

# MAY 18

## Read 2 Chronicles 35—Ezra 1

### CHAPTER 35

**M**OREOVER Josiah kept a passover unto the LORD in Jerusalem: and they killed the passover on the fourteenth *day* of the first month.

2 And he set the priests in their charges, and encouraged them to the service of the house of the LORD,

3 And said unto the Levites that taught all Israel, which were holy unto the LORD, Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel did build; *it shall not be* a burden upon *your* shoulders: serve now the LORD your God, and his people Israel,

4 And prepare *yourselves* by the houses of your fathers, after your courses, according to the writing of David king of Israel, and according to the writing of Solomon his son.

5 And stand in the holy *place* according to the divisions of the families of the fathers of your brethren the people, and *after* the division of the families of the Levites.

6 So kill the passover, and sanctify yourselves, and prepare your brethren, that *they* may do according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

7 And Josiah gave to the people, of the flock, lambs and kids, all for the passover offerings, for all that were present, to the number of thirty thousand, and three thousand bullocks: these *were* of the king's substance.

8 And his princes gave willingly unto the people, to the priests, and to the Levites: Hilkiah and Zechariah and Jehiel, rulers of the house of God, gave unto the priests for the passover offerings two thousand and six hundred *small cattle*, and three hundred oxen.

9 Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethaneel, his brethren, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, chief of the Levites, gave unto the Levites for passover offerings five thousand *small cattle*, and five hundred oxen.

10 So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their place,

and the Levites in their courses, according to the king's commandment.

11 And they killed the passover, and the priests sprinkled *the blood* from their hands, and the Levites flayed *them*.

12 And they removed the burnt offerings, that they might give according to the divisions of the families of the people, to offer unto the LORD, as *it is* written in the book of Moses. And so *did they* with the oxen.

13 And they roasted the passover with fire according to the ordinance: but the *other* holy offerings sod they in pots, and in caldrons, and in pans, and divided *them* speedily among all the people.

14 And afterward they made ready for themselves, and for the priests: because the priests the sons of Aaron *were busied* in offering of burnt offerings and the fat until night; therefore the Levites prepared for themselves, and for the priests the sons of Aaron.

15 And the singers the sons of Asaph *were* in their place, according to the commandment of David, and Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer; and the porters *waited* at every gate; they

might not depart from their service; for their brethren the Levites prepared for them.

16 So all the service of the LORD was prepared the same day, to keep the passover, and to offer burnt offerings upon the altar of the LORD, according to the commandment of king Josiah.

17 And the children of Israel that were present kept the passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days.

18 And there was no passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did all the kings of Israel keep such a passover as Josiah kept, and the priests, and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel that were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

19 In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah was this passover kept.

20 ¶ After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by Euphrates: and Josiah went out against him.

21 But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? *I come* not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have

war: for God commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from *meddling with* God, who *is* with me, that he destroy thee not.

22 Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.

23 And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away; for I am sore wounded.

24 His servants therefore took him out of that chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had; and they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died, and was buried in *one of* the sepulchres of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

25 ¶ And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah: and all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations to this day, and made them an ordinance in Israel: and, behold, they *are* written in the lamentations.

26 Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and his goodness, according to *that which* was written in the law of the LORD,

27 And his deeds, first and last, behold, they *are* written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.

## CHAPTER 36

**T**HEN the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's stead in Jerusalem.

2 Jehoahaz *was* twenty and three years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem.

3 And the king of Egypt put him down at Jerusalem, and condemned the land in an hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.

4 And the king of Egypt made Eliakim his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and turned his name to Jehoiakim. And Necho took Jehoahaz his brother, and carried him to Egypt.

5 ¶ Jehoiakim *was* twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and he did *that which* was evil in the sight of the LORD his God.

6 Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and bound him in fetters, to carry him to Babylon.

7 Nebuchadnezzar also carried of the vessels of the house of the

LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.

8 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and his abominations which he did, and that which was found in him, behold, they *are* written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah: and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead.

9 ¶ Jehoiachin *was* eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem: and he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD.

10 And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.

11 ¶ Zedekiah *was* one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.

12 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD his God, *and* humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet *speaking* from the mouth of the LORD.

13 And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he

stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel.

14 ¶ Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.

15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:

16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till *there was* no remedy.

17 Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave *them* all into his hand.

18 And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the

king, and of his princes; all *these* he brought to Babylon.

19 And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

20 And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:

21 To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: *for* as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

22 ¶ Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD *spoken* by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying,

23 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah. Who *is there*

among you of all his people? The LORD his God *be* with him, and let him go up.

## EZRA CHAPTER 1

**N**OW in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying,

2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah.

3 Who *is there* among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he *is* the God,) which *is* in Jerusalem.

4 And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that *is* in Jerusalem.

5 ¶ Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin,

and the priests, and the Levites, with all *them* whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which *is* in Jerusalem.

6 And all they that *were* about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all *that* was willingly offered.

7 ¶ Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods;

8 Even those did Cyrus king of

Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

9 And this *is* the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives,

10 Thirty basons of gold, silver basons of a second *sort* four hundred and ten, *and* other vessels a thousand.

11 All the vessels of gold and of silver *were* five thousand and four hundred. All *these* did Sheshbazzar bring up with *them* of the captivity that were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem.

