

# The Passover of Hezekiah

2 Chronicles 30

# The Passover of Hezekiah

- Hezekiah's background
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- Applications

# Hezekiah's Background

- Son of a wicked king of Judah
- Takes sole rule shortly after Assyria takes Israel captive
- Is determined to restore Judah's faithfulness to Yahweh

## 2 Chronicles 28:1–3 (ESV)

**1** Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as his father David had done, **2** but he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel. He even made metal images for the Baals, **3** and he made offerings in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom and burned his sons as an offering, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel.

# Hezekiah's Background

- Son of a wicked king of Judah
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## 2 Kings 18:9–12 (ESV)

**9** In the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it, **10** and at the end of three years he took it. In the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken. **11** The king of Assyria carried the Israelites away to Assyria and put them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes, **12** because they did not obey the voice of the LORD their God but transgressed his covenant, even all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded. They neither listened nor obeyed.

# Hezekiah's Background

- Son of a wicked king of Judah
- Takes sole rule shortly after Assyria takes Israel captive
- Is determined to restore Judah's faithfulness to Yahweh

## 2 Chronicles 29:1–2, 10 (ESV)

**1** Hezekiah began to reign when he was twenty-five years old, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abijah the daughter of Zechariah. **2** And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done.

**10** "... it is in my heart to make a covenant with the LORD, the God of Israel, in order that his fierce anger may turn away from us."

# Passover Preparations

- The temple and priesthood must be sanctified

## 2 Chronicles 29:3–6 (ESV)

**3** In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them. **4** He brought in the priests and the Levites and assembled them in the square on the east **5** and said to them, “Hear me, Levites! Now consecrate yourselves, and consecrate the house of the LORD, the God of your fathers, and carry out the filth from the Holy Place. **6** For our fathers have been unfaithful and have done what was evil in the sight of the LORD our God. They have forsaken him and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the LORD and turned their backs.

# Passover Preparations

- The temple and priesthood must be sanctified
- It takes most of a month to complete

## 2 Chronicles 29:16–18 (ESV)

**16** The priests went into the inner part of the house of the LORD to cleanse it, and they brought out all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of the LORD into the court of the house of the LORD. And the Levites took it and carried it out to the brook Kidron. **17** They began to consecrate on the first day of the first month, and on the eighth day of the month they came to the vestibule of the LORD. Then for eight days they consecrated the house of the LORD, and on the sixteenth day of the first month they finished. **18** Then they went in to Hezekiah the king and said, “We have cleansed all the house of the LORD, the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the table for the showbread and all its utensils.

# Passover Preparations

- The temple and priesthood must be sanctified
- It takes most of a month to complete
- The Passover cannot be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month as prescribed by Moses

## Exodus 12:1–6 (ESV)

**1** The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, **2** “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. **3** Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household. ... **6** and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

# Passover Preparations

- The temple and priesthood must be sanctified
- It takes most of a month to complete
- The Passover cannot be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month as prescribed by Moses
- Hezekiah decides to held the feast in the second month instead

## 2 Chronicles 30:2–4 (ESV)

**2** For the king and his princes and all the assembly in Jerusalem had taken counsel to keep the Passover in the second month— **3** for they could not keep it at that time because the priests had not consecrated themselves in sufficient number, nor had the people assembled in Jerusalem— **4** and the plan seemed right to the king and all the assembly.

# The Passover Celebrated

- The remnant of Israel left in the north is invited

## 2 Chronicles 30:5–7 (ESV)

**5** So they decreed to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that the people should come and keep the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel, at Jerusalem, for they had not kept it as often as prescribed. **6** So couriers went throughout all Israel and Judah with letters from the king and his princes, as the king had commanded, saying, “O people of Israel, return to the LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, that he may turn again to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. **7** Do not be like your fathers and your brothers, who were faithless to the LORD God of their fathers, so that he made them a desolation, as you see.

## 2 Chronicles 30:10–12 (ESV)

**10** So the couriers went from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, and as far as Zebulun, but they laughed them to scorn and mocked them. **11** However, some men of Asher, of Manasseh, and of Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. **12** The hand of God was also on Judah to give them one heart to do what the king and the princes commanded by the word of the LORD.

