

## Hezekiah's Reforms: National Invitation to the Passover (Nisan–Ziv [April–May] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 30:1–12

- 1 Now Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover to the LORD God of Israel.
- 2 For the king and his princes and all the assembly in Jerusalem had decided to celebrate the Passover in the second month,
- 3 since they could not celebrate it at that time, because the priests had not consecrated themselves in sufficient numbers, nor had the people been gathered to Jerusalem. [cf. [Num 9:10–14](#)]
- 4 Thus the thing was right in the sight of the king and all the assembly.
- 5 So they established a decree to circulate a proclamation throughout all Israel from Beersheba even to Dan, that they should come to celebrate the Passover to the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem. For they had not celebrated *it* in great numbers as it was prescribed.
- 6 The couriers went throughout all Israel and Judah with the letters from the hand of the king and his princes, even according to the command of the king, saying, “O sons of Israel, return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, that He may return to those of you who escaped *and* are left from the hand of the kings of Assyria.
- 7 Do not be like your fathers and your brothers, who were unfaithful to the LORD God of their fathers, so that He made them a horror, as you see.
- 8 Now do not stiffen your neck like your fathers, but yield to the LORD and enter His sanctuary which He has consecrated forever, and serve the LORD your God, that His burning anger may turn away from you.
- 9 For if you return to the LORD, your brothers and your sons *will find* compassion before those who led them captive and will return to this land. For the LORD your God is gracious and compassionate, and will not turn *His* face away from you if you return to Him.”
- 10 So the couriers passed 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 Nevertheless some men of Asher, Manasseh and 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.

## I Am For Peace (c. 715 BC)

Psalm 120

### A Song of Ascents.

- 1 In my trouble I cried to the LORD,  
And He answered me.
- 2 Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips,  
From a deceitful tongue.
- 3 What shall be given to you, and what more shall be done to you,  
You deceitful tongue?
- 4 Sharp arrows of the warrior,  
With the *burning* coals of the broom tree.
- 5 Woe is me, for I sojourn in Meshech,  
For I dwell among the tents of Kedar!
- 6 Too long has my soul had its dwelling  
With those who hate peace.
- 7 I am *for* peace, but when I speak,  
They are for war.

### Hezekiah's Reforms: Celebration of the Passover (14 Iyyar [May] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 30:13–20

13 Now many people were gathered at Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month, a very large assembly.

14 They arose and removed the altars which *were* in Jerusalem; they also removed all the incense altars and cast *them* into the brook Kidron.

15 Then they slaughtered the Passover *lambs* on the fourteenth of the second month. And the priests and Levites were ashamed of themselves, and consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings to the house of the LORD.

16 They stood at their stations after their custom, according to the law of Moses the man of God; the priests sprinkled the blood *which they received* from the hand of the Levites.

17 For *there were* many in the assembly who had not consecrated themselves; therefore, the Levites *were* over the slaughter of the Passover *lambs* for everyone who *was* unclean, in order to consecrate *them* to the LORD.

18 For a multitude of the people, *even* many from Ephraim and Manasseh, Issachar and Zebulun, had not purified themselves, yet they ate the Passover otherwise than prescribed. For Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, "May the good LORD pardon

19 everyone who prepares his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though not according to the purification *rules* of the sanctuary."

20 So the LORD heard Hezekiah and healed the people.

### Hezekiah's Reforms: Feast of Unleavened Bread (15–21 Iyyar [May] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 30:21–22

21 The sons of Israel present in Jerusalem celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread *for* seven days with great joy, and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day after day with loud instruments to the LORD.

22 Then Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites who showed good insight *in the things* of the LORD. So they ate for the appointed seven days, sacrificing peace offerings and giving thanks to the LORD God of their fathers.

### Who Is Like the LORD Our God? (c. 715 BC)

Psalm 113

- 1 Praise the LORD!  
Praise, O servants of the LORD,  
Praise the name of the LORD.
- 2 Blessed be the name of the LORD  
From this time forth and forever.
- 3 From the rising of the sun to its setting  
The name of the LORD is to be praised.
- 4 The LORD is high above all nations;  
His glory is above the heavens.
- 5 Who is like the LORD our God,  
Who is enthroned on high,
- 6 Who humbles Himself to behold  
*The things that are* in heaven and in the earth?
- 7 He raises the poor from the dust  
And lifts the needy from the ash heap,
- 8 To make *them* sit with princes,

With the princes of His people.

