

JESUS AND PASSOVER

Psalms 113-118, 136

The Gospels mark out several times in the life of Jesus when he came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Two times interest us the most. The first is the celebration of the Passover with his family when he was twelve years old (Luke 2.41-42).

Most significant, of course, is the **last** time our Savior celebrated the Passover (Matthew 26.17-30; Mark 14.12-26; Luke 22.7-20). This was on the night of his betrayal. It was on the eve of his crucifixion. This was the last night of his life.

The Bread

The commandment to eat **matsa**, unleavened bread, came from Moses to the people of Israel as a part of their instructions for the first Passover (Exodus 12.1-28). The bread was to be made without yeast, to emphasize the haste of the departure of the people from Egypt (Deuteronomy 16.3, "because you left Egypt in haste").

"And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'" Luke 22.19

"Do not eat it with bread made with yeast, but for seven days eat unleavened bread, the bread of affliction, because you left Egypt in haste -- so that all the days of your life you may remember the time of your departure from Egypt." Deuteronomy 16.3

The Cup

Then he took the cup. How many times have we participated in the Lord's table and have heard the words concerning the cup, but have never thought of the importance of the definite article, *"the cup"*?

"Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.'

'And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.'" Exodus 6.6-8

*"See, I will send you the prophet **Elijah** before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse." Malachi 4.5-6*

Their Songs

"When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives." Matthew 26.30

His Struggle with Death

Psalm 116 was one of the songs sung by Jesus and his disciples, and it describes the psalmist's, and therefore Jesus', struggle with the thought of death.

Psalm 116.3-7

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12.2

Psalm 116.10

"It is written: 'I believed; therefore I have spoken.' With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence." 2 Corinthians 4.13-14

Psalm 116.12-19