

2 Chronicles 35 — “King Josiah’s Godly Resolve: Remember & Celebrate the Passover Lamb!”

Note the key word “**remember**”:

- Deut 5.15 - **remember** that you were a slave in Egypt & the Lord your God brought you out
- Deut 8.18 - **remember** the LORD your God!
- Jude 17 - you, beloved, ought to **remember** the words spoken by the apostles...
- Rev 3.3 - **remember** what you have received & heard.
- 1 Cor 11 - this is my body .. And blood; do this in **remembrance** of me!

We need to **remember** because we so often **forget**!

Return to this [the Lord’s Supper] and revive this, make a solemn business of that powerful & binding ordinance, and then, it is to be hoped, that there will be a reformation in other places as well (Matthew Henry).

Background to 2 Chronicles 35

- You’ll recall that as they remodeled the Temple (2 Chron 34), they **found the Book of the Law** & read it to Josiah!
- Undoubtedly he heard Deuteronomy 16.1-2, 6! **Celebrate the passover!**

THESIS — See the glory of God in raising up a godly & biblical Josiah in such wicked & apostate times. See his commitment to Scripture, the Passover & Truth.

- looking back: DON’T FORGET TO REMEMBER THE LAMB! [prioritize the Lamb]
- looking ahead: DON’T NEGLECT YOUR MAIN CALLING! [pursue your duties!]

I. LOOKING BACK! PRIORITIZE THE LAMB! (1-19)

Josiah’s passover:

1. the *occasion* (Egypt) → remembering bondage in Egypt
2. the *offering* (Lamb) → substitutionary lamb
3. the *order/ordinances* (What does the Bible say?) – he is following Scripture

1. Preparation (1-6)

2. Provision (7-9)

3. Procedure (10-15)

4. Praise & preeminence of the Passover (16-19)**II. LOOKING AHEAD! PURSUE YOUR DUTIES! (20-27)**

○ how timely for us in a culture of distractions. Like ocean waves, distractions just keep coming our way. It could be that many good things could keep us from *The Great* thing.

1. The distraction (20)**2. The meddling (21-22)**

- ✓ Proverbs 26.17 – like one who takes a dog by the ears is he who passes by and meddles with strife not belonging to him.
- ✓ Proverbs 3:30 - do not contend with a man without cause, if he has done you no harm!
- ✓ 1 Thess 4.11 - make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, and attend to your own business.

3. His wounding & death (23-24)**4. His legacy (25-27)****Connecting the Passover of old to the Lord’s Supper/Work of Christ:****• 1 Cor 5.7 - Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.**

- the PERSON - *Christ...*
- the PASSOVER - *our Passover*
- the PERSONAL (our) - *“our”*
- the PASSIVE (God did the killing) - *has been*
- the PROPITIATION (sacrificed) - *sacrificed/killed/slaughtered*

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The Passover lamb was an innocent creature, yet if the Paschal lamb be once made a sacrifice, it must be killed. Though Christ were so unblemished, yet, if he will stoop to the office of a substitute, he must pay our debt, and do that which we should have done, namely DIED for sin.

— **Richard Sibbes**

- See Hebrews 9:12-25 — ALL ABOUT BLOOD SACRIFICE >> Jesus’ final sacrifice
 - 1 Peter 1.2 - you are sprinkled with his blood
 - 1 Pet 1.19 - you are saved with previous blood, of a Lamb
 - 1 John 1.7 - the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin
 - Rev 1.5 - Jesus released us from our sins by his blood
 - Rev 7.14 - ALL in heaven wear Washed Robes made WHITE by the blood of the Lamb

Conclusion:

- PASSOVER & THE LORD’S SUPPER IS ABOUT:

1. **RECOLLECTION** - *Remember!*
2. **SUBSTITUTION** - *In my place!*
3. **REDEMPTION** - *He rescued me!*
4. **CELEBRATION** - *Keep this Festival!*

- Our Passover Lamb

- See the SINLESSNESS of our Passover Lamb
- See the SUBSTITUTION of our Passover Lamb
- See the FINALITY of our Passover Lamb
- See the LOVE of our Passover Lamb
- See the SECURITY of our Passover Lamb
- See the GLORY of our Passover Lamb

