

THE LAST PASSOVER

Luke 22: 7-18

Intro: Tonight I begin a series on the Passion of Christ - those events usually included in His sufferings and death.

As we approach Easter (the first Sunday in April) all of us would do well to spend much time reading the record of these events in Matt - John. We give far too little time and thought to the death of our Lord.

In the Gospel of Luke (19:28) our Lord arrives back in Jerusalem for the last time. It was the one time of glory which our Lord experienced - but how short and how meaningless it was!

Then as the day of the Passover arrived, the Lord Himself made preparation.

I. THE PREPARATION.

Ederheim in his book, The Temple, tells us from Jewish history what actually happened by way of prep.

Peter and John (Luke 22:8) were sent to make the prep. - sent by the Lord Himself.

This meant that somewhere they would get a Lamb, and they would take the Lamb to be sacrificed at the Temple.

Either Peter or John would do the sacrificing.

The blood would be caught in a large basin by a priest, who in turn would pass the bowl to the priest next to him - and so along a row of priests until it reached the high priest who poured it at the base of the altar of burnt offering.

Then the body of the animal itself was placed on the altar and roast with fire.

Later the lamb was taken home and eaten.

Peter and John were charged with the resp. of doing this - the only such time that our Lord led His disciples in this way.

II. THE OBSERVANCE.

⁽¹⁾ The feast consisted primarily in the passing of the cup, four times - after which there was the singing of such Psalms as 113 + 114, and 115-118.

After the second cup, the one in charge (usually the father, because it was a family affair - explained the significance of the Passover.

our Lord must have done this!

How this must have reminded John of the preaching of John the Baptist! Cf. John 1:29. We can only imagine how this must have brought to light many things that the Lord had tried to tell them before.

He would have spoken about:

- (1) The Egyptian bondage.
- (2) Their deliverance from death.
- (3) Their deliverance from Egypt.
- (4) Their deliverance from Pharaoh.

Think of the hopes that would have been revived in the hearts of the disciples - only to be greatly solemnized when they remembered when all of this was dependent upon the death of the Passover Lamb.

Just as that Passover Lamb was a type, so were their deliverances!

III. "THIS PASSOVER" (Luke 22:15).

Perhaps the Lord said this as He finished the historical review of the Passover story.

The verse is a Hebraism - expressing intensity of desire. Cf. John 10:17, 18, "Therefore doth my Father love me..."

Moses lived about 1500 B.C.

Our Lord had evidently been anticipating, desiring "this Passover" - the last one before the Cross - for all of those 1500 years!

and yet - cf. Rev. 13:8; 1 Pet. 1:18-20.

We have every reason to believe that this had occupied the mind of Christ from before creation.

How it must have grieved Him that it had only become a ritual and that Israel had been satisfied with the type - not the fulfillment!

Now He had been able to lay bare His heart to them.

But then the Lord did a strange thing. He refused to finish the Passover. Whether this was the third cup, or the fourth, we do not know, but His action was

IV. A PROPHECY.

The death of Christ was not the end. Israel would go on observing the Passover, but the Lord was anticipating another day!

Note the anticipation of the Lord: (1) first, the Cross; (2) then, the Throne.

The hopes which stirred in Israel's heart in Ex. 12 will not be fully realized until the Lord Himself reigns as Israel's King.

John who later wrote the book of the Revelation was enabled to see it all in detail - as we can see it, too, in that book. But it led him to pray, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).

There is no other hope for this world!

Concl: What can we learn from this?

May I suggest three things:

- (1) The amazing love of God - anticipating.
- (2) The absolute sovereignty of God.
- (3) The all-inclusive faithfulness of God