

2 Chronicles 35 - Josiah Keeps the Passover; Josiah Dies in Battle with Pharaoh Neco

IV. Judah's Kings (2 Chr 10:1—36:23)

(2) Reform and apostasy in Judah (2 Chr 12:1—36:14)

(P) Josiah's reign (34:1—35:27)

(d) Passover (35:1-19)

(e) Death (35:20-27)

2 Chronicles 35

(d) Passover (35:1-19) (Cf. 2 Kings 23:21-23)

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1 Josiah observed the Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem. They slaughtered the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month.

1 Moreover Josiah kept a passover unto the LORD in Jerusalem: and they killed the passover on the fourteenth day of the first month.

- Like Hezekiah had done, Josiah led his people in observing the Passover, that greatest feast of Israel that commemorated her redemption from Egyptian slavery

2 He appointed the priests to their offices and encouraged them in the service of the house of the LORD.

2 He set the priests in their offices and encouraged them in the service of the house of the LORD.

2 He appointed priests to their offices, encouraging them in their service at the LORD's Temple.

2 And he set the priests in their charges, and encouraged them to the service of the house of the LORD,

- In Josiah's 18th year (v19, age 26), the same year in which the temple was repaired (34:8), he celebrated the Passover (Cf. Hezekiah's Passover celebration, 2 Chr 30).

3 He also said to the Levites who taught all Israel *and* 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 not be a burden on *your* shoulders. Now serve the LORD your God and His people Israel.

3 He also said to the Levites who taught all Israel *and* 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 *your* shoulders no longer. Now serve the LORD your God and His people Israel.

3 He addressed the descendants of Levi who were teaching all Israel and who had consecrated themselves to the LORD, telling them:

"Put the holy ark in the Temple that Solomon, the son of Israel's King David, built. It will no longer be a burden on their shoulders. Now go serve the LORD your God and his people Israel.

3 And said unto the Levites that taught all Israel, which were holy unto the LORD, Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel did build; it shall not be a burden upon your shoulders: serve now the LORD your God, and his people Israel,
- The Ark was not in the Temple; it was on the shoulders of the Levites (in transit) and apparently not even in Israel! It doesn't say that they complied. They had taken the Ark (and the Mercy Seat) out of the jurisdiction of Manasseh, out of the Temple, out of Jerusalem, out of the country...

See: [Ark of the Covenant: A Relic with a Future?](#)

4 Prepare *yourselves* 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.

4 Prepare *yourselves* 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.

4 Prepare yourselves by divisions according to your ancestral households, keeping to what King David of Israel and his son Solomon wrote about this.

4 And prepare yourselves by the houses of your fathers, after your courses, according to the writing of David king of Israel, and according to the writing of Solomon his son.

5 Furthermore, stand in the holy place according to the sections of the fathers' households of your countrymen, the lay people, and according to the Levites, by division of a father's household.

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.

5 In addition to this, take your place in the Holy Place according to the groupings of the ancestral households of your relatives consistent with the division of the descendants of Levi by their ancestral households.

5 And stand in the holy place according to the divisions of the families of the fathers of your brethren the people, and after the division of the families of the Levites.

- Having charged the priests and the Levites to fulfill their designated responsibilities for the occasion, he instructed they were to divide up by their stated divisions as David had instructed (Cf. 1 Chr. 24), and Solomon reaffirmed (2 Chr 8:14)

— In the court of the temple they were to perform their ministry on behalf of the people according to clans

6 Now slaughter the Passover *animals*, keep one another consecrated, and prepare for your countrymen to act in accordance with the word of the LORD by Moses."

6 Now slaughter the Passover *animals*, sanctify yourselves and prepare for your brethren to do according to the word of the LORD by Moses."

6 Now slaughter the Passover, consecrate yourselves, and prepare your relatives to obey the command from the LORD given by Moses."

6 So kill the passover, and sanctify yourselves, and prepare your brethren, that they may do according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

7 Josiah contributed to the lay people, to all who were present, flocks of lambs and young goats, all for the Passover offerings, numbering thirty thousand, plus three thousand bulls; these were from the king's property.

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.

7 Josiah contributed 30,000 animals from the flocks of lambs and young goats, giving Passover offerings to all of the people who were present, plus an additional 3,000 bulls from the king's private possessions.

7 And Josiah gave to the people, of the flock, lambs and kids, all for the passover offerings, for all that were present, to the number of thirty thousand, and three thousand bullocks: these were of the king's substance.

- Out of the royal flocks and herds the king provided for the people: 30,000 sheep and goats and 3,000 cattle

— Hezekiah, for the Passover celebration in his day, had given 7,000 sheep and 1,000 bulls

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

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.

