

There Was No Remedy

Second Chronicles 35–36

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • March 13, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2022

Scripture Reader and Reading: Billy Henshall – Leviticus 26.33–34

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: The Young Men (Schedule will be given separately)

I. Second Chronicles 35.1–6 • Faithful Observances

1 Now Josiah kept a Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem, and they slaughtered the Passover lambs on the fourteenth day of the first month...

A. Passover for Israel is like the Lord's Supper for us,

1. they remembered their deliverance from political slavery and
2. we remember our deliverance from spiritual slavery.

B. The Lord wants us to observe the Supper once a week, but

1. Israel was to remember the Passover once a year.
2. Deliverance from spiritual slavery is greater than deliverance from political slavery.
 - a) We eat the Lord's Supper, also called Communion, on the first day of the week.
 - b) Israel ate the Passover on the 14th day of the first month on the Jewish calendar.

C. Josiah led this great observance.

1. He put the priests in order.
2. He encouraged them.

II. Second Chronicles 35.7–9 • Leaders Give

7 Then Josiah gave the lay people lambs and young goats from the flock, all for Passover offerings for all who were present, to the number of thirty thousand, as well as three thousand cattle; these were from the king's possessions. 8 And his leaders gave willingly to the people, to the priests, and to the Levites...

A. This is the sign of a leader:

1. He gives.

2. Of course, he receives, but he does not receive alone.
 - a) Nehemiah gave to the people.
 - b) After he heard that the rich were charging interest on their loans to brethren,
 - (1) he confronted them about their error.
 - (2) Then he explained what he was doing:

17 And at my table were one hundred and fifty Jews and rulers, besides those who came to us from the nations around us. 18 Now that which was prepared daily was one ox and six choice sheep. Also fowl were prepared for me, and once every ten days an abundance of all kinds of wine. Yet in spite of this I did not demand the governor's provisions, because the bondage was heavy on this people.

– Nehemiah 5.17–18

- B. I know of a preacher in our brotherhood
1. who did not contribute to the weekly contribution where he preached.
 2. He started showing up in sports cars and living highly in other ways.
 - a) The elders actually had to talk to him about his giving.
 - b) He finally started giving to his home congregation.
 - (1) That man is not a leader.
 - (2) He just uses his position for his own advantage.

III. Second Chronicles 35.10–14 • Do as Written

10 So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their places, and the Levites in their divisions, according to the king's command... 12 Then they removed the burnt offerings that they might give them to the divisions of the fathers' houses of the lay people, to offer to the LORD, as it is written in the Book of Moses... 13 Also they roasted the Passover offerings with fire according to the ordinance...

- A. Notice that verse 12 said

1. that they did these things, “as it is written in the Book of Moses.”
2. Is that not how they should have been operating?
 - a) Is it not how we should operate?
 - b) Paul reminded our Corinthian brethren of this truth:

6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

– 1 Corinthians 4.6

B. Verse 13 showed that they had to work quickly, because

1. Israel or Judah had not had such a large observance of the Passover in many centuries.
2. This was not something that they were used to doing.
 - a) What is interesting is that they served the people first,
 - b) then verse 14 says afterward they served themselves.

IV. Second Chronicles 35.15 • Support the Workers

15 And the singers, the sons of Asaph, were in their places, according to the command of David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun the king’s seer. Also the gatekeepers were at each gate; they did not have to leave their position, because their brethren the Levites prepared portions for them.

A. Josiah observed the command of David, for

1. in truth it was the command of God,
2. for the ordering of the singers.

B. The singers did their part and so did the gatekeepers.

1. Why were they able to keep singing during all of this activity?
2. Why were the gatekeepers able to stay at their stations?
 - a) The Levites supported them,

- b) giving them what they needed.
 - (1) Israel supported the Levites.
 - (2) The Levites supported the singers and the gatekeepers.
 - (a) Everyone looked out for one another.
 - (b) They were all dependent upon others.

V. Second Chronicles 35.16–19 • Obey Like No One Ever Has Before

16 So all the service of the LORD was prepared the same 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 children of Israel who were present kept the Passover at that time, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days. 18 There had been no Passover kept in Israel like that since the days of Samuel the prophet; and none of the kings of Israel had kept such a Passover as Josiah kept, with the priests and the Levites, all Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 19 In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah this Passover was kept.

