

Luke 22:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover.

Analysis

Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover.

Luke merges the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Greek ἡ ἑορτὴ τῶν ἀζύμων, *hē heortē tōn azymōn*) with the Passover (τὸ πάσχα, *to pascha*), reflecting how these originally distinct festivals—Passover on Nisan 14, Unleavened Bread on Nisan 15-21—had become one eight-day celebration in Second Temple practice. The phrase **drew nigh** (ἤγγιζεν, *ēngizen*, imperfect tense) emphasizes gradual approach, building dramatic tension as Jesus' 'hour' approaches.

This sets the chronological framework for the Passion narrative, grounding Christ's death in Israel's central redemptive festival. The Passover commemorated the Exodus deliverance when the lamb's blood saved Israel from death (Exodus 12), establishing the typological framework Paul would make explicit: 'Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us' (1 Corinthians 5:7). Luke's Gentile audience would need this Jewish calendar clarification.

Historical Context

Written circa 60-62 AD for Theophilus and Gentile readers unfamiliar with Jewish festivals. Passover commemorated the Exodus (1446 BC), when lambs were slain and blood applied to doorposts. By Jesus' time, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims crowded Jerusalem annually for this weeklong festival.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does understanding Jesus' death as fulfilling the Passover lamb typology deepen your appreciation of His sacrifice?
2. What 'deliverances' in your life point you toward the ultimate deliverance Christ accomplished?
3. Why is it significant that God ordained the timing of Christ's death to coincide precisely with Passover?

Interlinear Text

ἤγγιζεν	δὲ	ἡ	ἐορτὴ	τῶν	ἄζύμων	ἡ
drew nigh	Now	G3588	the feast	G3588	of unleavened bread	G3588
G1448	G1161		G1859		G106	
λεγομένη	πάσχα					
which is called	the Passover					
G3004	G3957					