

**Scripture Reference: 2 Chronicles 30:1-12**

**Date: June 2, 2013**

**Title: "A long time coming"**

Focus: What would it be like to NOT observe the Lord's Supper.

**Intro:**

What we read in 2 Chronicles 30 takes place around 700 BC. This is necessary to note.

It is a time about 20 years after the collapse of the northern kingdom of Israel. The southern kingdom of Judah is fearful that Assyria may well invade them

Because the nations had been divided and the northern tribes taken into captivity, as a nation Israel had not celebrated the Passover in more than 200 years.

The king of the southern tribe, Hezekiah, wanted to change this.

His actions afforded the children of Abraham an opportunity they otherwise wouldn't of had.

**Body:**

**vv. 1-4; Hezekiah Calls the Nation Together.**

King Hezekiah decides to call for all to come and observe the Passover - as a nation.

He wanted anyone who would come, hoping all the tribes were represented in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover together.

The Passover was a chance for them as a people to come into God's presence

God built into the holy days a communal aspect.

Without Hezekiah's call to celebrate the Passover the people would have continued to be divided from one another and from their God.

### **vv. 5-9; The Proclamation is Sent Out.**

The messengers went "*throughout all Israel and Judah.*

Regardless of where they were or what their history had been, no one was excluded from the invitation.

King Hezekiah did not want to miss anyone.

The proclamation declared the chance to turn from their sins and that of their fathers.

This chance at repentance before God would lead to the return of His favor upon them and those still in captivity.

Without observing the Passover as a nation there would have been no opportunity for reconciliation with God and these blessings missed.

## **vv. 10-12; There were Three Responses:**

Those involved responded to the Passover proclamation in one of three ways:

v. 10 - Some people laughed and scorned

v. 11 - Others humbled and came

v. 12 - God gave those who responded "*one heart*," He moved.

Because of the Passover celebration healing in the nation began.

An issue can be made of those who did not come. But what about those who did? Had it not been for the Passover there would have been no difference.

### **Closing:**

1. Had it not been for the call to celebrate the Passover all that was gained would not have been realized. Its commemoration created an opportunity.

2. The Passover is a foreshadowing, a precursor to Jesus. It reflects the atoning work of Jesus.

3. Since we have the substance, we no longer need this reflection. Therefore, the Passover has given way to the Lord's Supper, a commemoration of Him as our atonement.

4. Without the Lord's Supper we would miss an opportunity to come into His presence.

5. Without what the Lord's Supper commemorates there would be no extension of forgiveness to those who will repent.

6. Without the Lord's Supper we would have no reason to celebrate.