

**Opening Passage – 2 Kings 23:21-23**

“And the king commanded all the people, Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant. For no such Passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel, or during all the days of the kings of Israel or of the kings of Judah. 23 But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was kept to the LORD in Jerusalem.”

**I. Josiah Pursued Oneness – JOSIAH, PRIESTS, LEVITES, THE PEOPLE (2 Chronicles 35:1-3)**

“Josiah kept a Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem. And they slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the first month. 2 He appointed the priests to their offices and encouraged them in the service of the house of the LORD. 3 And he said to the Levites who taught all Israel and who were holy to the LORD, “Put the holy ark in the house that Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, built. You need not carry it on your shoulders (David eliminated this requirement in 1 Chron 23:26). Now serve the LORD your God and his people Israel.”

**II. Josiah Valued Order (2 Chronicles 35:4-6)**

**A. Human order (4) – “Prepare yourselves according to your fathers' houses by your divisions, as prescribed in the writing of David king of Israel and the document of Solomon his son.”**

**B. Helpful order (5) – “And stand in the Holy Place according to the groupings of the fathers' houses of your brothers the lay people, and according to the division of the Levites by fathers' household.”**

**C. Heavenly order (6) – “And slaughter the Passover lamb, and consecrate yourselves, and prepare for your brothers, to do according to the word of the LORD by Moses.”**

**III. Josiah Modeled Generosity (2 Chronicles 35:7-9)**

**A. Personal commitment (7) – “Then Josiah contributed to the lay people, as Passover offerings for all who were present, lambs and young goats from the flock to the number of 30,000, and 3,000 bulls; these were from the king's possessions.”**

**B. Cascading willingness (8) – “And his officials contributed willingly to the people, to the priests, and to the Levites. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, the chief officers of the house of God, gave to the priests for the Passover offerings 2,600 Passover lambs and 300 bulls.”**

**C. Purposeful release (9) – “Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethanel his brothers, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, the chiefs of the Levites, gave to the Levites for the Passover offerings 5,000 lambs and young goats and 500 bulls.”**

**IV. Josiah Facilitated Partnership (2 Chronicles 35:10-15)**

**A. Cooperation among the priests (10) – “When the service had been prepared for, the priests stood in their place, and the Levites in their divisions according to the king's command. 11 And they slaughtered the Passover lamb, and the priests threw the blood that they received from them while the Levites flayed the sacrifices. 12 And they set aside the burnt offerings that they might distribute them according to the groupings of the fathers' houses of the lay people, to offer to the LORD, as it is written in the Book of Moses. And so they did with the bulls.”**

**B. Blessing upon the people (13) – “And they roasted the Passover lamb with fire according to the rule; and they boiled the holy offerings in pots, in cauldrons, and in pans, and carried them quickly to all the lay people.”**

**C. Readiness from the singers (15a) – “The singers, the sons of Asaph, were in their place according to the command of David, and Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer.”**

**D. Servanthood by the gatekeepers – 15b- and the gatekeepers were at each gate. They did not need to depart from their service, for their brothers the Levites prepared for them.**

**V. Josiah Instituted Celebration (2 Chronicles 35:16-19)**

- A. Believing God is worthy to celebrate (16) – “So all the service of the LORD was prepared that day, to keep the Passover and to offer burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD, according to the command of King Josiah. 17 And the people of Israel who were present kept the Passover at that time, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days.”**
- B. Believing God is worthy of extravagance (18) – “No Passover like it had been kept in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet. None of the kings of Israel had kept such a Passover as was kept by Josiah, and the priests and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.”**
- C. Believing God is worthy of immediate response (19) – “In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah this Passover was kept.” **Josiah reinstated the Passover celebration at the first possible opportunity****