- A. They did everything in one day on a national level!
- B. They also kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread immediately after the Passover.
 - 1. The Passover commemorates their deliverance from Egypt.
 - 2. The Feast of Unleavened Bread commemorates
 - a) that they had to leave in a hurry and
 - b) could not let their dough rise.
- C. This observance of Passover and Unleavened Bread
 - 1. were kept on such a scale throughout Judah and parts of Israel
 - 2. that no generation had done it in this manner
 - a) since the days of Samuel!
 - b) No king in Israel, including David and Solomon,
 - (1) had kept such a Passover.
 - (2) Just because past generations have not observed something as you might be contemplating,

- (a) does not mean that we should not do it.
- (b) By all means, Remember Josiah.
 - i) Follow the Scriptures and
 - ii) watch what God does in your life.

VI. Second Chronicles 35.20–24a • Do Not Pick Fights

20 After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by the Euphrates; and Josiah went out against him. 21 But he sent messengers to him, saying, “What have I to do with you, king of Judah? I have not come against you this day, but against the house with which I have war; for God commanded me to make haste. Refrain from meddling with God, who is with me, lest He destroy you.” 22 Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight in the Valley of Megiddo. 23 And the archers shot King Josiah; and the king said to his servants, “Take me away, for I am severely wounded.” 24a 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. So he died, and was buried in one of the tombs of his fathers.

A. The Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread that we just watched,

- 1. happened in the 18th year of Josiah’s reign
- 2. when he was 26 years old.
 - a) Thirteen years have passed.
 - b) Pharaoh comes through Judah and
 - (1) Josiah does not like it.
 - (2) What will he do?

B. Pharaoh Necho made himself clear that he had not quarrel with Josiah.

- 1. Necho also used God as authority for his war against Carchemish.
- 2. He is not the only foreign leader in the Bible to claim God,
 - a) the God of Israel,
 - b) the God of the Bible,

(1) as his authority.

(2) You will see that in the last verse of Second Chronicles tonight.

3. God uses the nations and their governments

a) to bless his people and

b) to punish his people.

C. King Josiah went against what Pharaoh Necho said,

1. although it was from God.

2. God had communicated to Necho

a) to fight against Carchemish.

b) We do not know how this came about.

3. Necho made it clear that he was not fighting Judah.

a) If you wanted to go from Africa to Asia or to Europe by land,

b) you had to go through the land over which Josiah ruled.

(1) You can understand Josiah, but

(2) he was also a man who listened to God.

(a) Had he consulted God about attacking the Egyptians?

(b) If he had, and if Necho was truly on a mission from God,

i) God would have alerted Josiah to this fact.

ii) Unfortunately, he appeared not to do so.

D. He even wanted to be involved in the battle itself.

1. He paid for it with his own life.

VII. Second Chronicles 35.24b–27 • Mourn the Loss of Great Leaders

24b And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. 25 Jeremiah also lamented for Josiah. And to this day all the singing men and the singing women speak of Josiah in their lamentations. They made it a custom in Israel; and indeed they are written in the Laments. 26 Now the rest of the acts of Josiah and his goodness, according to what was written in the Law of the LORD, 27 and his deeds from first to last, indeed they are written in the book

of the kings of Israel and Judah.

A. The Bible shows the mourning over his death more than any other king.

B. Zechariah 12.11 prophesied of the mourning

1. that would fill the land at the crucifixion of the Messiah,
2. comparing it to the mourning of Josiah's untimely death:

11 In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

– Zechariah 12.11

C. Why was the mourning so great?

1. By his righteousness he was holding off destruction.
2. He restore Judah's glory.
3. He led Judah in ways that they had not been led.
4. He removed the idolatry that plagued Judah and would bring destruction.
5. He loved God and he loved his people.

VIII. Second Chronicles 36.1–3 • Submit to an Unfriendly Government

1 Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's place in Jerusalem. 2 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. 3 Now the king of Egypt deposed him at Jerusalem; and he imposed on the land a tribute of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.

A. Since Judah fought against Necho, and lost,

1. he would take charge.
2. Now, Judah had to pay tribute to another government.

B. This government was unfriendly toward Judah, but

1. it was for their own sin.

2. Often God's people suffer at the hands of the government or another one,
 - a) since they have sinned.
 - b) See it that way, as America's Founding Fathers did.

IX. Second Chronicles 36.4–5 • God Uses Unfriendly Governments

4 Then the king of Egypt made Jehoahaz's brother Eliakim king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. And Necho took Jehoahaz his brother and carried him off to Egypt. 5 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD his God.

