grabbed him and tied him up with heavy metal chains. They put a hook through his NOSE and made him their slave. They took him back to Nineveh and put him in jail.
7. Manasseh had lots to think about in jail. He had chosen to disobey the LORD and His good ways. He had chosen to worship fake gods and made the people worship them, too. He had even refused the LORD's mercy to turn back to Him.
8. Now, Manasseh could see just how very sinful he had been. He had treated God like his enemy. He deserved for the LORD to punish him and never forgive him or help him. And yet, King Manasseh decided to confess his sins and ask for the LORD's forgiveness anyway.
9. "Help me, LORD. Forgive me," Manasseh pleaded. "I have done terrible things. I have disobeyed You and made the people of Israel disobey You, too," he confessed. "But have mercy on me, LORD. I am turning away from my life of sin. Please forgive me!" he asked. What would the LORD do?
10. The LORD heard King Manasseh confess his sins and forgave him. He rescued him from Nineveh so he could go back home to Jerusalem. He even let Manasseh be king over Israel again. How very gracious the LORD is to those who confess their sins and turn from them!
11. What a different king Manasseh was now! He got rid of all the fake gods and brought back the worship of the LORD in the Temple. He led the people of Israel in loving and praising the LORD, like his father, Hezekiah, had.
12. King Manasseh never forgot how the LORD forgave him when he confessed his sins to Him. And King Manasseh showed it by loving the LORD and living for Him for the rest of his life.