- 9 He makes the barren woman abide in the house  
As a joyful mother of children.  
Praise the LORD!

### Tremble at the Presence of the LORD (c. 715 BC)

#### Psalm 114

- 1 When Israel went forth from Egypt,  
The house of Jacob from a people of strange language,  
2 Judah became His sanctuary,  
Israel, His dominion.  
3 The sea looked and fled;  
The Jordan turned back.  
4 The mountains skipped like rams,  
The hills, like lambs.  
5 What ails you, O sea, that you flee?  
O Jordan, that you turn back?  
6 O mountains, that you skip like rams?  
O hills, like lambs?  
7 Tremble, O earth, before the Lord,  
Before the God of Jacob,  
8 Who turned the rock into a pool of water,  
The flint into a fountain of water.

### To Your Name Give Glory (c. 715 BC)

#### Psalm 115

- 1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us,  
But to Your name give glory  
Because of Your lovingkindness, because of Your truth.  
2 Why should the nations say,  
“Where, now, is their God?”  
3 But our God is in the heavens;  
He does whatever He pleases.  
4 Their idols are silver and gold,  
The work of man’s hands.  
5 They have mouths, but they cannot speak;  
They have eyes, but they cannot see;  
6 They have ears, but they cannot hear;  
They have noses, but they cannot smell;  
7 They have hands, but they cannot feel;  
They have feet, but they cannot walk;  
They cannot make a sound with their throat.  
8 Those who make them will become like them,  
Everyone who trusts in them.  
9 O Israel, trust in the LORD;  
He is their help and their shield.  
10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD;

- He is their help and their shield.
- 11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD;  
He is their help and their shield.
- 12 The LORD has been mindful of us; He will bless *us*;  
He will bless the house of Israel;  
He will bless the house of Aaron.
- 13 He will bless those who fear the LORD,  
The small together with the great.
- 14 May the LORD give you increase,  
You and your children.
- 15 May you be blessed of the LORD,  
Maker of heaven and earth.
- 16 The heavens are the heavens of the LORD,  
But the earth He has given to the sons of men.
- 17 The dead do not praise the LORD,  
Nor *do* any who go down into silence;
- 18 But as for us, we will bless the LORD  
From this time forth and forever.  
Praise the LORD!

### I Love the LORD (c. 715 BC)

#### Psalm 116

- 1 I love the LORD, because He hears  
My voice *and* my supplications.
- 2 Because He has inclined His ear to me,  
Therefore I shall call *upon Him* as long as I live.
- 3 The cords of death encompassed me  
And the terrors of Sheol came upon me;  
I found distress and sorrow.
- 4 Then I called upon the name of the LORD:  
“O LORD, I beseech You, save my life!”
- 5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;  
Yes, our God is compassionate.
- 6 The LORD preserves the simple;  
I was brought low, and He saved me.
- 7 Return to your rest, O my soul,  
For the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
- 8 For You have rescued my soul from death,  
My eyes from tears,  
My feet from stumbling.
- 9 I shall walk before the LORD  
In the land of the living.
- 10 I believed when I said,  
“I am greatly afflicted.” [[2 Cor 4:13](#)]
- 11 I said in my alarm,  
“All men are liars.”
- 12 What shall I render to the LORD  
For all His benefits toward me?

- 13 I shall lift up the cup of salvation  
And call upon the name of the LORD.
- 14 I shall pay my vows to the LORD,  
Oh *may it be* in the presence of all His people.
- 15 Precious in the sight of the LORD  
Is the death of His godly ones.
- 16 O LORD, surely I am Your servant,  
I am Your servant, the son of Your handmaid,  
You have loosed my bonds.
- 17 To You I shall offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
And call upon the name of the LORD.
- 18 I shall pay my vows to the LORD,  
Oh *may it be* in the presence of all His people,
- 19 In the courts of the LORD's house,  
In the midst of you, O Jerusalem.  
Praise the LORD!

### The LORD's Faithfulness Endures Forever (c. 715 BC)

Psalm 117

- 1 Praise the LORD, all nations;  
Laud Him, all peoples! [[Rom 15:11](#)]
- 2 For His lovingkindness is great toward us,  
And the truth of the LORD is everlasting.  
Praise the LORD!