A. Egypt had control of God's people again.

B. Yet, the leaders kept sinning.

X. Second Chronicles 36.6–7 • God Uses Governments to Punish the Disobedient

6 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him, and bound him in bronze fetters to carry him off to Babylon. 7 Nebuchadnezzar also carried off some of the articles from the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.

A. Babylon drove Egypt away and took charge of Judah.

B. This was the first of three attacks on Judah and Jerusalem.

XI. Second Chronicles 36.8 • A Bad Sign: Many Rulers

8 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, the abominations which he did, and what was found against him, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah. Then Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

A. Proverbs 28.2

- 2 **Because of the transgression of a land, many are its princes;
But by a man of understanding and knowledge
Right will be prolonged.**

B. This is what happens

1. when a generation does not know history and
2. when a generation does not know God.

XII. Second Chronicles 36.9–10 • Do Evil, Suffer the Consequences

9 Jehoiachin was eight [Should be 18; 2Ki 24.8, DR] years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months and ten days. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD. 10 At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar summoned him and took him to Babylon, with the costly articles from the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah, Jehoiakim's brother, king over Judah and Jerusalem.

A. Josiah's sons did not learn from him.

B. They did not learn from one another.

XIII. Second Chronicles 36.11–14 • Rebellion Against the Lord Does Not Pay

11 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. 12 He did evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the LORD. 13 And he also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear an oath by God; but he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD God of Israel. 14 Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled the house of the LORD which He had consecrated in Jerusalem.

A. Jeremiah was the primary, but not the only prophet to speak to these kings.

1 The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, 2 to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. 3 It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month.

– Jeremiah 1.1–3

- B. Every leader and the people
 - 1. returned to the gods of the Canaanites,
 - 2. failing to see that only got Judah into trouble.
- C. Zedekiah broke an oath that he swore before God.
 - 1. Ecclesiastes 5 says that if we break our vows,
 - 2. God will be angry and destroy our works.

XIV. Second Chronicles 36.15–16 • One of the Saddest Passages in the Bible

15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. 16 But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy.

A. Hugh Shira of the Southern California School of Evangelism said

- 1. that to him Jeremiah 8.20 is the saddest verse of the Bible:

**20 “The harvest is past,
 The summer is ended,
 And we are not saved.”**

- 2. That is undoubtedly one of the saddest.
 - a) I would add the passages depicting the sufferings of Jesus.
 - b) I would also add the passage I just read.

B. God did not delay.

- 1. From the beginning he sent messengers to his people, because
- 2. he had compassion on them and the temple.

C. Yet, what did they do?

- 1. They mocked the messengers of God.
- 2. They despised his words.
- 3. They scoffed at his prophets.

D. This all kept the wrath of God rising.

1. Finally, it reached the point of no return.
2. Their sins, like the Amorites, were complete.
 - a) The cup of God's wrath filled up.
 - b) No other remedy would fix the problem.
 - (1) He promised in the Law what he would do.
 - (2) He did all the steps.
 - (a) Captivity for the nation was the last step.
 - (b) He did not want to do it, but did.

XV. Second Chronicles 36.17–19 • Do Evil, Suffer Humiliation

17 Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave them all into his hand. 18 And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon. 19 Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions.

A. God poured out his wrath, allowing the king of the Chaldeans

1. to kill the people,
2. to have no compassion on anyone,
3. to take all the furnishings of the house of God,
4. to take all the treasures accumulated over the centuries,
5. to burn and knock the temple,
6. to break down the protective wall,
7. to burn all the palaces, and
8. to destroy all precious possessions.

XVI. Second Chronicles 36.20–21 • God Means What He Says and Says What He Means

20 And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, **21** to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

- A. Thus, began the 70-year captivity.
- B. It would last clear to the next empire, the Persians.
- C. It would last 70 years
 - 1. so that the land could enjoy its Sabbaths, for
 - 2. Israel had neglected the land Sabbath for 490 years.

XVII. Second Chronicles 36.22–23 • The Lord Always Provide a New Hope

22 Now 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, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, **23** “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!”

- A. Ezra jumped ahead 70 years and
- B. showed that God worked through Cyrus of Persia.

Exhortation:

I. Why all this focus on the kings?

- A. Israel asked for a king.
- B. They paid for it dearly.

II. There is a King in whom there is no fault.

III. It is better to heed the way of God than to circumvent with our own ways.