



Fulfilling the Passover

Luke 22: 7-13

- God has been at work throughout all of human history. God is work today. Those convictions guide so much of what we do as a church and what we do as individual believers.
- But it's not just that He is at work.
- ***What exactly is He doing?*** That's the critical question that the Gospels answer for us in showing us the life, ministry, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus.
- As we have seen in Luke's Gospel over the past several months, the truth has come to set us free from the bondage of sin, death, Hell, and the grave.
- Jesus came to bring salvation for those that would call upon His name and trust in Him.

- It was Luke's desire that Theophilus would understand that truth, and it is God's desire that we would understand that truth today.
- In the lead up to the pinnacle of the Gospel story, we read about the critical role of the Passover celebration.
 - This was no random circumstance. This was the fulfillment of God's plan.
 - Charles Spurgeon on the Passover
 - What the paschal lamb was to Israel in Egypt, that the Lord Jesus Christ is to us. ... Put the passover and the cross together, for indeed they are one. ... Jesus Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us and moreover at the time of his death Christ was full of life. He did not give himself to die for us when he was a youth... but just in his maturity, in his very prime, then Jesus Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us.

Main Point: Jesus came to fulfill the Passover according to the plan of God.

- The days before Jesus' crucifixion are full of imagery and references to the Old Testament.
- In fact, some estimates say that there are around 30 OT prophecies fulfilled in Holy Week alone. All of this came to be in accordance with the will of God.

I. The context of the Passover

- a. The Passover meal was a powerful reminder of what God had done in delivering the people of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt.
- b. They had been slaves for 400 years. Moses is led by God to rescue them from captivity.

- c. God sends plagues to get Pharaoh's attention to let His people go. After nine plagues, he still refused to let them go.
- d. So, God sent a 10th plague. He would pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn male – Both people and animals.
- e. In order for the Israelites to be spared from this plague, God gave them specific instructions to follow.
 - i. Select a **male lamb** (or young goat) without defect on the 10th day of the month.
 - ii. Kill the lamb at twilight on the 14th day.
 - iii. Take the **blood** and smear it on the two doorposts and the lintel of their houses.
 - iv. Roast the lamb and eat it **that same night** with unleavened bread and bitter herbs—ready to leave Egypt at a moment's notice (no time to let bread rise).
 - v. God's promise: "When I see the blood, I will **pass over** you. No **destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt**" (Ex 12:13).
- f. They had relived this Passover meal for hundreds of years following that as a reminder of God's faithfulness to them.

II. Everything According to Plan

- a. The disciples and many others had gathered together in Jerusalem to celebrate this Passover meal.

- b. There are some interesting elements to this story. Remember, Luke was not an eye witness to many of these things, but he did a lot of research and asked a lot of questions of others.
- c. This chapter starts with a description about Judas preparing to betray Jesus and the chief priests and scribes who were looking for ways to kill Jesus.
- d. Then, Jesus gave very specific instructions about preparing for a Passover meal with His disciples. He had a great desire to do this because He would reveal what is to come and how He would ultimately fulfill the Passover.
- e. There was a problem, however. People were out to kill Jesus. If others knew of His location and gathering with His disciples, they would take advantage of that and have Him arrested.
- f. You can read Chapter 21 and see how the pressure is mounting against Jesus from the ruling elite.
- g. So, in order to keep their location for the Passover meal a secret He didn't specify a place that would be publicly known.
 - i. He said to look for a man carrying a pitcher of water. (Usually a woman's job the week of Passover.) Follow Him into the house that he enters.
- h. Everything happened the way that God intended for it to happen.
- i. There were no surprises in this for Jesus. He knew He would be betrayed. It just needed to happen at the right moment.

III. Preparation of Things to Come

- a. Then there was the Passover meal itself.
- b. In this moment, Jesus instituted what we know of as the Lord's Supper.

c. Every element was pointing of something that was to come. Every element had been prophesied for hundreds of years, and it would soon be fulfilled.

- i. **The Bread:** Jesus took the unleavened matzah (likely during or right after the Motzi/Matzah step, when the bread is blessed and eaten). He broke it and said:
- ii. “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19)
- iii. This connects directly to the matzah’s symbolism of affliction and haste, but now points to **His body broken on the cross.**
- iv. **The Wine (Cup):** Luke records two cups. One early in the meal (possibly the First or Second Cup). The key one is “**after the supper**” (Luke 22:20) — this corresponds to the **Third Cup**, known as the **Cup of Redemption**. Jesus said:
 - v. “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”
 - vi. He transformed the Cup of Redemption into a symbol of **His blood shed for the forgiveness of sins** and the establishment of the **new covenant** (Jeremiah 31:31–34; fulfilled in His death).

- **Timing:** Jesus was crucified at the exact time the Passover lambs were being slaughtered in the temple (John 19:14, 31). The Gospels deliberately show Jesus dying on Passover day.

- **The Lamb:**

- In Exodus, the spotless lamb died so the firstborn could live.

- In the New Testament, Jesus is called “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29) and “our Passover lamb” (1 Cor 5:7). He was without sin (the “lamb without blemish”).

- **The Blood:**

- The blood on the doorposts spared the Israelites from physical death.
- Jesus’ blood, shed on the cross, spares believers from spiritual death and eternal judgment. It is the blood of the **new covenant** (Luke 22:20; cf. Jer 31:31–34), which forgives sin permanently.

- **The Meal:**

- The Passover meal looked *back* to deliverance from Egypt.
- The Lord’s Supper (instituted at that Passover table) looks *back* to the cross and *forward* to Christ’s return (Luke 22:16, 18). It is the new-covenant version of Passover.

- **Deliverance:**

- Old Testament Passover delivered Israel from physical slavery in Egypt.
- Jesus’ Passover delivers us from spiritual slavery to sin and death.