### Hezekiah's Reforms: Extended Celebration (22–28 Iyyar [May/June] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 30:23–27

- 23 Then the whole assembly decided to celebrate *the feast* another seven days, so they celebrated the seven days with joy.
- 24 For Hezekiah king of Judah had contributed to the assembly 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep, and the princes had contributed to the assembly 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep; and a large number of priests consecrated themselves.
- 25 All the assembly of Judah rejoiced, with the priests and the Levites and all the assembly that came from Israel, both the sojourners who came from the land of Israel and those living in Judah.
- 26 So there was great joy in Jerusalem, because there was nothing like this in Jerusalem since the days of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel.
- 27 Then the Levitical priests arose and blessed the people; and their voice was heard and their prayer came to His holy dwelling place, to heaven.

### Hezekiah's Reforms: Destruction of Idols (Sivan [June] 715 BC)

2 Kings 18:4–6

2 Chronicles 31:1

4 He removed the high places and broke down the *sacred* pillars and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of

1 Now when all this was finished, all Israel who were present went out to the cities of Judah, broke the pillars in pieces, cut down the Asherim and pulled down the high places

Israel burned incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan. [cf. [Num 21:4–9](#)]

5 He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel; so that after him there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor *among those* who were before him.

6 For he clung to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses.

and the altars throughout all Judah and Benjamin, as well as in Ephraim and Manasseh, until they had destroyed them all. Then all the sons of Israel returned to their cities, each to his possession.

### Hezekiah's Reforms: Supplies for Priests and Levites (Sivan–Tishri [June–October] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 31:2–7

2 And Hezekiah appointed the divisions of the priests and the Levites by their divisions, each according to his service, *both* the priests and the Levites, for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister and to give thanks and to praise in the gates of the camp of the LORD.

3 *He also appointed* the king's portion of his goods for the burnt offerings, *namely*, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the sabbaths and for the new moons and for the fixed festivals, as it is written in the law of the LORD.

4 Also he commanded the people who lived in Jerusalem to give the portion due to the priests and the Levites, that they might devote themselves to the law of the LORD.

5 As soon as the order spread, the sons of Israel provided in abundance the first fruits of grain, new wine, oil, honey and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of all.

6 The sons of Israel and Judah who lived in the cities of Judah also brought in the tithe of oxen and sheep, and the tithe of sacred gifts which were consecrated to the LORD their God, and placed *them* in heaps.

7 In the third month they began to make the heaps, and finished *them* by the seventh month.

### Hezekiah's Reforms: Storage and Disbursement of Supplies (Tishri [October] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 31:8–21

8 When Hezekiah and the rulers came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD and His people Israel.

9 Then Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps.

10 Azariah the chief priest of the house of Zadok said to him, "Since the contributions began to be brought into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat with plenty left over, for the LORD has blessed His people, and this great quantity is left over."

11 Then Hezekiah commanded *them* to prepare rooms in the house of the LORD, and they prepared *them*.

12 They faithfully brought in the contributions and the tithes and the consecrated things; and Conaniah the Levite *was* the officer in charge of them and his brother Shimei *was* second.

13 Jehiel, Azariah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eliel, Ismachiah, Mahath and Benaiah *were* overseers under the authority of Conaniah and Shimei his brother by the appointment of King Hezekiah, and Azariah *was* the *chief* officer of the house of God.

14 Kore the son of Imnah the Levite, the keeper of the eastern *gate*, *was* over the freewill offerings of God, to apportion the contributions for the LORD and the most holy things.

15 Under his authority *were* Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah and Shecaniah in the cities of the priests, to distribute faithfully *their portions* to their brothers by divisions, whether great or small,

16 without regard to their genealogical enrollment, to the males from thirty years old and upward—everyone who entered the house of the LORD for his daily obligations—for their work in their duties according to their divisions;

17 as well as the priests who were enrolled genealogically according to their fathers' households, and the Levites from twenty years old and upwards, by their duties *and* their divisions.

18 The genealogical enrollment *included* all their little children, their wives, their sons and their daughters, for the whole assembly, for they consecrated themselves faithfully in holiness.

19 Also for the sons of Aaron the priests *who were* in the pasture lands of their cities, or in each and every city, *there were* men who were designated by name to distribute portions to every male among the priests and to everyone genealogically enrolled among the Levites.

20 Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah; and he did what *was* good, right and true before the LORD his God.

21 Every work which he began in the service of the house of God in law and in commandment, seeking his God, he did with all his heart and prospered.

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