

John 11:55

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves.

Analysis

The Jews' Passover approaches, bringing pilgrims to Jerusalem for ritual purification. This chronological note builds tension—Jesus' death at Passover fulfills typology. The crowds' early arrival for purification rites demonstrates religious devotion to ceremonial law while missing the substance. They cleanse externally for lamb's sacrifice, unknowingly preparing for the Lamb of God's sacrifice. This irony demonstrates how ritualism can blind people to reality. Their purification rites preview the purification Christ's blood will accomplish.

Historical Context

Jewish pilgrims arrived early for the seven-day purification required by Mosaic law (Num 9:6-14). This ensured ceremonial cleanness for Passover participation. Jerusalem's population swelled from perhaps 40,000 to over 200,000.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does external religious ritual blind people to spiritual reality?
2. What does the timing of Jesus' death at Passover teach about typological fulfillment?
3. In what ways do we pursue ceremonial cleanness while missing Christ's sufficient purification?

Interlinear Text

ἦν	δὲ	ἐγγὺς	τὸ	πάσχα	τῶν	Ἰουδαίων	καὶ
was	And	nigh at hand	G3588	passover	G3588	the Jews	and
G2258	G1161	G1451		G3957		G2453	G2532
ἀνέβησαν	πολλοὶ	εἰς	Ἱεροσόλυμα	ἐκ	τῆς	χώρας	πρὸ
went	many	up	to Jerusalem	out of	G3588	the country	before
G305	G4183	G1519	G2414	G1537		G5561	G4253
τοῦ	πάσχα	ἵνα	ἀγνίσωσιν	ἑαυτούς			
G3588	passover	to	purify	themselves			
	G3957	G2443	G48	G1438			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 19:10 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes,

John 6:4 (Parallel theme): And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

John 12:1 (Parallel theme): Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

John 2:13 (References Jerusalem): And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

Genesis 35:2 (Parallel theme): Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:

