

Mark 14:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?

Analysis

The first day of unleavened bread (τῇ πρώτῃ ἡμέρᾳ τῶν ἀζύμων, tē prōtē hēmera tōn azymōn) refers to Nisan 14, when leaven was removed from homes before Passover. **When they killed the passover** (ὅτε τὸ πάσχα ἔθυον, hote to pascha ethyon)—thousands of lambs were slaughtered in the temple on Passover eve (afternoon of Nisan 14), then consumed that evening (beginning of Nisan 15). **Where wilt thou that we go and prepare**—disciples seek Jesus's instructions for the most significant meal in Jewish calendar.

This Passover holds cosmic significance: Jesus will institute the New Covenant meal replacing Passover. The timing isn't coincidental—as Passover lambs were slain, Jesus ("our Passover," 1 Corinthians 5:7) would be crucified. The disciples' question about preparation contrasts with their ignorance of what Jesus was truly preparing for—His sacrificial death. Just as the original Passover marked Israel's exodus from Egyptian slavery through lamb's blood, Jesus's Passover would accomplish exodus from sin's slavery through His blood.

Historical Context

Passover commemorated Israel's deliverance from Egypt (Exodus 12) when lamb's blood on doorposts caused death to "pass over." By Jesus's day, Passover required pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Families brought yearling male lambs "without blemish" to temple priests, who slaughtered them in afternoon sacrifice. The lamb was

roasted whole and consumed with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Jesus's Passover (Thursday evening, Nisan 14/15) came hours before His crucifixion (Friday afternoon, Nisan 14). John's Gospel emphasizes Jesus died when Passover lambs were slain, perfectly fulfilling the typology.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the Passover lamb's requirement of being "without blemish" illuminate Jesus's sinless perfection as our sacrificial substitute?
2. What does Jesus's deliberate timing of the Last Supper at Passover reveal about His intentional fulfillment of Old Testament typology?
3. How should understanding Jesus as "our Passover lamb" transform your view of communion and what His death accomplished?

Interlinear Text

Kαὶ	τὴν	πρώτην	ἡμέραν	τῶν	ἀζύμων	ὅτε	τὸ
And	G3588	the first	day	G3588	of unleavened bread	when	G3588
G2532		G4413	G2250		G106	G3753	
πάσχα	ἔθυον	λέγουσιν	αὐτοῦ	οἱ	μαθηταὶ	αὐτοῦ	
the passover	they killed	said	his	G3588	disciples	his	
G3957	G2380	G3004	G846		G3101	G846	
Ποῦ	θέλεις	ἀπελθόντες	έτοιμάσωμεν	ἴνα	φάγης	τὸ	
Where	wilt thou	that we go	and prepare	that	thou mayest eat	G3588	
G4226	G2309	G565	G2090	G2443	G5315		
πάσχα							
the passover							
G3957							

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 12:6 (Parallel theme): And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

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.

Exodus 12:8 (Parallel theme): And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

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