

The Death of Ahaz [Judah] (715 BC)

2 Kings 16:19–20

2 Chronicles 28:26–27

19 Now the remainder of the acts of Ahaz which he did,
are they not written in the scroll of the events of the days of the kings of Judah?

20 So Ahaz slept with his ancestors
and was buried with his ancestors in the city of David,

and Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

26 Now the remainder of his words and all his ways,
from the first *to* the last,
behold, they are written upon the scroll of the kings of Judah and Israel.

27 And Ahaz slept with his ancestors,
and they buried him in the city, in Jerusalem,
for they did not bring him to the burial site of the kings of Israel.

And Hezekiah his son became king in his place.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Philistia (715 BC)

Isaiah 14:28–32

28 In the year of the death of king Ahaz there was this oracle:

29 You must not rejoice, all you Philistines,
that the rod that struck you is broken,
for a viper will come forth from *the* root of *the* snake,
and its fruit *will be* a flying serpent.

30 And *the* firstborn of *the* poor will graze,
and *the* needy will lie down in security;
but I will cause your root to die in famine,
and it will kill your remnant.

31 Wail, gate! Cry, city!
Melt, Philistia, all of you!
For smoke *is* coming from *the* north,
and there is no straggler in his ranks.

32 And what will one answer *the* messengers of *the* nation?

That Yahweh has founded Zion,
and the needy of his people will take refuge in it.

Hezekiah Begins Sole Reign of Judah (715 BC)

2 Kings 18:2–3

2 Chronicles 29:1–2

2 He was twenty-five years old when he became king,
and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. The name of
his mother was Abi, the daughter of Zechariah.

3 He did right in the eyes of Yahweh
according to all that David his ancestor had done.

1 Hezekiah became king when he *was* twenty-five years old,
and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. And the name of
his mother *was* Abijah the daughter of Zechariah.

2 And he did that which was right in the eyes of Yahweh,
according to all that David his father had done.

Hezekiah's Reforms: Outer Court and Vessels Purified (1–7 Nisan [Mar/Apr] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 29:3–17a

Temple Repairs

3 In the first year of his kingship, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of Yahweh and strengthened them.

4 And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and he gathered them into the eastern square.

Hezekiah's Speech

5 And he said to them, "Hear me, O Levites! Sanctify yourselves now, and sanctify the house of Yahweh, the God of your ancestors, and bring out the defilement from the sanctuary.

6 For our ancestors acted unfaithfully and did evil in the sight of Yahweh our God, and have forsaken him and turned away their faces from the dwelling place of Yahweh. They have turned their backs *on it*.

7 They also shut the doors of the portico and extinguished the lamps. And they did not burn incense or offer burnt offerings in the sanctuary to the God of Israel.

8 And the wrath of Yahweh was upon Judah and Jerusalem. And he made them as an abhorrence, as a desolation and an object of scorn, as you see with your own eyes.

9 Now behold, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives *are* in captivity on account of this.

10 Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with Yahweh, the God of Israel, so that his fierce anger might turn away from him.

11 Now, my sons, do not be negligent, for Yahweh has chosen you to stand before him to serve him and to be his servants and incense burners.”

The Work of Consecration Begins

12 Then the Levites arose—Mahath the son of Amasai and Joel the son of Azariah, from the Kohathites; and Kish the son of Abdi and Azariah the son of Jehallelel from the Merarites; and Joah son of Zimmah and Eden son of Joah, from the Gershonites.

13 And from the descendants of Elizaphan: Shimri and Jeiel; and from the descendants of Asaph: Zechariah and Mattaniah;

14 and from the descendants of Heman: Jeiel and Shimei; and from the descendants of Jeduthun: Shemaiah and Uzziel—

15 and they gathered their brothers and sanctified themselves, and they went in according to the command of the king because of the words of Yahweh, to purify the house of Yahweh.

16 And the priests went into the inner *part* of the house of Yahweh to purify *it*. And they brought out all the impurity that they found in the temple of Yahweh *out* to the courtyard of the house of Yahweh. And the Levites took *them* to bring *them* outside to the Wadi Kidron.

17a And they began to sanctify themselves on the first day of the first month. And on the eighth day of the month they came to the portico of Yahweh.

Hezekiah's Reforms: Temple Purified (8–16 Nisan [April] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 29:17b–19

17b And they sanctified the house of Yahweh for eight days, and on the sixteenth day of the first month they finished.

18 And they went into the inner *part* to King Hezekiah and said, “We have cleansed all the house of Yahweh: the altar of burnt offering, all its objects, the table of the rows of *bread* and all its objects,

19 and all the objects that King Ahaz discarded in his reign when he sinned, we have prepared and sanctified. Look, they *are* before the altar of Yahweh.”