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## DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Today we complete our reading in the Book of 2 Chronicles. Our reading covers the death of Josiah, the reign of Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah. These kings reigned over Judah between 640 and 586 B.C. As mentioned in yesterday's comments, Josiah was one of Judah's best kings and brought revival to the land. However, in spite of all the Reformation of Josiah, we find Jerusalem in exile and captivity as the book ends.

Chapter 36 reviews the Lord's grace and patience, and the reasons for the exile of God's people. Under the rule of Cyrus, king of Persia, a proclamation was made throughout all the kingdom to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. This was done to fulfill the Word of the Lord, which was given by Jeremiah many years earlier.

Throughout 1 and 2 Chronicles we have seen the success and failure of God's people. God's people never knew failure when they followed the Lord, but never knew success when they followed the ways contrary to the Lord.

As I review these two great books, 2 Chronicles 7:14 comes to my mind as one of the outstanding

verses. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." Every Christian should memorize this verse, believe it, and follow the instruction given in it. Only then will the promises become a reality. God wants to forgive our sins. He wants to bless our nation. But we must first present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, that we might be used of Him. We must be clean vessels, meet for the Master's use.

## PROVERB FOR TODAY

"He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster" (Proverbs 18:9).

## TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

**ASSIGNMENT 16:** For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 8.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

**MARY JANE McCauley**

**ETTA DUSKIN**

## HYMN FOR TODAY

### SPIRIT OF GOD, DESCEND UPON MY HEART

by George Croly, 1780-1860

Although it is always thrilling at Christmas to recall the events of our Saviour's birth, or at Easter to celebrate His triumph over death, we must not forget Ascension or Pentecost. If Christ had never ascended to make intercession for us or had never sent the Holy Spirit to indwell and guide us, our relationship with the heavenly Father would be most incomplete.

One of the finest of all hymns for the Pentecost season is "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart." It was written by Anglican minister George Croly, who was known among his associates as a "fundamentalist in theology, a fierce conservative in politics, and intensely opposed to all forms of liberalism." The hymn first appeared in 1854 in Croly's own hymnal, *Psalms and Hymns for Public Worship*. It was originally titled "Holiness Desired."

Each stanza contributes an important truth for our spiritual benefit:

Stanza One—A desire to change the focus of one's life from things temporal to things spiritual.

*Spirit of God, descend upon my heart:  
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move.  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,  
and make me love Thee as I ought to love.*

Stanza Two—The total dedication of one's self to God.

*Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King?  
All, all Thine own—soul, heart and strength and mind.  
I see Thy cross—there teach my heart to cling;  
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find.*

Stanza Three—A prayerful concern for knowing fully the Spirit's abiding presence.

*Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;  
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear—  
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;  
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.*

Stanza Four—A most beautiful metaphor of Spirit-filled life: "my heart an altar, and Thy love the flame."

*Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,  
One holy passion filling all my frame:  
The baptism of the heav'n descended Dove—  
My heart an altar and Thy love the flame.*

## ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1933

**THE TENNESSEE VALLEY ASSOCIATION WAS**

## ESTABLISHED.

### TODAY IS PEACE DAY.

Pray for peace in the world. Pray for peace in your life. Pray that God will help you to live at peace with all men. If there is someone today with whom you're not at peace, make it right. Go see them, call them, write them, and be reconciled.

There are several meanings to the word "peace" in the Bible. There is what we call the "peace of God," "the peace that passeth understanding," which is the peace that Jesus gives. There is also what we call "peace with God." This was made by Jesus on the cross.

An old lady lay dying. She was asked by a pastor if she had made her peace with God.

"No," she replied.

The pastor asked, "Why don't you get saved then before you die?"

"Oh, I am saved," she replied.

"But you said you had not made your peace with God."

"I have not," said she. "Jesus made my peace with God two thousand years ago when He died for me on the Cross."

## ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1848

**DEATH OF WILLIAM A. LEIDESDORF (38), IN SAN FRANCISCO.**

1896

**U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION (PLESSY V. FERGUSON) UPHELD DOCTRINE OF "SEPARATE BUT EQUAL" AND BEGAN AGE OF JIM CROW.**

1955

**DEATH OF MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE (79), EDUCATOR AND CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER, DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA.**

1971

**PRESIDENT NIXON REJECTED THE SIXTY DEMANDS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS.** He said his administration would continue to support "jobs, income and tangible benefits, the pledges that this society has made to the disadvantaged in the past decade." The caucus expressed deep disappointment with the reply and said the Nixon administration "lacked a sense of understanding, urgency and commitment in dealing with the critical problems facing black Americans."

# The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

## MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

### DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I AM AFRAID I COULD NOT HOLD OUT"

(Assignment 16)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning" link back on the DailyKJV page.)

( ) John 10:28

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

( ) John 10:29

My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

( ) Romans 14:4

Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

( ) 2 Timothy 1:12

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

( ) 1 Peter 1:5

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.