

## August 2 Answers

- 1) If there was ever a man who didn't deserve forgiveness, it was Manasseh. He **burned** his own children in the fires of idolatry, and he **murdered** so many innocent people that Jerusalem was filled with blood from one end to the other. And yet, "when he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the LORD his God and **humbled** himself greatly before the God of his fathers" (2 Chr 33:12). God was "**moved** by his entreaty." God brought him back to Jerusalem and restored his kingdom. He removed all the gods from the temple and ordered Judah to serve you. Manasseh teaches us that **no one** is beyond God's saving grace. As long as there is **life**, there is hope for repentance and restoration. Amon, Manasseh's son, came to the throne at the age of 22, and he quickly perished for his sinful ways. His son Josiah was made king in his place, and "he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in all the way of David his father" (2 Kgs 22:2). How could such a godly man come from the likes of Amon and Manasseh? I think the likely answer is to be found in Zephaniah, a descendant of Hezekiah. When Josiah was young, **Zephaniah** prophesied of the coming "**day** of the LORD," that great and terrible day when God's wrath and judgment will be poured out on a sinful world. Zephaniah made it clear that those who said, "The LORD will not do **good**, nor will he do **ill**," were very much mistaken. God was going to personally "**search** Jerusalem with lamps," and punish those who spoke such sinful and complacent words (Zeph 1:12). What should Judah do? "Gather together...O shameless nation, before the decree takes effect...Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD" (Zeph 2:1-3). As Peter said, "Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God." This teaches us that we should be "diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace" (2 Pet 3:11-15).