Hezekiah's Reforms: Rededication Ceremony (17 Nisan [April] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 29:20–36

The Rededication of the Temple

20 Then King Hezekiah rose early and gathered the officials of the city, and he went up to the house of Yahweh.

21 And they brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven male goats as a purification offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary, and for Judah. And he commanded the descendants of Aaron, the priests, to offer *them* on the altar of Yahweh.

22 And they slaughtered the cattle, and the priests received the blood and threw it toward the altar. Then they slaughtered the rams and threw the blood toward the altar, and then they slaughtered the lambs and threw the blood toward the altar.

23 Then they brought the goats of the sin offering before the king and the assembly, and they laid hands upon them.

24 And the priest killed them and offered their blood against the altar to make atonement for all Israel, for the king had commanded the burnt offering and the sin offering for all Israel.

25 And he stood the Levites *in* the house of Yahweh with cymbals, harps, and lyres, according to the command of David and Gad, the seer of the king, and Nathan the prophet, for the command *was* by the hand of Yahweh by the hand of his prophets.

26 When the Levites stood with the objects of David and the priests with the trumpets,

27 Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And at the time the burnt offering began, the song of Yahweh began, and also the trumpets, at the hands of *the* instruments of David king of Israel.

28 Then all the assembly bowed down, and the song was sung, and the trumpeters trumpeted—all *together* until the end of the burnt offering.

29 And when the offering was finished, the king and all who were found with him knelt down and bowed themselves.

30 Then King Hezekiah and the princes commanded the Levites to praise Yahweh with the words of David and Asaph the seer. So they offered praise with joy, and they bowed down and worshiped.

The Participation of the People

31 Then Hezekiah answered and said, “Now you have consecrated yourselves to Yahweh. Come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the house of Yahweh!” And the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all *who were* willing in heart *brought* burnt offerings.

32 And the number of burnt offerings that the assembly brought was seventy cattle, one hundred rams, two hundred lambs—all

these *were* to offer to Yahweh.

33 And the consecrated offerings of cattle *were* six hundred cattle and three thousand sheep.

34 But the priests were too few, and they were not able to offer all the burnt offerings, so their brothers, the Levites, strengthened them to finish the work, and until the *rest of* the priests consecrated themselves. (For the Levites *were* more conscientious to sanctify themselves than the priests.)

35 And beside the many burnt offerings *was* the fat of the peace offerings and the libations for the burnt offerings. So the service of the house of Yahweh was established.

36 And Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced over what God had established with the people, for the matter happened suddenly.

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

2 Chronicles 30:1–12

30:1 Then Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and he also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, to come to the house of Yahweh in Jerusalem to make a Passover feast to Yahweh the God of Israel.

2 Now the king and his princes, and all the assembly in Jerusalem had taken counsel to make the Passover feast in the second month—

3 but they were not able to make it at that time, for the priests had not consecrated themselves in sufficient numbers, and the people had not been assembled in Jerusalem— [cf. [Num 9:10–14](#)]

4 and the plan seemed right in the eyes of the king and in the eyes of all the assembly.

5 So they let the decree stand, to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, to come to make a Passover feast to Yahweh the God of Israel.

6 And the runners went with the letter from the hand of the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah according to the command of the king, saying, “O sons of Israel, return to Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, that he may turn again to the remnant of you who escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria.

7 Do not be like your fathers and like your brothers, who acted unfaithfully before Yahweh, the God of their ancestors, so that he made them as a desolation, as you see.

8 Now, do not stiffen your neck as your fathers, but give a hand to Yahweh and come to his sanctuary, which he has consecrated forever, and serve Yahweh your God that his fierce anger may turn away from you.

9 For when you return to Yahweh, your brothers and your children *will find* compassion before their captors and return to this land, for Yahweh your God *is* gracious and compassionate, and he will not turn away his face from you if you return to him.”

10 And it happened *that* the runners were passing from city to city in the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, and up to Zebulun, but they were laughing at them and mocking them.

11 Only men from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem.

12 The hand of God was also upon Judah, to give them one heart to obey the command of the king and the princes concerning the word of Yahweh.

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

2 Chronicles 30:13–20

13 So many people gathered in Jerusalem to hold the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month; *it was* a very great assembly.

14 And they rose up and removed the altars that *were* in Jerusalem. And they removed all the incense altars and threw *them* away in the Wadi Kidron.

15 And they slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. And the priests and the Levites were disgraced, so they consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings into the house of Yahweh.

16 Then they stood at their positions according to custom, according to the law of Moses the man of God. The priests were sprinkling the blood from the hand of the Levites.

17 For *there were* many in the assembly who did not consecrate themselves, so the Levites *were* over the killing of the Passover sacrifices for all who *were* not clean, to consecrate *them* to Yahweh.

18 For a majority of the people, many from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves. But they ate the Passover sacrifice otherwise than prescribed, but Hezekiah had prayed for them, saying, “May the good Yahweh make atonement unto

19 everyone whose heart is set to seek God, Yahweh the God of his ancestors, though not according to the cleansing for the sanctuary.”

