

2 Chronicles 30 — “Come Behold the Lamb! King Hezekiah’s Invitation to Celebrate the Passover!”

“You shall tell your son on that day, saying, it is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt...”
— Exodus 13:8

In Jewish history, a typical family-Passover would include the following elements:

- (1) you would purge your house of all yeast/leaven – any ritual impurities; be holy)
- (2) on the afternoon of Nisan 14 (March/April) - the passover Lamb - unblemished male, Ex 12.5 - had to be sacrificed in the evening by the head of the household.
- (3) The blood of the Lamb then given to the priest to be sprinkled on the altar
- (4) the rest of the animal taken home and eaten by the family for the meal (the feast would also include drinking wine, unleavened bread, bitter herbs, mixed fruits, etc.)

Background to 2 Chronicles 30 —

Thesis — See Hezekiah’s leadership as he calls Israel to “Behold the Lamb” in 3 ways:

(1) the **invitation**; (2) the **re-institution**; and (3) the **jubilant** at the Passover

I. THE **INVITATION** TO THE PASSOVER (1-12)

1. The letters (1-4)
2. The couriers (5-9)
3. The rejecters/mockers (10)
4. The worshipers (11-12)

II. THE **REINSTITUTION** OF THE PASSOVER (13-22)

1. The place (13)
2. The purification (14)
3. The Passover (15-16)
4. The prayer (17-19)

5. The praise (20-22)

III. THE JUBILATION AT THE PASSOVER (23-27)**Note:**

- All of this is very *Solomon-like* (for it was extended for an additional week just as it was 200 years earlier in 1 Kings 8.65 when Solomon completed the temple and prayed to dedicate it to Yahweh)
 - The extended Passover worship eventually came to an end with Solomon.
 - And though it was extended with Hezekiah (2 Chron 30), it did eventually come to an end also.
 - **BUT** a day comes when our worship of the LAMB will never come to an end

Heaven: a world of continual worship!

Heaven is the land of perpetual praise to the Lamb!

Consider Jesus -- our Lamb!

Indeed: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed!

No wonder Revelation most often refers to Jesus as “The Lamb” - “worthy is the Lamb that was slain” (Rev 5.9). You can be made white in the blood of this Lamb (Rev 7.14!). The Lamp of heaven is the Lamb (Rev 21.23).

This Lamb said: ‘everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life’ (John 6.40)

Brief Overview of the Passover Feast:

God instituted the **Passover** as a national event and the beginning of months. This was indeed the birth of the Nation of Israel and the feast of the Passover was to be remembered each year through all their generations. The ceremony remembers that death "passed over" the Hebrews because of the blood of the lamb. Jesus is the true passover and eternal death passes over the believer in Jesus who is the Lamb of God.

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The Passover Lamb. The *Passover* lamb was the unblemished lamb which was slain and received the blow that sinful man deserved. A type of Christ, the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). Just as the LORD passed over the houses of the Hebrews, which had the blood of the paschal lamb on the lintel and doorposts of their house, so the wrath of God passes over those whose souls are sprinkled with the blood of Christ. I Cor. 5:7, Heb. 12:24.

Eating the Paschal Lamb - It was a custom in the ancient world that eating a meal as a guest put that person under the protection of the host. So it was with the feasts of ancient Israel. God was always the host in the feasts of ancient Israel.

Hyssop - Cleansing the sin

Roasted Lamb - The fire of God's justice

Bitter Herbs - Remembering the bondage in Egypt

Unleavened Bread - Spiritual purity

The Feast of Unleavened Bread. The next day after the Passover celebration (Nissan 15) was the Feast of Unleavened Bread which lasted seven days, from the fifteenth to the twenty first of the month of Nissan no leaven was to be eaten. The focus was on purifying from sin. The first day and the last day were days of rest and worship of the LORD.

The Passover Observance Throughout History

Commanded by God at the Exodus. On the 10th of Nissan the head of each family would chose a 1 year old male lamb without blemish from the sheep or the goats. Then on the 14th of Nissan the lamb was slain at evening or specifically "between the two evenings". The male of the household was to dip a bunch of hyssop into a basin of blood and sprinkle or literally "strike" it upon the doorposts and lintel of the house where the lamb was to be eaten. The lamb was roasted and not a bone was to be broken and the household would eat the meal, slaves and strangers were permitted if they were circumcised. Neighbors who had small families could join together. They were to eat the meal with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, with their loins girded and shoes on their feet with their staff in their hands ready for a quick departure out of Egypt. Any remaining portions of the lamb were to be burned with fire and not taken out of the house. (Ex 12). For years to follow, the paschal lamb was to be slain at the sanctuary and the blood sprinkled on the altar instead of the doorposts and lintel (Deut 19:1-8).

The Passover is a “Type” [foreshadowing] of Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 5:7 — "Christ our passover is sacrificed for us"

The Passover was a type of Jesus, for example:

- The Passover Lamb had to be slain (Ex 12:6)...Jesus Christ and him crucified (1 Cor 2:2)
- The Passover Lamb was without blemish (Ex 12:5)...Christ was the lamb without blemish or spot (1 Pet 1:19)
- The Passover Lamb gave its shed blood (Ex 12:7)... Jesus said No one takes my life but I lay it down of myself (Jn 1:18)
- The Passover Lamb's bones were not to be broken (Ex 12:46)...A bone in him shall not be broken (Jn 19:36)
- Without the Passover Lamb the firstborn would die (Ex 12:29)...The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23)
- The ones redeemed by the Passover Lamb were sanctified to the LORD (Ex 13:2)...You are not your own but were bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)

Summary:

“PASSOVER -- the LORD saves and spares, but only through the blood of the Lamb!” (William VanDoren)

Alas & Did My Savior Bleed + O the Wonderful Cross

Alas! and did my Savior bleed
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?

Thy body slain, sweet Jesus, Thine,
And bathed in its own blood,
While all exposed to wrath divine,
The glorious Sufferer stood!

*O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless
Your name*

Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?

Amazing pity! grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker died,
For man the creature’s sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt my eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne’er repay
The debt of love I owe:
Here, Lord, I give my self away
'Tis all that I can do.

Man of Sorrows

“Man of Sorrows,” what a name
For the Son of God who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim!
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood;
Sealed my pardon with His blood;
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless, we,
Spotless Lamb of God was He;
Full redemption—can it be?
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die,
“It is finished!” was His cry;
Now in heaven exalted high;
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King,
To His kingdom us to bring,
Then anew this song we’ll sing
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

That **Lamb** was sacrificed, was sacrificed for us, and is now presented to us, is now placed before us. He is evidently and clearly set forth, as though he was crucified among us. He is man's accepted substitute. He is God's obedient servant. He is the sacrifice to satisfy God's justice for man's sin. He is God's Son, who did his Father's will; by which all believers are sanctified, by the offering of his precious body once. The **Lamb** is God—God in our nature—God with us—God in our place—God atoning for our sin—God putting away our sins by the sacrifice of himself! O mystery of mysteries! O wonder of wonders! Let us behold the **Lamb** of God! ... Behold the **Lamb** of God, for it will please the Father if you do—he takes an infinite delight in his beloved Son—and he wishes us to take a delight in him also. (James Smith)