

## **My Hallelujah Belongs to You (Lord).**

### **2 Chronicles 30:13-27 (NRSV)**

<sup>13</sup>Many people came together in Jerusalem to keep the festival of unleavened bread in the second month, a very large assembly. <sup>14</sup>They set to work and removed the altars that were in Jerusalem, and all the altars for offering incense they took away and threw into the Wadi Kidron. <sup>15</sup>They slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and the Levites were ashamed, and they sanctified themselves and brought burnt offerings into the house of the LORD. <sup>16</sup>They took their accustomed posts according to the law of Moses the man of God; the priests dashed the blood that they received<sup>[a]</sup> from the hands of the Levites. <sup>17</sup>For there were many in the assembly who had not sanctified themselves; therefore, the Levites had to slaughter the Passover lamb for everyone who was not clean, to make it holy to the LORD. <sup>18</sup>For a multitude of the people, many of them from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the passover otherwise than as prescribed. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, "The good LORD pardon all <sup>19</sup>who set their hearts to seek God, the LORD, the God of their ancestors, even though not in accordance with the sanctuary's rules of cleanness." <sup>20</sup>The LORD heard Hezekiah, and healed the people. <sup>21</sup>The people of Israel who were present at Jerusalem kept the festival of unleavened bread seven days with great gladness; and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, accompanied by loud instruments for the LORD. <sup>22</sup>Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites who showed good skill in the service of the LORD. So the people ate the food of the festival for seven days, sacrificing offerings of well-being and giving thanks to the LORD, the God of their ancestors. <sup>23</sup>Then the whole assembly agreed together to keep the festival for another seven days; so they kept it for another seven days with gladness. <sup>24</sup>For King Hezekiah of Judah gave the assembly a thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep for offerings, and the officials gave the assembly a thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep. The priests sanctified themselves in great numbers. <sup>25</sup>The whole assembly of Judah, the priests and the Levites, and the whole assembly that came out of Israel, and the resident

aliens who came out of the land of Israel, and the resident aliens who lived in Judah, rejoiced. <sup>26</sup>There was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the time of Solomon, son of King David of Israel, there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. <sup>27</sup>Then the priests and the Levites stood up and blessed the people, and their voice was heard; their prayer came to his holy dwelling in heaven.

Giving honor to God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Giving honor to the men, women, and children of God. To my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. As we journey through 2 Chronicles 30:13-27, it allows us to see true worship take place.

God allowed the Israelites to celebrate the Passover even though most hadn't purified themselves (2 Chronicles 30:18-20). Have you ever been in a church service and struggled with sin in your life? Have you ever dealt with being ashamed and had to undergo some disappointments? Have you ever been made to feel like you were less than? Have you ever felt the emotion of doubt and it seemed like ambiguity crept into your life, and you felt like you were unworthy of being in God's presence?

Let's tell the truth and stay in Church!!! I came to remind you this morning that Jesus said (John 4:23) "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him."

During this pandemic period (Covid-19) I have learned a great deal about worship and a great deal about myself. Can I get a witness? I praise God for allowing us the opportunity to worship in a beautiful sanctuary. I praise God for providing us with a platform to worship Him in non-traditional ways as well. I, like you, can't wait to get back into the physical church building. The Sanctuary. Hallelujah to the Lamb of God. (I'm counting down the days... 'Cause we owe God a Praise).

But I came to worship the Lord, this morning, via a didactic sermonic message. I came to give God my worship. You've come to give God your worship. We've come to give God our celebratory praise right now in the midst of wearing our relaxed attire, and before we have even prepared our bodies for the day. Yes, in our bedroom slippers and our pajamas, we have come to give God some praise because our "Hallelujah" belongs to Him. Yes, Yes, Yes. Whether in the building, on the porch, on the church lawn, in our living rooms, in the car, in the Walmart parking lot, on the telephone, via

text message, "O MY GOD.... whatever and whenever we can worship the Lord, Big Bethel... we need to give God some praise!

We look forward to getting back into the church facility, soon and very soon... but while there is breath in our bodies, we praise Him right now! We give God the Honor right now! We Thank Him for the marriage, right now! We Thank Him for the healing, right now! We praise Him for the financial blessing, right now! We praise Him for the Good Report, right now! Wherever you are, right now! Stand Up on your feet and Praise God, right now! My, My, My, My, My Hallelujah (Which is the Highest Praise) belongs to You.

According to the text, the children of God celebrated the Passover for an extra week even though that simply wasn't the way things were done (v.23).

God wanted people to obey the Law, but He wasn't a legalist. I took time to look up the term "legalist." Legalism is defined as a trusting that your own works produce salvation as opposed to faith producing action.

I believe it was (Hebrews 11:6) that teaches us, "And **without faith** it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that He exists and that he rewards those who seek him." Has your faith grown over the past 18 months?

Jesus taught that God desired mercy and love even if that meant doing without sacrificial offerings (Matt. 12:6-8). I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. <sup>7</sup>But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. <sup>8</sup>**For the Son of Man is lord of the sabbath."** **Where is our worship?** John 9:31 states "Now we know that **God** heareth not sinners: but if any man be a **worshipper of God**, and doeth his will, him he heareth." Our worship belongs to God.

In closing, God is and always has been interested in sincere worship, even more than outward rituals. God searches the heart. God is a spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and Truth. (John 4:24) My brothers and sisters, I'm trying to hold my peace, but according to John 14:17, This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. **You know him**, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, He's available to you today. Romans 10:9 shares, "If thou shall confess with thy mouth, the Lord Jesus, and

believe in thy heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thy shall be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation. For the scripture sayeth, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

Our Hallelujah belongs to You (Lord God). Amen.