We ought carefully and with the utmost seriousness and consideration attend the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper: this was appointed for this end, to draw forth longings of our souls toward Jesus Christ. Here are the glorious objects of spiritual desire by visible signs represented to our view. We have Christ evidently set forth crucified.... Here we have that spiritual meat and drink represented and offered to excite our hunger and thirst; here we have all that spiritual feast represented which God has provided for poor souls; and here we may hope in some measure to have our longing souls satisfied in this world by the gracious communications of the Spirit of God. (Jonathan Edwards)

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According to Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, the Lord’s Supper is several things all wrapped into one. It is first an opportunity to express the unity of the church (vv. 18-19, 33). It is therefore, second, a fellowship of God’s people (vv. 20-21, 33). Third, it is intended as a symbolic remembrance of Christ’s sinless life and atoning death on our behalf (vv. 24-25). Fourth, it is intended as a proclamation of Christ’s death, resurrection, and return (v. 26). And fifth, it is a built-in opportunity for self-examination (vv. 28-29). (Mark Dever)

The benefits [the Lord’s Supper] confers, are spiritual, not physical. Its effects must be looked for in our inward man. It was intended to remind us, by the visible, tangible emblems of bread and wine, that the offering of Christ’s body and blood for us on the cross, is the only atonement for sin, and the life of a believer’s soul. It was meant to help our poor weak faith to closer fellowship with our crucified Savior, and to assist us in spiritually feeding on Christ’s body and blood. It is an ordinance for redeemed sinners, and not for unfallen angels. By receiving it we publicly declare our sense of guilt, and need of a Savior – our trust in Jesus, and our love to Him – our desire to live upon Him, and our hope to live with Him. Using it in this spirit, we shall find our repentance deepened, our faith increased, our hope brightened, and our love enlarged – our besetting sins weakened, and our graces strengthened. It will draw us nearer to Christ. ...

Do we turn away from [the Lord’s Table] when it is administered? If so, how can we justify our conduct? It will not do to say it is not a necessary ordinance. To say so is to pour contempt on Christ Himself, and declare that we do not obey Him. It will not do to say that we feel unworthy to come to the Lord’s table. To say so is to declare that we are unfit to die, and unprepared to meet God. These are solemn considerations. All non-communicants should ponder them well. ...

Are we in the habit of coming to the Lord’s table? If so, in what frame of mind do we come? Do we draw near intelligently, humbly, and with faith? Do we understand what we are doing? Do we really feel our sinfulness and need of Christ? Do we really desire to live a Christian life, as well as profess the Christian faith? Happy is that soul who can give a satisfactory answer to these questions. Let him go forward, and persevere.

— JC Ryle

Meditate on these words by Henry Gilmour, the 19th century Irishman:

Our Lamb is slain, the Paschal Lamb,
Of which the old is but a token;
Tho’ shadowed in the midnight past,
There’s not a word has e’er been broken.

I’ll ne’er forget when first, by faith,
I saw my Saviour, bleeding, dying;
And there again, for Perfect Love,
I plunged into the fountain, crying. [Refrain]

Refrain:

**I’m under the blood, the passover blood,
The Lam was “slain from the foundation:”
It points to the side of Jesus, who died,
And purchased for us salvation.**

There’s sweet repose beneath the cross,
And safety when the blood doth cover;
For God has spoken in his word,
“When I see the blood, I will pass over.” [Refrain]

Come, climb to Calv’ry’s mournful site,
And see the streaming wounds of Jesus;
The spotless victim yields his life,
And from the sword of justice frees us. [Refrain]

The blood’s the bridge that spans the gulf,
And brings us near to God, and Heaven;
It flows for you, it flows for me,
O sinner, come, ’tis freely given. [Refrain]

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There is a fountain filled with blood
 Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
 And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
 Lose all their guilty stains:
 Lose all their guilty stains,
 Lose all their guilty stains;
 And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
 Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
 That fountain in his day;
 And there may I, though vile as he,
 Wash all my sins away:
 Wash all my sins away,
 Wash all my sins away;
 And there may I, though vile as he,
 Wash all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
 Shall never lose its pow'r,
 Till all the ransomed Church of God
 Be saved, to sin no more:
 Be saved, to sin no more,
 Be saved, to sin no more;
 Till all the ransomed Church of God
 Be saved to sin no more.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream
 Thy flowing wounds supply,
 Redeeming love has been my theme,
 And shall be till I die:
 And shall be till I die,
 And shall be till I die;
 Redeeming love has been my theme,
 And shall be till I die.

