

“THANK GOD MEAL”

THESIS: Let’s Thank God

TEXT: Luke 22:7-20

OPEN: True or False: God’s chosen people are the Jews—the nation of Israel.

In **Luke 22:7-23** let’s discover how prayer and partaking together (fellowship) is the communion of a thank God meal.

Luke 22:7-13 *“Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸Jesus sent Peter and John saying, ‘Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.’ ⁹‘Where do you want us to prepare for it?’ they asked. ¹⁰He replied, ‘As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, ¹¹and say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’ ¹²He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there.’ ¹³They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.”*

Was this a prophetic utterance by Jesus or had He made these arrangements with the owner of the house in advance? Both King Herod and the Jewish authorities were plotting to kill Jesus. Were these plans for the Passover meal in an upper room secretive so as to avoid the crowds and chaos of a potential arrest inside the city?

***John 6:14-15** “After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, ‘Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.’ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make Him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by Himself.”

***Matthew 21:46** “(The chief priests and the Pharisees) looked for a way to arrest Him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that He was a prophet.”

***Luke 8:42** “As Jesus was on His way, the crowds almost crushed Him.”

***Mark 3:6** “Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.”

***Luke 13:31-32** “Some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to Him, ‘Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.’ Jesus replied, ‘Go tell that fox, ‘I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach My goal.’”

The man carrying the jar of water...the owner of the house—Scripture does not reveal their names. However, they do their part for the advancement of God’s kingdom and His will. It’s similar to many other non-apostle and non-prophet types—such as the man with the donkey who gave it for Christ to ride into Jerusalem the week of His crucifixion. We all may be used by the Lord to fulfill His purpose—whether we deem it small or significant—it all matters and can have an eternal effect.

***1 Corinthians 10:31** “...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

***Philippians 2:13** “...for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.”

Insight: (*foxnews.com* opinion column “I’m a Pastor and I Want You to Quit Church. Now!” by Chris Sonksen)

1 Peter 2:9 “you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.”

*The Lord’s presence on this earth is not in a physical structure in a country, but rather in the hearts of His people called the church—the body of Christ—around the world including here.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.”

*The Lord’s people—His chosen ones—are the church which consists of Christ-believing Jews & Gentiles (nations). When someone says the Jews are God’s chosen people—it’s true they were in the Old Testament period, but now by God’s plan in the very beginning—His chosen ones are Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews) who believe in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:8-9, 26-29 “The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham (*Genesis 12:3*): ‘All nations will be blessed through you.’ So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith...You are sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Once forgiven, is that *it* here until we get to the hereafter or is there something more to life than being released from the sins of our past? Is there a new and better future?

***Isaiah 43:7** “Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by My name, *whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made.*”

***Ephesians 1:4, 11-12; 2:10** “For God chose us in Christ before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight...In Christ we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, in order that *we*, who were the first to hope in Christ, *might be for the praise of His glory...*For *we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.*”

***1 Peter 4:10-11a** “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms...*so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.*”

Application: Pray to God that He reveal to you what gift(s) He has given you to bring Him glory and good to others. He may reveal it to you through compliments of others. The Lord may reveal it to you through the satisfaction and results you get from utilizing abilities. He may reveal your gift through the discernment of wise and godly individuals.

Luke 22:17-20 “*After taking the cup, Jesus gave thanks and said, ‘Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.’* ¹⁹*And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it them saying, ‘This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’* ²⁰*In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, ‘The cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you.’”*

Insight from John Drane: Since the NT says our sins are removed through Jesus’ death, it was foreshadowed in the sin offerings of the Old Testament period. Jesus reminded His disciples that what He was to do on the cross was to be the greatest turning point in their lives as the Passover had been in the experience of the nation of Israel. What did the annual OT Passover observance mean?

- The worshipper under the Old Covenant among the Israelites presented a sacrifice out of consciousness of being alienated from God because of sin and disobedience. He knew that he needed reconciliation with the Lord before life could be truly full and free.

- The sinner brought the animal for sacrifice on the altar. He then laid his hand on the animal's head, to indicate that he wished to be identified with the animal. What happened to the animal was to happen to the sinner inwardly and spiritually.
- The animal was killed. In this action the sinner was reminded of the consequence of his action: sin results in death, which is to be separated from fellowship with God who is without sin. The worshipper was declaring that he was fit only for death himself.
- The priest took the blood of the sacrifice (which now represented the sinner's life given up to God) to the altar. This was the act of reconciliation, or 'atonement.' The sin had been dealt with, and God and the sinner had been reunited in fellowship.
- The animal's body was then placed on the altar in the temple, as a sign that the forgiven sinner was offering his whole being to God. Some of the meat from the sacrifice was eaten in a meal. This indicated that the sinner had been reconciled to God and man" (*Jesus and the Four Gospels*, p. 66-67).

Ephesians 2:11-22 "Remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth...you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two (Jew & Gentile) one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them (Jew & Gentile) to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility...Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit."

Video: ("The Table" by Journey Box Media <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/68577/the-table>)

CLOSE: When the Lord's family gathers weekly around His table let's do our part to make it a thank God meal.