8 His officers contributed a voluntary offering to the people, the priests, and the descendants of Levi. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, the officials who supervised God's Temple, gave 2,600 animals from their flocks to the priests for Passover offerings, along with 300 bulls.

8 And his princes gave willingly unto the people, to the priests, and to the Levites: Hilkiah and Zechariah and Jehiel, rulers of the house of God, gave unto the priests for the passover offerings two thousand and six hundred small cattle, and three hundred oxen. - Josiah's leading officials also gave generously. Finally, the chief priests gave their fellow priests 2,600 Passover offerings (i.e., sheep and goats) and 300 cattle while the heads of the Levites gave their Levitical colleagues 5,000 Passover offerings (sheep and goats) and 500 cattle.

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

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.

9 Also, Conaniah, and his relatives Shemaiah, and Nethanel, along with Hashabiah, Jeiel, and Jozabad, the officers in charge of the descendants of Levi, contributed 5,000 animals from the flocks to the descendants of Levi for the Passover offerings, along with 500 bulls.

9 Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethaneel, his brethren, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, chief of the Levites, gave unto the Levites for passover offerings five thousand small cattle, and five hundred oxen.

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

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.

10 As a result, the Passover service was prepared, the priests took their assigned places, and the descendants of Levi stood in their divisions as the king had commanded.

10 So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their place, and the Levites in their courses, according to the king's commandment.

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

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

11 They slaughtered the Passover lamb, and the priests poured out the blood that they had received from the lambs while the descendants of Levi flayed the sacrifices.

11 And they killed the passover, and the priests sprinkled the blood from their hands, and the Levites flayed them.

12 Then they removed the burnt offerings so 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 with the bulls as well.

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.

12 They set aside in reserve the burnt offerings, so they could distribute them in proportion to the divisions of their ancestral households for presentation by the people to the LORD, as is required by the book of Moses. They did this with respect to the bulls, also.

12 And they removed the burnt offerings, that they might give according to the divisions of the families of the people, to offer unto the LORD, as it is written in the book of Moses. And so did they with the oxen.

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

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.

13 They roasted the Passover in fire, as required by the ordinances, and boiled the holy things in pots, kettles, and pans, and delivered them quickly to all the people.

13 And they roasted the passover with fire according to the ordinance: but the other holy offerings sod they in pots, and in caldrons, and in pans, and divided them speedily among all the people.

14 Afterward 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; so the Levites prepared for themselves and for the priests, the sons of Aaron.

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.

14 After this, because the priests, who were descendants of Aaron, were busy offering the burnt offerings and fat portions until evening, the descendants of Levi prepared the Passover for themselves and their fellow-descendants of Aaron, the priests.

14 And afterward they made ready for themselves, and for the priests: because the priests the sons of Aaron were busied in offering of 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 positions according to the command of David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer; and the gatekeepers at each gate did not have to leave their service, because their kinsmen the Levites prepared for them.

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.

15 The singers, as descendants of Asaph, remained at their stations as David, Asaph, Heman, and the king's seer Jeduthun required, and the gatekeepers did not have to leave their posts because their descendant of Levi relatives prepared the Passover for them.

15 And the singers the sons of Asaph were in their place, according to the commandment of David, and Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer; and the porters waited at every gate; they might not depart from their service; for their brethren the Levites 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.

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.

16 That's how the LORD's service was prepared that day to celebrate the Passover and to offer burnt offerings on the LORD's altar according to what King Josiah had commanded.

16 So all the service of the LORD was prepared the same day, to keep the passover, and to offer burnt offerings upon the altar of the LORD, according to the commandment of king Josiah.

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

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

17 The Israelis who were present celebrated the Passover that day, as well as the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days.

17 And the children of Israel that were present kept the passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days.

- The Passover began (v10-15) and continued through the following week to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread

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

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

18 There had not been a Passover celebration like it in Israel since Samuel the prophet was alive, nor had any of the kings of Israel celebrated a Passover like Josiah did at that time⁴ with the priests, the descendants of Levi, everyone from Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

18 And there was no passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did all the kings of Israel keep such a passover as Josiah kept, and the priests, and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel that were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

- It was the most elaborate Passover celebration since the days of Samuel (Cf. 2 Kings 23:22)

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

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

19 This Passover celebration was observed during the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah.

19 In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah was this passover kept.

(e) Death (35:20-27) (Cf. 2 Kings 23:28-30)

20 After all this, when Josiah had set the temple in order, Neco king of Egypt came up to wage war at Carchemish on the Euphrates, and Josiah went out to engage him.