PASCHAL LAMB, BY GOD APPOINTED (tune: *Come thou fount*)

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
 All our sins on thee were laid:
 By almighty love anointed,
 Thou hast full atonement made.
 Adam's sons are now forgiven,
 Through the virtue of thy blood!
 Open'd is the gate of heaven--
 Peace is made 'twixt man and God.

Jesus, hail, enthron'd in glory,
 There for ever to abide;
 All the heavenly hosts adore thee,
 Seated at thy Father's side.

There for sinners thou art pleading--
 There thou dost our place prepare;
 Ever for us interceding,
 Till in glory we appear.

Glory, honour, pow'r, and blessing,
 Thou art worthy to receive;
 Loudest praises, without ceasing,
 Meet it is for us to give.
 When we join th' angelic spirits,
 In their sweetest, noblest lays,
 We will sing our Saviour's merits--
 Gladly chant Immanuel's praise.

NOW CHRIST OUR PASSOVER IS SLAIN (tune: *in Christ alone*)

Now Christ our Passover is slain,
 The Lamb of God without a stain;
 His flesh, the true unleavened bread,
 Is freely offered in our stead.
 O all sufficient sacrifice,
 Beneath Thee hell defeated lies;
 Thy captive people are set free,
 And crowns of life restored by Thee.

We hymn Thee rising from the grave,
 From death returning, strong to save;
 Thine own right hand the tyrant chains,
 And paradise for man regains.
 All praise be Thine, O risen Lord,
 From death to endless life restored;
 All praise to God the Father be
 And Holy Ghost eternally.

Praying Psalm 19

1) REVERENCE

God’s Praiseworthy Attributes:

- Glorious – v. 1 & Creator – v. 1 & Revealer of Truth in Creation – vv. 2-6
- As revealed in His word, He is:
 - Perfect – v. 7 & The reviver of our souls – v. 7
 - Sure – v. 7 & The source of wisdom – v. 7
 - Right – v. 8 & The source of joy – v. 8
 - Pure – v.8 & The one who enlightens us – v. 8
 - To be feared – v. 9 & Eternal- v. 9 & Truth- v. 9 & Righteous- v. 9
 - Our ultimate treasure and pleasure – v. 10
 - Guide – v. 11 & Rewarder – v. 11
- Knows our heart – vv. 12,14
- Declares us innocent – v. 12 & Delivers from sin – v. 13 & Makes us blameless – v. 13
- Our rock – v. 14 & Our redeemer – v. 14

Possible prayer prompts:

- Lord, thank You that I/we have witnessed Your glory in creation when...
- Your creation declares that You are _____, and so will I/we.
- I/we praise You that Your word is able to... (based on vv. 7-11)
- I/we praise You that Your word is more valuable to me/us than...
- I/we praise You that You were my/our Rock when...
- I/we praise You that You have redeemed me/us from...

2) RESPONSE

- I confess that I have often desired _____ more than Your word.
- I trust that You will deliver/keep me back from the sin of...
- I acknowledge that the words of my mouth were not acceptable to You when...
- I acknowledge that the mediation of my heart did not honor You when...

3) REQUESTS

- I trust that You will revive my soul so that I will...
- I need Your wisdom today as I...
- Eternal God, give me grace to fear You and live a pure life when...
- I pray that the truth of Your word will produce righteousness in me so that...
- Give me grace to desire Your word more than... *Note: All of these can also be prayed in an intercessory fashion for another relative, friend, family or group.*

4) READINESS

- I pray that I will obey the warning of Your word when I face...
- Remind me of the reward of obedience to Your word when the enemy tempts me to...
- I trust You will make me blameless and innocent when the transgression of the world entices me to...