

Sunday, Aug 4

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2 Chronicles 35:1 - 36:23

35 1 Then Josiah announced that the Passover of the LORD would be celebrated in Jerusalem, and so the Passover lamb was slaughtered on the fourteenth day of the first month. **2** Josiah also assigned the priests to their duties and encouraged them in their work at the Temple of the LORD . **3**He issued this order to the Levites, who were to teach all Israel and who had been set apart to serve the LORD : “Put the holy Ark in the Temple that was built by Solomon son of David, the king of Israel. You no longer need to carry it back and forth on your shoulders. Now spend your time serving the LORD your God and his people Israel. **4** Report for duty according to the family divisions of your ancestors, following the directions of King David of Israel and the directions of his son Solomon. **5** “Then stand in the sanctuary at the place appointed for your family division and help the families assigned to you as they bring their offerings to the Temple. **6** Slaughter the Passover lambs, purify yourselves, and prepare to help those who come. Follow all the directions that the LORD gave through Moses.” **7** Then Josiah provided 30,000 lambs and young goats for the people’s Passover offerings, along with 3,000 cattle, all from the king’s own flocks and herds. **8** The king’s officials also made willing contributions to the people, priests, and Levites. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, the administrators of God’s Temple, gave the priests 2,600 lambs and young goats and 300 cattle as Passover offerings. **9** The Levite leaders—Conaniah and his brothers Shemaiah and Nethanel, as well as Hashabiah, Jeiel, and Jozabad—gave 5,000 lambs and young goats and 500 cattle to the Levites for their Passover offerings. **10** When everything was ready for the Passover celebration, the priests and the Levites took their places, organized by their divisions, as the king had commanded. **11** The Levites then slaughtered the Passover lambs and presented the blood to the priests, who sprinkled the blood on the altar while the Levites prepared the animals. **12** They divided the burnt offerings among the people by their family groups, so they could offer them to the LORD as prescribed in the Book of Moses. They did the same with the cattle. **13** Then they roasted the Passover lambs as prescribed; and they boiled the holy offerings in pots, kettles, and pans, and brought them out quickly so the people could eat them. **14** Afterward the Levites prepared Passover offerings for themselves and for the priests—the descendants of Aaron—because the priests had been busy from morning till night offering the burnt offerings and the fat portions. The Levites took responsibility for all these preparations. **15** The musicians, descendants of Asaph, were in their assigned places, following

the commands that had been given by David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, the king's seer. The gatekeepers guarded the gates and did not need to leave their posts of duty, for their Passover offerings were prepared for them by their fellow Levites. **16** The entire ceremony for the LORD's Passover was completed that day. All the burnt offerings were sacrificed on the altar of the LORD, as King Josiah had commanded. **17** All the Israelites present in Jerusalem celebrated Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days. **18** Never since the time of the prophet Samuel had there been such a Passover. None of the kings of Israel had ever kept a Passover as Josiah did, involving all the priests and Levites, all the people of Jerusalem, and people from all over Judah and Israel. **19** This Passover was celebrated in the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign. **20** After Josiah had finished restoring the Temple, King Neco of Egypt led his army up from Egypt to do battle at Carchemish on the Euphrates River, and Josiah and his army marched out to fight him. **21** But King Neco sent messengers to Josiah with this message: "What do you want with me, king of Judah? I have no quarrel with you today! I am on my way to fight another nation, and God has told me to hurry! Do not interfere with God, who is with me, or he will destroy you." **22** But Josiah refused to listen to Neco, to whom God had indeed spoken, and he would not turn back. Instead, he disguised himself and led his army into battle on the plain of Megiddo. **23** But the enemy archers hit King Josiah with their arrows and wounded him. He cried out to his men, "Take me from the battle, for I am badly wounded!" **24** So they lifted Josiah out of his chariot and placed him in another chariot. Then they brought him back to Jerusalem, where he died. He was buried there in the royal cemetery. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for him. **25** The prophet Jeremiah composed funeral songs for Josiah, and to this day choirs still sing these sad songs about his death. These songs of sorrow have become a tradition and are recorded in **26** The rest of the events of Josiah's reign and his acts of devotion (carried out according to what was written in the Law of the LORD), **27** from beginning to end—all are recorded in *The Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah*.

