

Luke 22:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed.

Analysis

Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed. The temporal marker then came the day (*ἡλθεν δὲ ἡ ἡμέρα, ἐλθεν δε ἡ ἡμέρα*) shifts to Nisan 14, the Day of Preparation. **When the passover must be killed** (*ἐν ἣ ἔδει θύεσθαι τὸ πάσχα, en hē edei thyesthai to pascha*) uses divine necessity language—edei ('it was necessary') indicates theological inevitability, not mere custom.

Thousands of lambs were slaughtered that afternoon in the temple courts (Josephus records 256,000 lambs for one Passover). Each lamb had to be without blemish (Exodus 12:5), inspected by priests, killed between 3-5 PM ('between the evenings'), blood drained and sprinkled. The lamb's death substituted for the firstborn's death. As these lambs died, the true Lamb of God prepared for His sacrifice. The typology becomes explicit: Christ our Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7) would be inspected by authorities, found without blemish (Luke 23:4, 14, 22), and die at the ninth hour (3 PM, Luke 23:44) as temple lambs were being slain.

Historical Context

Passover lambs were killed on Nisan 14 (Thursday afternoon by Jewish reckoning which began sundown), then eaten after sundown (which began Nisan 15, technically the first day of Unleavened Bread). The distinction between 'Passover day' and 'Feast of Unleavened Bread' had blurred in common usage, though technically distinct in Leviticus 23.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the 'must be killed' language for the Passover lamb foreshadow the divine necessity of Christ's death?
2. What significance do you find in Jesus' death occurring at the exact time temple lambs were being sacrificed?
3. How does understanding Christ as the fulfillment of Passover transform your understanding of communion?

Interlinear Text

Ἐλθεν δὲ ἡμέρα τῶν ἀζύμων ἐν ἦ δει
came Then G3588 the day G3588 of unleavened bread when G3739 must
G2064 G1161 G2250 G106 G1722 G1163

θύεσθαι τὸ πάσχα.
be killed G3588 the passover
G2380 G3957

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 12:18 (Parallel theme): In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.