

“How to Celebrate Your Salvation”

2 Chronicles 35

“The Passover had not been observed like this in Israel since the days of the prophet Samuel; and none of the kings of Israel had ever celebrated such a Passover as did Josiah” (2 Chron. 35:18)

Once Josiah found the Law and understood what it said he sought to apply it to his life and the nations' life. The Chronicler gives 19 verses to this Passover that Josiah celebrated and mentioned that it was the greatest Passover celebration in Israel's history! Quite the statement. Let's look at this Passovers and see what made it so special.

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Preparations (35:1-4)

Josiah celebrated the Passover where and when?

v.1 In _____ on the ____ day of the _____ month

Read Deut. 16:1-8. Why were they to celebrate it?

16:1 “. . . because in the month Abib He brought you out of _____ by night.”

16:2 “Sacrifice as the Passover to the Lord your God an animal from your flock or herd at the _____ the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling place for His _____.”

See how Solomon said God declared Jerusalem as that place

2 Chron. 6:6 “But now I have _____ Jerusalem for My Name to be there and I have chosen _____ to rule My people Israel.”

What else did Josiah do in preparing for the Passover?

35:3 “He appointed the _____ to their duties and _____ them in the service of the Lord's temple.”

***How do you think he ‘encouraged’ them [the Hebrew word means ‘strengthened’]?**

***According to Heb. 3:12-13 how often and for what reason are we to encourage one another?**

Heb. 3:12 “See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a _____, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

v.13 “But encourage one another _____, as long as it is called “_____,” so that none of you may be _____ by sin's deceitfulness.

In 2Chron. 35:3 Josiah gave the Levites an odd instruction. What was it?

v.3 “He said to the Levites who instructed all Israel and who had been consecrated to the Lord, ‘Put the sacred _____ in the _____ that Solomon son of David king of Israel built. It is not to be _____ on your shoulders . . .”

***Why wasn't the ark already in the temple??? [cf. 2 Chron. 28:24; 29:18-19; 33:4-5]**

What other instructions were the Levites given?

35:4 "Prepare yourselves by families in your _____ according to the directions written by _____ King of Israel and by his son Solomon."

***See 1 Chron. 24:1-18. For how long did Israel go by these divisions? (Luke 1:5, 8)**

Sacrifices (35:5-16)

What other instruction were the Levites given?

35:6 "Slaughter the Passover lambs, _____ yourselves and _____ the lambs for your fellow countrymen doing what the Lord commanded through _____."

Josiah and his officials provided from their own possessions the sacrifices for the people. How many did they give?

35:7 _____ lambs & goats and _____ cattle

35:8 _____ Passover offerings and _____ cattle

35:9 Others offered _____ offerings & _____ cattle

Since this was a the 'greatest' Passover ever celebrated, how did it compare with Hezekiah's Passover?

30:24 Hezekiah provided _____ bulls; _____ sheep & goats
Officials another _____ bulls, _____ sheep & goats

What other key element made this a great Passover?

35:12 "They set aside the burnt offerings to give to the sub-divisions of the families of the people to offer to the Lord as is _____ in the book of _____."

35:13 "They roasted the Passover lambs over the fire as _____ . . . and served them quickly."

35:14 "After this they made preparations for _____"

***Recall a former priestly family in 1 Sam. 2:12-17 and how they handled the people's sacrifices.**

Who else was looked after?

35:16 ". . . the _____ at each gate did not have to leave their posts because their fellow _____ made their preparations for them."

Celebration (35:16-19)

Four times we read the word 'celebrated' and once 'celebration' in these verses. The Hebrew word simply means _____. The idea being when you 'accomplish' Passover it produces _____.

***Think about that aspect for a moment. The simple act of doing what God says brings us joy. Is that found in the Bible? ☺ [Look up John 15:9-11; Ps. 119:14, 16, 111]**

***Do we experience the joy of the Lord when we obey His Word?**

***Why did David ask God to 'restore his joy' in Ps. 51:12?**

Read v. 18 one more time and now we can see more clearly this was a special time of celebration.

35:18 "The Passover had not been observed like this in Israel since the days of the prophet _____ and _____ of the kings of Israel had ever celebrated such a Passover as did Josiah with the _____ and _____ Judah _____ Israel who were _____ with the people of _____."

***So the Passover was special not only because of the number of sacrifices but also because of their joy in the Lord**

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