20 And Yahweh listened to Hezekiah, and he healed the people.

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

2 Chronicles 30:21–22

21 And the Israelites who were found in Jerusalem kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with great joy. And the Levites and the priests were offering praise to Yahweh day by day, with powerful instruments to Yahweh.

22 And Hezekiah spoke to the heart of all the Levites who were skilled at service to Yahweh. So they ate the feast seven days, offering peace offerings and giving thanks to Yahweh, the God of their ancestors.

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

2 Chronicles 30:23–27

23 Then the whole assembly decided to make seven more days *of feasting*, so they made seven *more* days with joy,

24 for Hezekiah the king of Judah had provided one thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep for the assembly, and the princes provided one thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep for the assembly. And many priests consecrated themselves.

25 And the whole assembly of Judah, the priests and the Levites, all the assembly who had come from the land of Israel, and those living in Judah rejoiced.

26 And there was great joy in Jerusalem, for from the days of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, there was nothing such as this in Jerusalem.

27 Then the priests and the Levites arose and blessed the people, and their voice was heard, and their prayer came to his holy dwelling place in the heavens.

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

2 Kings 18:4–6

4 He removed the high places, and he smashed the stone pillars; he cut down the poles of Asherah worship

and demolished the bronze serpent which Moses had made, for up to those days the Israelites were offering incense to it and called it Nehushtan. [cf. [Num 21:4–9](#)]

5 He trusted in Yahweh the God of Israel; there was no one like him, before or after, among all the kings of Judah.

6 He held on to Yahweh; he did not depart from following him, and he kept his commands that Yahweh had commanded Moses.

2 Chronicles 31:1

1 And when all this was finished, all Israel who were found in the cities of Judah went out

and shattered the stone pillars, cut down the Asherahs, and destroyed the high places and the altars from all Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh to the very last one. Then all the Israelites returned, each to his own property *and* to their cities.

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

2 Chronicles 31:2–7

2 And Hezekiah appointed working groups of the priests and the Levites, each according to their divisions, according to the service for priests and Levites, for burnt offerings, for peace offerings, to serve, to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the camps of Yahweh.

3 And the gift of the king *was* out of his own possessions for the burnt offerings—the burnt offerings for the morning and the evening and for Sabbaths, new moon festivals, and appointed feasts, as is written in the law of Yahweh.

4 Then he said to the people, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to give a gift for the priests and the Levites, so that they might be strong in the law of Yahweh.

5 And the word spread. The Israelites gave abundantly *from* the firstfruits of grain, new wine, olive oil, honey, and all *kinds of* grains from the field. And they brought tithes of everything in abundance.

6 Then the people of Israel and Judah who were living in the cities of Judah, they also brought a tithe of cattle and sheep and a tithe of consecrated objects to Yahweh their God. And they gave heaps *upon* heaps.

7 In the third month the heaps began to pile up, and in the seventh month they ceased.

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

2 Chronicles 31:8–21

8 When Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed Yahweh and his people Israel.

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

10 And Azariah the chief priest of the house of Zadok answered him, saying, "Since the offerings began to be brought to the house of Yahweh, we have eaten and been satisfied, and have much to spare, for Yahweh has blessed his people. Now see this abundant remainder!"

11 And Hezekiah commanded to prepare chambers in the house of Yahweh, and they were prepared.

12 Then they brought the offerings and tithes and holy objects faithfully. And over them *as leader was* Conaniah the Levite. And Shimei his brother *was second in rank*.

13 And Jehiel, Azariah, Nathan, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eliel, Ismachiah, Mahath, and Benaiah *were* chief officers under the hand of Conaniah and Shimei, his brother, by appointment of King Hezekiah. And Azariah *was* leader of the house of God.

14 Now Kore the son of Imlah, the Levite, the gatekeeper of the east gate *was* over the freewill offerings of God, to give offerings to Yahweh and the most holy things.

15 And at his hand *were* Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah in the cities of the priests *and* entrusted to give to their brothers by working groups, according to the eldest *to* the youngest,

16 besides their enrollment by genealogy, to males from three years old and upward, to all who came into the house of Yahweh, as each day required for their service in their posts according to their working groups.

17 And the enrollment of the priests *was* according to the house of their fathers, and the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, according to their posts by their working groups.

18 And *they were* enrolled with all their little ones, their wives, their sons, and their daughters for the whole assembly because of their faithfulness. And they sanctified themselves in holiness.

19 And for the descendants of Aaron, the priests, *who were* in the fields of the pasturelands of their cities, in each and every one of their cities *were* men who were designated by name to give shares to every male among the priests and to everyone enrolled among the Levites.

20 And Hezekiah did according to this throughout all Judah. And he did what *is* good and what *is* right and what *is* faithful before Yahweh his God.

21 And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God or with respect to the law and the commandment to seek his God, he did with all his heart, and he prospered.

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