

2 Chronicles 30:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one

Analysis

Hezekiah's intercession for Passover participants: 'For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim and Manasseh, Issachar and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one.' Many celebrated Passover ceremonially unclean, violating Levitical law. Rather than excluding them, Hezekiah interceded. His prayer appeals to God's goodness (hatov YHWH), trusting mercy trumps technical violation. God heard this prayer (30:20), demonstrating that sincere heart-seeking God overcomes ritual imperfection. This anticipates Christ who cleanses inwardly, making external purification secondary, and who intercedes for His people's failures.

Historical Context

Hezekiah's Passover (c. 715 BCE) invited Northern Kingdom remnant, many unfamiliar with proper procedures after generations of idolatry. Hezekiah's grace-filled response prioritized sincere worship over technical perfection, modeling pastoral wisdom.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you balance upholding biblical standards with extending grace to sincere seekers who don't meet all requirements?
2. For whom do you need to intercede, trusting God's goodness to pardon despite their imperfect approach to Him?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| וּמִנֶּשֶׁה | הַמֶּאֱפֹרַיִם | כַּבֵּית | הָעָם | מִרְבֵּי יֵת | כִּי |
| H4519 | H669 | H7227 | H5971 | H4768 | H3588 |
| and Manasseh | of Ephraim | even many | of the people | For a multitude | |
| אָכְלוּ | וְלֹא | כִּי | הִטְהָרוּ | בֶּלֹא | וְזִבְלוֹן |
| H398 | H3588 | H2891 | H3808 | H2074 | H3485 |
| themselves yet did they eat | | cleansed | had not | and Zebulun | Issachar |
| הִתְפַּלֵּל | לִי | כִּכְתּוּב | וּבִלֹא | הַפֶּסַח | אֶת |
| H6419 | H3588 | H3789 | H3808 | H6453 | H853 |
| prayed | otherwise than it was written | had not | the passover | | |
| בָּעֵד: | יִכְפֹּר | רַחֲמֵי | יְהוָה | הַטּוֹב | וְיִסְתַּחֲרֵהוּ |
| H1157 | H3722 | H2896 | H3068 | H5921 | H3169 |
| pardon | The good | LORD | for them saying | upon them | But Hezekiah |

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 11:28 (Parallel theme): But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

2 Chronicles 6:21 (Parallel theme): Hearken therefore unto the supplications of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, which they shall make toward this place: hear thou from thy dwelling place, even from heaven; and when thou hearest, forgive.

Daniel 9:19 (References Lord): O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.

Psalms 25:8 (Good): Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.

Genesis 20:7 (Prayer): Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine.

2 Chronicles 30:25 (Parallel theme): And all the congregation of Judah, with the priests and the Levites, and all the congregation that came out of Israel, and the strangers that came out of the land of Israel, and that dwelt in Judah, rejoiced.

2 Chronicles 30:11 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless divers of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem.

Numbers 19:20 (References Lord): But the man that shall be unclean, and shall not purify himself, that soul shall be cut off from among the congregation, because he hath defiled the sanctuary of the LORD: the water of separation hath not been sprinkled upon him; he is unclean.