

# Hezekiah

## (The power of faith)

Hezekiah was a good king who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just like his father David had done. You can read about him in 2 Kings 18 - 20; 2 Chronicles 29 - 32; and Isaiah 36 - 39. Today let us focus on an amazing Passover he observed shortly after becoming king. The Scriptures say that he observed the Passover otherwise than it was written, but was not condemned. Here are some of the irregularities:

First, the Passover was to be observed on the 1<sup>st</sup> month and the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month and was to last seven days. Hezekiah, however, observed it during the 2<sup>nd</sup> month and it lasted fourteen days (2 Chron. 30:2, 23.) In Numbers 9:10-11 provision was made to observe the Passover during the second month if you were unclean by reason of a dead body, or travelling. Hezekiah, however, instructed all of Israel to observe the Passover during the second month and thus did it other than it was written. Here are some other considerations:

1. When God institute the Passover he instructed all of Israel to kill the Passover at the appropriate time (Ex. 12:6.) Hezekiah, however, had the Levites kill the Passover lambs because so many people were unclean (2 Chron. 30:17.)
2. Many people from Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun had not cleansed themselves, yet ate the Passover anyhow (2 Chron. 30:18.)
3. Even though Hezekiah observed the Passover other than it was written, God honoured that Passover, answered the king's prayer, and healed the people.

The Scriptures put it in these words:

**“ yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one that prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary. And the LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.” (2 Chr 30:18-20)**

It is important to note carefully the prayer of Hezekiah. Those who seek God with all their heart are different from others. They assume a special place in the eyes of God. David, for example, was a man after God's own heart. Jesus reminded the Pharisees that David did that which was not lawful to do and yet was not condemned. David entered into the House of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat. At the same time Jesus reminded them that priests in the Temple profane the Sabbath and yet are blameless. (See Matt. 12:1-5) God is a discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Other examples are also found in Scripture which indicate that a good heart and faith can triumph over the Law of Moses. Moses taught in Lev. 15:19-33 that a woman with an issue of blood was unclean, and was to be isolated from society. In Luke 8:43-48, however, a woman with an issue of blood was in a crowd, and touched Christ's garment. She was not condemned for this infraction of law, she was healed. Jesus said that her faith had made her whole.

Lev. 13 teaches that a leper was also unclean and to be isolated. Jesus, however, touched lepers, ate with lepers, and accepted lepers into His presence. (See Matt. 8:2-4; Mk. 1:40; Lk. 5:12-14; 17:12-19, etc.)

Moses taught that a woman caught in adultery was to be stoned (Lev. 20:11; Deut. 22:22, etc.) Jesus forgave a woman caught in the act of adultery (John 8:)

These remarkable examples of faith provide insight into the revolutionary nature of the Gospel. Jesus said it like this: **“Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a great than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he” (Matt. 11:11.)**

Paul said it like this: **“And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.” (Acts 13:39)**

**IF YOU SEEK GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, YOUR FAITH CAN MAKE YOU WHOLE!**