

Josiah Renews the Covenant (c. Nisan [April] 622 BC)

2 Kings 23:1–3	2 Chronicles 34:29–32
<p>1 Then the king sent, and they gathered to him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.</p> <p>2 The king went up to the house of the LORD and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great; and he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.</p> <p>3 The king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all <i>his</i> heart and all <i>his</i> soul, to carry out the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people entered into the covenant.</p>	<p>29 Then the king sent and gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.</p> <p>30 The king went up to the house of the LORD and all the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, the Levites and all the people, from the greatest to the least; and he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.</p> <p>31 Then the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the LORD to walk after the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant written in this book.</p> <p>32 Moreover, he made all who were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand <i>with him</i>. So the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.</p>

Josiah Celebrates the Passover (14–21 Nisan [April] 622 BC)

2 Kings 23:21–23	2 Chronicles 35:1–19
<p>21 Then the king commanded all the people saying, “Celebrate the Passover to the LORD your God as it is written in this book of the covenant.”</p>	<p>1 Then Josiah celebrated the Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem, and they slaughtered the Passover <i>animals</i> on the fourteenth <i>day</i> of the first month.</p> <p>2 He set the priests in their offices and encouraged them in the service of the house of the LORD.</p> <p>3 He also said to the Levites who taught all Israel <i>and</i> who were holy to the LORD, “Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel built; it will be a burden on <i>your</i> shoulders no longer. Now serve the LORD your God and His people Israel.</p> <p>4 “Prepare <i>yourselves</i> by your fathers’ households in your divisions, according to the writing of David king of Israel and according to the writing of his son Solomon.</p> <p>5 “Moreover, stand in the holy place according to the sections of the fathers’ households of your brethren the lay people, and according to the Levites, by division of a father’s household.</p> <p>6 “Now slaughter the Passover <i>animals</i>, sanctify yourselves and prepare for your brethren to do according to the word of the LORD by Moses.”</p>

7 Josiah contributed to the lay people, to all who were present, flocks of lambs and young goats, all for the Passover offerings, numbering 30,000 plus 3,000 bulls; these were from the king's possessions.

8 His officers also contributed a freewill offering to the people, the priests and the Levites. Hilkiah and Zechariah and Jehiel, the officials of the house of God, gave to the priests for the Passover offerings 2,600 *from the flocks* and 300 bulls.

9 Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethanel, his brothers, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, the officers of the Levites, contributed to the Levites for the Passover offerings 5,000 *from the flocks* and 500 bulls.

10 So the service was prepared, and the priests stood at their stations and the Levites by their divisions according to the king's command.

11 They slaughtered the Passover *animals*, and while the priests sprinkled the blood *received* from their hand, the Levites skinned *them*.

12 Then they removed the burnt offerings that *they* might give them to the sections of the fathers' households of the lay people to present to the LORD, as it is written in the book of Moses. *They did* this also with the bulls.

13 So they roasted the Passover *animals* on the fire according to the ordinance, and they boiled the holy things in pots, in kettles, in pans, and carried *them* speedily to all the lay people.

14 Afterwards they prepared for themselves and for the priests, because the priests, the sons of Aaron, *were* offering the burnt offerings and the fat until night; therefore the Levites prepared for themselves and for the priests, the sons of Aaron.

15 The singers, the sons of Asaph, *were* also at their stations according to the command of David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer; and the gatekeepers at each gate did not have to depart from their service, because the Levites their brethren prepared for them.

16 So all the service of the LORD was prepared on that day to celebrate the Passover, and to offer burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD according to the command of King Josiah.

17 Thus the sons of Israel who were present celebrated the Passover at that time, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days.

22 Surely such a Passover had not been celebrated from the days of the judges who judged Israel,

18 There had not been celebrated a Passover like it in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet;

nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and of the kings of Judah.

23 But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, this Passover was observed to the LORD in Jerusalem.

nor had any of the kings of Israel celebrated such a Passover as Josiah did with the priests, the Levites, all Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

19 In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign this Passover was celebrated.

Oh, That My People Would Listen to Me (c. 622 BC)

Psalm 81

For the choir director; on the Gittith.

A Psalm of Asaph.

- 1 Sing for joy to God our strength;
Shout joyfully to the God of Jacob.
- 2 Raise a song, strike the timbrel,
The sweet sounding lyre with the harp.
- 3 Blow the trumpet at the new moon,
At the full moon, on our feast day.
- 4 For it is a statute for Israel,
An ordinance of the God of Jacob.
- 5 He established it for a testimony in Joseph
When he went throughout the land of Egypt.
I heard a language that I did not know:
- 6 "I relieved his shoulder of the burden,
His hands were freed from the basket.
- 7 "You called in trouble and I rescued you;
I answered you in the hiding place of thunder;
I proved you at the waters of Meribah. *Selah.*
- 8 "Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you;
O Israel, if you would listen to Me!
- 9 "Let there be no strange god among you;
Nor shall you worship any foreign god.
- 10 "I, the LORD, am your God,
Who brought you up from the land of Egypt;
Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.
- 11 "But My people did not listen to My voice,
And Israel did not obey Me.
- 12 "So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their heart,
To walk in their own devices.
- 13 "Oh that My people would listen to Me,
That Israel would walk in My ways!
- 14 "I would quickly subdue their enemies
And turn My hand against their adversaries.
- 15 "Those who hate the LORD would pretend obedience to Him,
And their time of *punishment* would be forever.
- 16 "But I would feed you with the finest of the wheat,
And with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

Josiah Removes Idolatry That Had Appeared Since His Twelfth Year (c. Iyyar [May] 622 BC)

2 Kings 23:24–27	2 Chronicles 34:33
<p>24 Moreover, Josiah removed the mediums and the spiritists and the teraphim and the idols and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem,</p> <p>that he might confirm the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the house of the LORD.</p> <p>25 Before him there was no king like him who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him.</p> <p>26 However, the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath with which His anger burned against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him.</p> <p>27 The LORD said, “I will remove Judah also from My sight, as I have removed Israel. And I will cast off Jerusalem, this city which I have chosen, and the temple of which I said, ‘My name shall be there.’”</p>	<p>33 Josiah removed</p> <p>all the abominations from all the lands</p> <p>belonging to the sons of Israel, and made all who were present in Israel to serve the LORD their God.</p> <p>Throughout his lifetime they did not turn from following the LORD God of their fathers.</p>

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