# The Passover Celebrated

- The remnant of Israel left in the north is invited
- A great Passover is celebrated

## 2 Chronicles 30:13–16 (ESV)

**13** And many people came together in Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month, a very great assembly. **14** They set to work and removed the altars that were in Jerusalem, and all the altars for burning incense they took away and threw into the brook Kidron. **15** And they slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. And the priests and the Levites were ashamed, so that they consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings into the house of the LORD. **16** They took their accustomed posts according to the Law of Moses the man of God. The priests threw the blood that they received from the hand of the Levites.

# The Passover Celebrated

- The remnant of Israel left in the north is invited
- A great Passover is celebrated
- Many participate in the Passover even though they are defiled

## 2 Chronicles 30:17–18 (ESV)

**17** For there were many in the assembly who had not consecrated themselves. Therefore the Levites had to slaughter the Passover lamb for everyone who was not clean, to consecrate it to the LORD. **18** For a majority of the people, many of them from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the Passover otherwise than as prescribed.

# The Passover Celebrated

- The remnant of Israel left in the north is invited
- A great Passover is celebrated
- Many participate in the Passover even though they are defiled
- Hezekiah prays that their worship will be accepted, and it is

## 2 Chronicles 30:18–20 (ESV)

**18** ... For Hezekiah had prayed for them, saying, “May the good LORD pardon everyone **19** who sets his heart to seek God, the LORD, the God of his fathers, even though not according to the sanctuary’s rules of cleanness.” **20** And the LORD heard Hezekiah and healed the people.

# The Passover Celebrated

- The remnant of Israel left in the north is invited
- A great Passover is celebrated
- Many participate in the Passover even though they are defiled
- Hezekiah prays that their worship will be accepted, and it is
- This Passover forms the basis for more thorough reforms, and the preservation of the nation from Assyrian invasion

# Considerations

- Does this passage teach that as long as our hearts are right, the details of law and worship are unimportant?

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# Considerations

- Does this passage teach that as long as our hearts are right, the details of law and worship are unimportant?
- Did Hezekiah break the law/innovate by celebrating the Passover in the second month?

## 2 Chronicles 30:2–4 (ESV)

**2** For the king and his princes and all the assembly in Jerusalem had taken counsel to keep the Passover in the second month— **3** for they could not keep it at that time because the priests had not consecrated themselves in sufficient number, nor had the people assembled in Jerusalem— **4** and the plan seemed right to the king and all the assembly.

## Numbers 9:9–11 (ESV)

**9** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **10** “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, If any one of you or of your descendants is unclean through touching a dead body, or is on a long journey, he shall still keep the Passover to the LORD. **11** In the second month on the fourteenth day at twilight they shall keep it. They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

# Considerations

- Does this passage teach that as long as our hearts are right, the details of law and worship are unimportant?
- Did Hezekiah break the law/innovate by celebrating the Passover in the second month?
- What was the issue with the defiled Passover feasters?

## Numbers 9:6–7 (ESV)

**6** And there were certain men who were unclean through touching a dead body, so that they could not keep the Passover on that day, and they came before Moses and Aaron on that day. **7** And those men said to him, “We are unclean through touching a dead body. Why are we kept from bringing the LORD’s offering at its appointed time among the people of Israel?”

## **Leviticus 15:31 (ESV)**

**31** “Thus you shall keep the people of Israel separate from their uncleanness, lest they die in their uncleanness by defiling my tabernacle that is in their midst.”

# Considerations

- Does this passage teach that as long as our hearts are right, the details of law and worship are unimportant?
- Did Hezekiah break the law/innovate by celebrating the Passover in the second month?
- What was the issue with the defiled Passover feasters?
- What should be a Christian's response to those who sincerely practice worship that is not according to the pattern of Scripture?
  - Stop them by whatever means necessary?
  - Accept/tolerate/celebrate their efforts?
  - Pray for them that they may be healed?

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# Applications

- Non-Christians partaking of the Lord's Supper

# **1 Corinthians 11:27–28 (NKJV)**

**27** Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. **28** But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

# Applications

- Non-Christians partaking of the Lord's Supper
- Christians committing sins not leading to death

## **1 John 5:16–17 (ESV)**

**16** If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that.

**17** All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

# Applications

- Non-Christians partaking of the Lord's Supper
- Christians committing sins not leading to death
- Ourselves

## Psalm 19:12–13 (NKJV)

**12** Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. **13** Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

# Christ, Our Passover

**1 Corinthians 5:6–9 (NKJV) — 6** Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? **7** Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. **8** Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. **9** I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people.