

September 14, 2025

“Hezekiah’s Passover”
Lesson 2

2 Chronicles 30:1-9, 26-27

Intro

Hezekiah was a godly king who followed years of ungodly ones. Israel had been split into two separate nations, the northern Israel and the southern Judah, for hundreds of years by the time Hezekiah reigned. Because of spiritual unfaithfulness, the 10 tribes of Israel had been exiled in 722 BC, and the temple in Jerusalem has been left in physical disrepair and spiritual defilement. Seeing its physical condition, the king orders a purification to be done to the temple. When the physical cleansing was done, Hezekiah then orders a rededication ceremony, which included rightly ordered worship.

Read 2 Chronicles 30:1-9

1. vs. 1: Despite the division into two countries, Hezekiah includes all Jews in his goal of right worship
He wants the restored and purified temple to be available to all Israelites
The temple is the site of worship for all of Israel
When the kingdoms split, Jeroboam instituted pagan worship practices in the north
These were intended to keep people from going south to Jerusalem to worship
These practices directly disobeyed God, which resulted in their exile
Over a dozen evil kings followed Jeroboam
Hezekiah was reaching out in hope that the people would turn back to God
Hezekiah is going to celebrate the Passover for the first time in many years
Passover is a yearly observance to remember God’s deliverance in Egypt
This celebration would be the climax of Hezekiah’s restoration project
2. vs. 2: Hezekiah plans *with his officials* on when to hold the Passover
According to Lev. 23:5, it should be in the first month of the year, on the 14th day
However, God allows for observance in the second month under certain circumstances
(See Num. 9:9-13)
So the plan is made to hold the observance in the second month
3. vs. 3: This verse gives the reason for the delay into the second month
“Not enough priests had consecrated themselves...”
There weren’t enough priests ready to serve to hold it in the first month
Another issue was that all the people weren’t in Jerusalem yet
Getting a message to the northern kingdom took longer in those days
Traveling from the north to Jerusalem would also take some time
The delay into the second month makes sense given these two obstacles
4. vs. 4-5a: The phrase “from Beersheba to Dan” indicates all of Israel from south to north
Dan is about 150 miles north of Jerusalem
At three miles an hour, it would take 100 hours to walk there and back
That’s just to let them know of the upcoming celebration
The people then need to make plans, prepare, and walk themselves

5. vs. 5b: It's been about 200 years since the nation split into two kingdoms
The entire nation has not celebrated Passover in all that time
There may have been small celebrations of the Passover, but not by the entire nation
They people have been missing their spiritual exercise and experience for a long time
6. vs. 6: Hezekiah has messengers take "letters" announcing the upcoming celebration
The invitation is to be taken to every city and town, hence many "letters"
The message of the letter begins in vs. 6, and continues through vs. 9
It starts by encouraging the people to "return to the Lord"
If they come to Him, He will come to them as well ("that He may return to you")
7. vs. 7: He calls on them to be different from previous generations which were unfaithful to God
This includes both their parents and other Israelites
The exile was the result of this unfaithfulness, as they can see for themselves
8. vs. 8: To be "stiff-necked" is to be stubborn
This term is used several times to describe Israel (2 Kings 17:14, Neh. 9:16, Jer. 7:26)
Instead, Hezekiah calls on them to humble themselves to God
He gives them three actions to carry out
 "Submit to the Lord"
 "Come to His sanctuary"
 "Serve the Lord your God"
God was longsuffering with Israel's unfaithfulness before He allowed them to be exiled
He wants them to turn back on their own, rather than having to discipline them
Hezekiah notes that returning to the Lord will remove this need for God's discipline
9. vs. 9: This passage finishes with an encouragement of what will happen if they do return to God
They are their children will be shown "compassion by their captors"
God will make it so that those who ruled over them will now be compassionate to them
He reminds them that God is both gracious and compassionate
"He will not turn His face from you if you return to Him."

Read 2 Chronicles 30:26-27

The invitation was sent out, and met with mixed feelings. Some humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem (2 Chron. 30:11), and some laughed and mocked (30:10). But all who came, including foreigners in Judah, celebrated Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread (30:13-25)

10. vs. 26: Solomon's "day" was about 200 years earlier
The people have no personal recall of a previous Passover
They seem to realize they've received something anew, something that was missing
11. vs. 27: The priests are Levites, but not all Levites are priests
Both groups stand (showing honor and respect) and bless the people
This is one of their tasks in the Law of Moses (Deut. 10:8)
God hears this prayer, done in obedience and faithfulness

Application: The first action Hezekiah asks of all the people is to “return to the Lord”. That’s our starting place as well. Turning to God involves repenting of any sin in our lives, and then dedicating ourselves to following Him. This, like with Hezekiah’s Passover, involves connecting ourselves with other believers in unity of the Spirit. When we join together in repentance and worship, God hears and blesses our lives.

Prayer: Father God, remind us continually to turn to You in worship. Help us to connect with other believers to serve You and offer our praise to You. Fill us with Your love so that we can enjoy unity with other believers. In Jesus’ name, Amen.