

Luke 22:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.

Analysis

And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. The solemn phrase when the hour was come (ὅτε ἐγένετο ἡ ὥρα, hote egeneto hē hōra) marks the pivotal moment—not merely Passover's appointed time, but **the hour** Jesus repeatedly referenced (John 2:4, 7:30, 12:23, 13:1, 17:1). This is God's ordained kairos, the 'hour' of Christ's glorification through suffering.

He sat down (ἀνέπεσεν, anepesen, 'reclined') indicates the formal Passover posture; Jews reclined on their left side, symbolizing freedom (slaves stood to eat). **The twelve apostles with him** (οἱ ἀπόστολοι σὺν αὐτῷ, hoi apostoloi syn autō) emphasizes unity and intimacy, though one betrayer sat among them. Luke uses 'apostles' (ἀπόστολοι, 'sent ones') rather than 'disciples,' highlighting their commission as authorized representatives who would proclaim this night's events. This meal embodies substitution's paradox: the Passover Lamb reclines to eat the passover lamb.

Historical Context

By Jesus' era, Passover celebrants reclined on couches arranged in a U-shape (triclinium) around a low table, leaning on their left elbow. The host occupied the central position. The meal followed a prescribed liturgy (haggadah) involving four cups of wine, unleavened bread, bitter herbs, and the lamb, with traditional blessings and recitations of Exodus 12-15.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing this as 'the hour' Jesus anticipated throughout His ministry deepen your appreciation of His willing obedience?
2. What does Jesus' choice to share this intimate meal with the Twelve—including Judas—teach about His love for those who would fail Him?
3. How should the significance of communion as a continuation of this 'hour' affect how you prepare to receive it?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ὅτε	ἐγένετο	ἡ	ὥρα	ἀνέπεσεν	καὶ	οἱ	δώδεκα
And	when	was come	G3588	the hour	he sat down	And	G3588	the twelve
G2532	G3753	G1096		G5610	G377	G2532		G1427

ἀπόστολοι	σὺν	αὐτῷ
apostles	with	him
G652	G4862	G846

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:20 (Parallel theme): Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.

Mark 14:17 (Parallel theme): And in the evening he cometh with the twelve.