

2 CHRONICLES CHAPTER 30

¹ And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come into the house of the Lord to Jerusalem, to keep the Passover to the Lord God of Israel. ² For the king, and the princes, and all the congregation in Jerusalem, designed to keep the Passover in the second month. ³ For they could not keep it at that time, because a sufficient number of priests had not purified themselves, and the people were not gathered to Jerusalem. ⁴ And the proposal pleased the king and the congregation. ⁵ And they established a decree that a proclamation should go through all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that they should come and keep the Passover to the Lord God of Israel at Jerusalem; for the multitude had not done it lately according to the Scripture. ⁶ And the posts went with the letters from the king and the princes to all Israel and Judah, according to the command of the king, saying, "Children of Israel, return to the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and bring back them that have escaped, *even* those that were left of the hand of the king of Assyria. ⁷ And do not be as your fathers and your brothers, who revolted from the Lord God of their fathers, and He gave them up to desolation, as you see. ⁸ And now do not harden your hearts, as your fathers *did*; give glory to the Lord God, and enter into His sanctuary, which He has sanctified forever, and serve the Lord your God, and He shall turn away *His* fierce anger from you. ⁹ For when you turn to the Lord, your brothers and your children shall be pitied before all that have carried them captives, and He will restore *you* to this land; for the Lord our God is merciful and gracious, and will not turn away His face from you, if we return to Him."

¹⁰ So the posts went through from city to city in Mount Ephraim and Manasseh, and as far as Zebulun; and they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them. ¹¹ But the men of Asher, and *some* of Manasseh and of Zebulun, were ashamed, and came to Jerusalem and Judah. ¹² And the hand of the Lord was *present* to give them one heart to come, to do according to the commands of the king and of the princes, by the word of the Lord.

¹³ And a great multitude were gathered to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month, a very great congregation. ¹⁴ And they arose, and took away the altars that were in Jerusalem, and all on which they burnt incense to false *gods* they tore down and cast into the Brook Kidron. ¹⁵ Then they killed the Passover *lambs* on the fourteenth day of the second month. And the priests and the Levites repented, and purified *themselves*, and brought burnt offerings into the house of the Lord. ¹⁶ And they stood at their post, according to their ordinance, according to the commandment of Moses the man of God; and the priests received the blood from the hand of the Levites. ¹⁷ For a great part of the congregation was not sanctified; and the Levites were *ready* to kill the Passover for everyone who could not sanctify himself to the Lord. ¹⁸ For the greatest part of the people of Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not purified *themselves*, but ate the Passover contrary to the Scripture. On this account also Hezekiah prayed concerning them, saying, ¹⁹ "The good Lord be merciful with regard to every heart that sincerely seeks the

Lord God of their fathers, and *is* not *purified* according to the purification of the sanctuary." ²⁰ And the Lord listened to Hezekiah, and healed the people."

²¹ And the children of Israel who were present in Jerusalem kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with great joy; and they continued to sing hymns to the Lord daily, and the priests and the Levites *played* on instruments to the Lord. ²² And Hezekiah encouraged all the Levites, and those that had good understanding of the Lord, and they completely kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days, offering peace offerings, and confessing to the Lord God of their fathers.

²³ And the congregation purposed together to keep another seven days. And they kept *another* seven days with gladness. ²⁴ For Hezekiah set apart for Judah, *even* for the congregation, a thousand calves and seven thousand sheep; and the princes set apart for the people a thousand calves and ten thousand sheep, and the holy things of the priests abundantly. ²⁵ And all the congregation rejoiced, the priests and the Levites, and all the congregation of Judah, and those that were present of Jerusalem, and the strangers that came from the land of Israel, and those that dwelt in Judah. ²⁶ And there was great joy in Jerusalem. From the days of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there was not such a feast in Jerusalem. ²⁷ Then the priests the Levites rose up and blessed the people, and their voice was heard, and their prayer came *up* to His holy dwelling place, *even* into heaven.