36 **1** Then the people of the land took Josiah's son Jehoahaz and made him the next king in Jerusalem. **2** Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. **3** Then he was deposed by the king of Egypt, who demanded that Judah pay 7,500 pounds of silver and 75 pounds of gold as tribute. **4** The king of Egypt then installed Eliakim, the brother of Jehoahaz, as the next king of Judah and Jerusalem, and he changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. Then Neco took Jehoahaz to Egypt as a prisoner. **5** Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD his God. **6** Then King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and captured it, and he bound Jehoiakim in bronze chains and led him away to Babylon. **7** Nebuchadnezzar also took some of the treasures

from the Temple of the LORD, and he placed them in his palace in Babylon. **8** The rest of the events in Jehoiakim's reign, including all the evil things he did and everything found against him, are recorded in Then his son Jehoiachin became the next king. **9** Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months and ten days. Jehoiachin did what was evil in the LORD 's sight. **10** In the spring of the year King Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin to Babylon. Many treasures from the Temple of the LORD were also taken to Babylon at that time. And Nebuchadnezzar installed Jehoiachin's uncle, Zedekiah, as the next king in Judah and Jerusalem. **11** Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. **12** But Zedekiah did what was evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and he refused to humble himself when the prophet Jeremiah spoke to him directly from the LORD .**13** He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, even though he had taken an oath of loyalty in God's name. Zedekiah was a hard and stubborn man, refusing to turn to the LORD, the God of Israel. **14** Likewise, all the leaders of the priests and the people became more and more unfaithful. They followed all the pagan practices of the surrounding nations, desecrating the Temple of the LORD that had been consecrated in Jerusalem. **15** The LORD, the God of their ancestors, repeatedly sent his prophets to warn them, for he had compassion on his people and his Temple. **16** But the people mocked these messengers of God and despised their words. They scoffed at the prophets until the LORD 's anger could no longer be restrained and nothing could be done. **17** So the LORD brought the king of Babylon against them. The Babylonians killed Judah's young men, even chasing after them into the Temple. They had no pity on the people, killing both young men and young women, the old and the infirm. God handed all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar. **18** The king took home to Babylon all the articles, large and small, used in the Temple of God, and the treasures from both the LORD 's Temple and from the palace of the king and his officials. **19** Then his army burned the Temple of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, burned all the palaces, and completely destroyed everything of value. **20** The few who survived were taken as exiles to Babylon, and they became servants to the king and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. **21** So the message of the LORD spoken through Jeremiah was fulfilled. The land finally enjoyed its Sabbath rest, lying desolate until the seventy years were fulfilled, just as the prophet had said. **22** In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, the LORD fulfilled the prophecy he had given through Jeremiah. He stirred the heart of Cyrus to put this proclamation in writing and to send it throughout his kingdom: **23** "This is what King Cyrus of Persia says: "The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. He has appointed me to build him a Temple at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Any of you who are his people may go there for this task. And may the LORD your God be with you!"

1 Corinthians 1:1 - 17

1 **1** This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Sosthenes. **2** I am writing to God's church in Corinth, to you who have been called by God to be his own holy people. He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus, just as he did for all people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. **3** May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. **4** I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus. **5** Through him, God has enriched your church in every way—with all of your eloquent words and all of your knowledge. **6** This confirms that what I told you about Christ is true. **7** Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. **8** He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. **9** God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **10** I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. **11** For some members of Chloe's household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. **12** Some of you are saying, "I am a follower of Paul." Others are saying, "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Peter," or "I follow only Christ." **13** Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not! **14** I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, **15** for now no one can say they were baptized in my name. **16**(Oh yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas, but I don't remember baptizing anyone else.) **17** For Christ didn't send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News—and not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power.

Psalm 27:1 - 6

27 **1** The LORD is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid? The LORD is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?**2** When evil people come to devour me, when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. **3** Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident. **4** The one thing I ask of the LORD — the thing I seek most— is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, delighting in the LORD 's perfections and meditating in his Temple. **5** For he will conceal me there when troubles come; he will hide me in his sanctuary. He

will place me out of reach on a high rock. **6** Then I will hold my head high above my enemies who surround me. At his sanctuary I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy, singing and praising the LORD with music.

Proverbs 20:20 - 21

20 **20** If you insult your father or mother, your light will be snuffed out in total darkness. **21** An inheritance obtained too early in life is not a blessing in the end.