20 After all this, when Josiah had set the temple in order, Neco king of Egypt came up to make war at Carchemish on the Euphrates, and Josiah went out to engage him.

20 Some time after all of this, after Josiah had finished preparing the Temple, King Neco of Egypt invaded Carchemish on the Euphrates River, and Josiah went out to fight him.

20 After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by Euphrates: and Josiah went out against him.

- Why? By the year 609 BC Assyria had become so weak that she had lost practically all her empire, especially to the Babylonians (or Chaldeans)

— Nineveh had fallen in 612 BC, so the Assyrians had concentrated their forces around Haran and Carchemish on the upper Euphrates River

— The attack by Josiah understandably strikes Neco as strange (v21): “the enemy of my enemy should be my friend!”

— There is no evidence in the text that Josiah inquired of the Lord before going out to engage Neco...

21 But Neco sent messengers to him, saying, “What business do you have with me, King of Judah? *I am not coming* against you today, but against the house with which I am at war, and God has told me to hurry. For your own sake, stop *interfering with* God who is with me, so that He does not destroy you.”

21 But Neco sent messengers to him, saying, “What have we to do with each other, O King of Judah? *I am not coming* against you today but against the house with which I am at war, and God has ordered me to hurry. Stop for your own sake from *interfering with* God who is with me, so that He will not destroy you.”

21 But he sent messengers to him, who asked him, “What do we have in common, King of Judah? I am not here today opposing you. I am fighting the dynasty that is fighting me, and God has ordered me to hurry. For your own good, stop interfering with God, who is with me, and he won’t destroy you!”

21 But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? I come not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have war: for God commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from meddling with God, who is with me, that he destroy thee not.

22 However, Josiah would not turn away from him, but disguised himself in order to fight against him; nor did he listen to the words of Neco **from the mouth of God**, but he came to wage war on the plain of Megiddo.

22 However, Josiah would not turn away from him, but disguised himself in order to make war with him; nor did he listen to the words of Neco from the mouth of God, but came to make war on the plain of Megiddo.

22 But Josiah wouldn’t turn around. In fact, he put on a disguise so he could fight Neco. He wouldn’t listen to what God told him through what Neco had to say, and as a result,

Josiah came to attack Neco on the Megiddo plain.

22 Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Neco from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.

- "...from the mouth of God" - this statement is a declaration of the Chronicler, not Pharaoh Neco

23 The archers shot King Josiah, and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am badly wounded."

23 The archers shot King Josiah, and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am badly wounded."

23 Some archers shot King Josiah, and the king told his servants, "Take me away, because I'm badly wounded."

23 And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away; for I am sore wounded

24 So his servants took him out of the chariot and carried him on the second chariot which he had, and brought him to Jerusalem where he died and was buried in the tombs of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

24 So his servants took him out of the chariot and carried him in the second chariot which he had, and brought him to Jerusalem where he died and was buried in the tombs of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

24 So his servants removed him from the chariot he was in and carried him away in a backup chariot that he had and took him back to Jerusalem, where he died and was buried in the tombs of his ancestors. All of Judah and Jerusalem went into mourning for Josiah.

24 His servants therefore took him out of that chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had; and they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died, and was buried in one of the sepulchres of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

- The death of Josiah (609 BC) came as a shock to Israel

25 Then Jeremiah chanted a song of mourning for Josiah. And all the male and female singers speak about Josiah in their songs of mourning to this day. And they made them an ordinance in Israel; behold, they are also written in the Lamentations.

25 Then Jeremiah chanted a lament for Josiah. And all the male and female singers speak about Josiah in their lamentations to this day. And they made them an ordinance in Israel; behold, they are also written in the Lamentations.

25 Jeremiah sang a lament for Josiah, and all the male and female singers recite that lamentation about Josiah to this day. In fact, they made singing it an ordinance in Israel,

and they are recorded in the Lamentations.

25 And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah: and all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations to this day, and made them an ordinance in Israel: and, behold, they are written in the lamentations.

26 Now the rest of the acts of Josiah and his deeds of devotion as written in the Law of the LORD,

26 Now the rest of the acts of Josiah and his deeds of devotion as written in the law of the LORD,

26 Now the rest of the accomplishments of Josiah, including his faithful acts of devotion as required in the Law of the LORD,

26 Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and his goodness, according to that which was written in the law of the LORD,

27 and his acts, the first to the last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

27 and his acts, first to last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

27 and his other activities from first to last, are recorded in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

27 And his deeds, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.