

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 cleanliness 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 cleanliness while missing Christ's sufficient purification?

Interlinear Text

Ἦν δὲ ἐγγὺς τὸ πάσχα τῶν Ἰουδαίων καὶ
was And nigh at hand passover the Jews and
G2258 G1161 G1451 G3588 G3957 G2453 G2532

ἀνέβησαν πολλοὶ εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ἐκ τῆς χώρας πρὸ^{τις}
went many up to Jerusalem out of the country before
G305 G4183 G1519 G2414 G1537 G3588 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:

