

The Good News About Jesus as Luke Wrote It

Chapter 22:1-71

HoneyBee base version for oral translation

September 2023 Draft¹

Background

- The Feast of Bread immediately followed Passover week.
- A family would bring or buy a sheep, have a priest slaughter it at the temple, then bring it back home to eat.
- Though women usually carried water jars, wealthy households would send a man servant.
- A large upper room meant a wealthy household, probably near the temple.
- Every evening meal during Passover week could be called Passover.
- Jews could speak of the future kingdom as a ‘banquet’
- Jews customarily stayed awake late evenings during Passover week.
- The Roman military garrison in Jerusalem blew a trumpet every morning, which the population termed ‘cockcrow’ or ‘a rooster crowing’.
- Jesus’ response is a claim not to be a mere mortal messiah but the cosmic ruler of Daniel 7:13-14.

History

- Ancient rabbis, the DSS, and Josephus report similar priestly abuses as does the NT.
- Ancient covenants were ratified by sacrificial blood, but no one ever drank that blood.
- Jesus’ designation of a New Covenant (1 Cor 11:25) echoes Jeremiah 31:31.
- Passover remembered and celebrated Israel’s departure from Egypt, when they sacrificed a lamb and ate together a meal with unleavened bread.

Themes

- “The greatest among you should be like ... the one who serves.”
- “From now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

Judas agrees with religious leaders to betray Jesus²

¹ It was now almost time to celebrate the festivals called Passover and Unleavened Bread. ² The chief priests and the scribes were seeking a way to kill Jesus. *But they wanted to do so with Roman authority* because they were afraid that if they did so illegally then the people might riot *and not let them arrest/take Jesus.*³

¹ Licensed for use under Creative Commons. Text in *italics* is implied from historical or cultural context. Superscripted ^(pl) means plural, ^(sg) singular, ^(inc) inclusive, ^(exc) exclusive pronoun.

² OR Judas arranges to betray Jesus.

³ OR harm them. (The Greek simply says that they “were seeking how to execute him, for they were fearing the people”. They would, in fact, do so legally, neither secretly nor privately. Under Roman authority, they had no choice. Maybe leave out guessing at their motives.)

³ Then, even though Judas, who was from Kerieth village, belonged to the twelve disciples, Satan entered him.⁴ ⁴ Judas went and met with the chief priests and the officers over the Temple guards. He discussed with them how he could help them to seize Jesus. ⁵ They were pleased with Judas' plan, and agreed to give him money for his help. ⁶ So he accepted their money. Then he watched for an opportunity to help them seize Jesus when there would be no crowd around him.

Jesus and the 12 celebrate Passover⁵

⁷ During the week-long festival called Unleavened Bread, on the day when they killed lambs for the Passover celebration, ⁸ Jesus said to Peter and to John, "Go prepare the Passover meal *for us all*, so that we can celebrate together." ⁹ They asked him, "Where do you^(sg) want us to prepare it?"

¹⁰ He replied to them,

"When you two enter the city, a man who is carrying a large water jar will meet you. Follow him into the house where he goes. ¹¹ Say to the house owner, 'The teacher Jesus told us to ask you^(sg) to show us the room where he will eat a Passover meal with his disciples.' ¹² He will show you a large room that is on the house's upper floor. It will be set up for a meal. Prepare the meal for us there."

¹³ So *Peter and John* went into the city. They found everything to be just as Jesus had told them it would be. So they prepared the Passover meal *as Jesus had told them to do*. ¹⁴ When it was time to eat the Passover meal, Jesus and his 12 apostles came and took their places around a table. ¹⁵ He said to them, "I have greatly desired to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer and die. ¹⁶ I want you to know that I will not eat a Passover meal again, until we do so in God's Kingdom."

¹⁷ Then he took a cup filled with wine and thanked God for it. Then he said, "Take this, and each one among you drink some wine. ¹⁸ I want you to know that after today I will no longer drink wine until God makes me king."

¹⁹ Then Jesus took some *unleavened* bread and thanked God for it. He broke it into pieces and gave these to them to eat. He said, "This bread represents my body, which I am going to sacrifice for you. So, every time you eat bread in this way, remember *continually* what I have done for you."

²⁰ Similarly, after they had eaten the meal, Jesus took *another* cup filled with wine. He said, "The wine in this cup represents my blood, *which will soon flow from my body when I die. With my blood I will activate⁶ the New Covenant that God promised long ago through the prophet Jeremiah.*

²¹ Listen! The man who has betrayed me to my enemies is eating right here with me! ²² I, the Divine Human Son, will die in the way that God has decided. But God will punish severely the man who has betrayed me!" ²³ Then they began to ask one another, "Who among us would do such a thing?"

⁴ OR took control over him.

⁵ OR The new Passover Feast.

⁶ OR inaugurate / initiate. OR begin / start. See Jeremiah 31:31.

How to be great in God's Kingdom⁷

²⁴ The apostles began to argue among themselves, saying, "Who among us will be the greatest when Jesus becomes king?" ²⁵ So Jesus said to them,

"The kings who rule other nations rule oppressively over people,⁸ and those who have the most power call themselves⁹ the People's Helpers.¹⁰ ²⁶ But you should not be like them! Instead, *whoever is really the greatest among you* must act as though he were the youngest, *since people expect the youngest to serve the older ones*. And whoever has authority¹¹ among you must really serve the others.

²⁷ When one man is eating at his table, and another man is serving him, the man who is eating is the more important man. *Although I am the most important man among you men, I serve you more than you serve me.* ²⁸ However, you men have stayed with me during all my troubles. ²⁹ So now, just as my Father has appointed me to rule as a king, I am appointing you ³⁰ so that you will eat and drink at my table, *and you will rule with me* when I become king. You will sit on thrones ruling over everyone in Israel's twelve tribes."

Jesus warns the apostles that they will face opposition

³¹ Jesus took Simon Peter aside and said,

"Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has asked God to let him tear you men apart from me and from each other, as a baker sifts flour through a sieve.¹² ³² But I have prayed for you^(sg), Simon, that you will not completely stop believing in me. So, when you come back to serve me, help your fellow apostles to trust in me more!"

³³ Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, I am willing/ready to go anywhere with you^(sg). I will go to prison with you, or even go die with you!" ³⁴ Jesus replied, "Peter, listen carefully to me. *It is now nighttime*. Before sunrise,¹³ you will deny three times that you know me!"

³⁵ Then Jesus asked all 12 apostles, "After I sent you out to other villages, you went without taking any money, a traveling bag, or extra sandals. But you did not lack anything, did you?" They replied, "*That's right,*¹⁴ *we^(exc) did not lack anything.*"¹⁵

³⁶ Jesus said to them,

⁷ Jesus settles a squabble among his apostles over who is the greatest.

⁸ OR dominate people with power.

⁹ OR want people to call/consider them to be. OR like to be known as. OR want the people to honor them.

¹⁰ OR as kind and generous.

¹¹ OR is a leader.

¹² OR as a woman shakes/throws rice to separate the rice seeds/grains from the chaff. OR (omit). If your people do not sift flour, then do not translate the phrase "as a baker sifts flour through a sieve". Instead, replace this simile/illustration with another common practice of tearing or dividing things apart.

¹³ OR Before a cock/rooster crows at sunrise. OR Before cockcrow. (The Roman military garrison in Jerusalem blew a trumpet every morning, which the population termed 'cockcrow' or 'a rooster crowing'.)

¹⁴ OR It's true. OR Yes.

¹⁵ OR had everything necessary.

“From now on, things will be different. So whoever among you has some money should take it with him. Likewise, he should take a carrying bag. And whoever does not have a work knife¹⁶ should sell his coat and buy one. ³⁷ Listen carefully. That which the *prophet Isaiah said about me* must happen. He wrote: ‘Men will treat *the Messiah* as though he were a criminal.’ Everything that *the ancient prophets wrote about me* in the scriptures must happen/be fulfilled.”

One apostle said, “Lord, look! We^(exc) have two work knives!”¹⁷ *Realizing that they did not yet understand what would soon happen*, Jesus said, “That is enough talk! We must leave now.”

Jesus prays alone. Then a crowd comes and arrests him¹⁸

³⁹ As Jesus left the city, his disciples followed him. He went to Olive Tree Hill, as he usually did. ⁴⁰ When he came to the place *where he often spent the night*, he said to them, “You must always pray that *God will help you* whenever something tempts you.”

⁴¹ Then he walked away from them as far as someone can throw a stone. There he knelt down and prayed, ⁴² “My Father, if you are willing, then do not force me to drink/taste from this bitter cup, these terrible things that are about to happen to me.¹⁹ But do not do what I want. Instead, do what you want.” ⁴³ [Then an angel from heaven appeared to Jesus and caused him to become stronger. ⁴⁴ He was greatly distressed, so he prayed more earnestly. His sweat fell down on the ground just as blood drops do.]²⁰

⁴⁷ While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd came *and surrounded them*. Judas, who was one of the twelve apostles, was leading them. He came near to Jesus and greeted him with a kiss *on his cheek*.²¹ *This was really a signal to the crowd to show which man was Jesus*. ⁴⁸ Jesus said to him, “Judas, by greeting/kissing/embracing me, you are betraying me to my enemies, me, the Divine Human Son *who came from heaven!*”

⁴⁹ When the disciples who were around Jesus realized what was going to happen, they asked, “Lord, shall we^(exc) strike them with our *two swords?*”²² ⁵⁰ One of his disciples *took/held his sword* and struck the high priest’s servant. That apostle/*Peter was trying kill him, but only* cut off his right ear. ⁵¹ But Jesus spoke firmly *to the apostles*, “Stop resisting! Allow this *crowd to arrest me!*” Jesus then touched the servant’s ear and healed him.²³

⁵² There were in the crowd some chief priests, temple guard officers, and Jewish elders, who had come to arrest/capture Jesus. He said to them, “You have come carrying swords and clubs, as if you were

¹⁶ OR machete / bush knife. OR sword. See Luke 22:38. (It was illegal for common people to own or to carry a sword as a weapon. But they could own and carry knives for work and for cutting meat.)

¹⁷ OR machetes / bush knives. OR swords. See Luke 22:36, 49-50. Whatever you called the knife/knives in verse 36, call it the same thing here. Also in verses 49-50.

¹⁸ OR Jesus prays in the Olive Tree garden and then Judas betrays him to the religious leaders.

¹⁹ OR save me from having to suffer these terrible things that will happen to me.

²⁰ OR (omit). (Verses 43 and 44 were not originally in Luke’s Gospel. They were added by scribes/copiers about 200 years after Luke died. If the major Bible version in your area has these verses, then you may include them. Otherwise, leave them out.)

²¹ OR embraced him. (Embrace is the European term for greeting with a kiss. Use a description for whatever kind of familiar greeting your society prefers between family or friends.)

²² OR our two knives.

²³ OR caused it to be as it was before it was cut off.

going to capture a robber! *This is not necessary!* ⁵³ I was with you every day in the temple courtyard, but you did not arrest me *there!* Instead, you have chosen to come *here* in the night,²⁴ *because you are serving Satan* who rules in the darkness!”

⁵⁴ The crowd seized Jesus and led him away.

Peter denies that he knows Jesus. Soldiers torture Jesus²⁵

They/The religious leaders brought Jesus to the high priest’s house. Peter followed them at a distance. ⁵⁵ At the high priest’s house they kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard *to warm themselves*. They sat down together, and Peter sat among them. ⁵⁶ As the light from the fire shone on Peter’s face, a woman servant saw him and looked intently²⁶ at him. She said, “This man was also with the man whom they have arrested!” ⁵⁷ But Peter denied it, saying, “Woman/Madam, I do not know that man!”

⁵⁸ A little later, someone else saw Peter and said, “You^(sg) also were among those who were with the man whom they arrested!” But Peter replied, “Man/Sir, I am not one of them!” ⁵⁹ About an hour later, someone else said emphatically about Peter, “The way that this man speaks shows that he is from Galilee district. So, certainly this man was also with the man whom they arrested, who is from Galilee!” ⁶⁰ But Peter said, “Man/Sir, I do not know what you ^(sg) are talking about!” Immediately, while he was still speaking, a cock/rooster crowed.

⁶¹ *Just then* the Lord Jesus turned around and looked right at Peter. When Peter saw the Lord look at him, he remembered what the Lord had said to him, “This night, before the cock/rooster crows,²⁷ you ^(sg) will deny three times that you know me.” ⁶² Then Peter went out of the courtyard and wept/cried very sorrowfully.

⁶³ The men who were guarding Jesus taunted/mockd him while beating him. ⁶⁴ Then they covered his face with a cloth so he could not see and beat him again. Then they said again and again²⁸ to him, “Prove that you are a prophet by telling us who it was that struck you!” ⁶⁵ They also spoke many other insults against him.

⁶⁶ At dawn that morning, many Jewish leaders gathered together. Their group included both chief priests and scribes. *The temple guards* brought Jesus before this Council/group. There the Council members said to Jesus, ⁶⁷ “If you^(sg) are the Messiah, then tell us so!” But Jesus replied, “If I tell you so, then you will not believe me. ⁶⁸ If I ask you *what you think about the Messiah*, then you will not answer me, *[and you will not release me to go]*.²⁹ ⁶⁹ But some day you will see me, the Divine Human Son, seated beside almighty God!”

²⁴ OR this night is the time that God has allowed you^(pl) to have power over me.

²⁵ OR Peter denies knowing Jesus. Soldiers beat Jesus. He admits that he is the Messiah.

²⁶ OR stared.

²⁷ OR the Romans blew their morning trumpet.

²⁸ OR they repeatedly said.

²⁹ If your major Bible translation does not have the words between square [brackets], then do not translate them; omit them.

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⁷⁰ They *agreed to* ask Jesus, “Are you^(sg) saying that you are God’s Messiah?”³⁰ Jesus replied to them, “Yes, I am,³¹ just as you^(pl) say.” ⁷¹ Then they said to each other, “We^(inc) certainly do not need anyone else to testify against this man. He is guilty because we ourselves have heard him *claim to be the Messiah*. And we know this to be false/a lie/untrue!”

³⁰ OR God’s divine Son.

³¹ Or Yes, I AM. OR Yes, I am Yahweh. See Dan. 7:13-14. (Literally in Greek Jesus replies, “You^(pl) are saying that I AM (ego eimi).” Luke intends us to understand both an affirmative reply to the question and a claim to being Yahweh (“I AM”). Therefore, the Council’s immediate reaction (verse 71). Jesus’ response is a claim not to be a mere mortal messiah but the cosmic ruler of Daniel 7:13-14.)