

QUESTIONS WEEK BEGINNING 16 March 2025

1. On Sunday Ziggy from Jews for Jesus explained how Jesus fulfilled the Jewish feast of Passover. If you were present, or have watched the service online, was there anything that particularly stood out to you in the presentation that you found interesting, learnt for the first time or found confusing?

READ Luke 22:14-21

2. Jesus said that He “eagerly desired” to eat this Passover before He suffered (v15). The same word is used in a negative context when describing worldly “passions” (Titus 2:12), “cravings” of the flesh” (Ephesians 2:3) and “lust” (1 Peter 4:3). Why did this Passover cause such an emotional response within Jesus?

3. Jesus said the Kingdom of God has “*come upon you*” (Matthew 12:28), has “*come near*” (Mark 1:15) and is “*in your midst*” (Luke 17:21) suggesting it was present. Jesus, however, said at the Passover that He wouldn’t celebrate the feast or drink wine again until “*the Kingdom of God comes*” (v16 &18) suggesting it was an event that would take place in the future.*

i. So when we talk about the Kingdom of God coming is it a ‘now’ thing or a ‘future thing’ or both?

ii. When you pray the Lord’s prayer with the words “*your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*” (Matthew 6:10) do you think of this being fulfilled now or in the future?

A number of cups were used in the Passover meal. It is thought that this passage in Luke refers to cups 1 & 3

CUP 1 – CUP OF SANTIFICATION (v17-18)

4. Over this cup a prayer was prayed, acknowledging that the God of the universe had created the fruit of the vine and sustained them through the year to reach this season. We are now in the 12th week of 2025. In what way(s) would you say you have been conscious of God ‘sustaining’ you so far this year?

CUP 2 – CUP OF PLAGUES (not mentioned in Luke 22)

5. The cups of wine are meant to be a symbol of joy but as the story of the original Passover was retold (Exodus 12), they recalled the 10 plagues brought upon Egypt and the ‘passing over’ of the angel of death on Israelite homes where the blood of the lamb was painted on their doorframes. The joy of this cup was therefore reduced by dipping a finger into it 10 times to remove a drop for each of the ten plagues. When we share in communion it tends to be a rather solemn experience and yet the original Passover feast was a joyful celebration, with a tinge of sadness. When you engage in the Lord’s Supper (communion) what emotions, if any, do you find sometimes or always rise up in you?

6. It was at this point in the Passover that the meal was eaten which included lamb. Jesus is referred to as the lamb of God (John 1:29) and our Passover lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7). The original Passover lamb was to have no broken bones (Exodus 12:47) and none of Jesus’ bones were broken on the cross (John 19:32-33) but when Jesus distributed the bread, after giving thanks he “broke it” saying “*This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me*” (v19). In what way would you say that Jesus was ‘broken’ for us?

CUP 3 – THE CUP OF REDEMPTION / SALVATION (v20)

7. The third cup is the one referred to in verse 20 when Jesus says, “*This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is poured out for you*”.

i. In our songs we often refer to Jesus as being our “Saviour”, “Redeemer”, “Deliverer” or “Rescuer”. What has Jesus actually saved/redeemed/delivered/rescued us from?

ii. Is there a ‘title’ of Jesus that you particularly like or use when thinking or speaking about Him?

CUP 4 – CUP OF PRAISE / ELIJAH (not mentioned in Luke 22)

8. The meal closed by reciting the ‘Hallel psalms’ (Psalms 113-118) and the singing of a hymn (Matthew 26:30) with the hope that Elijah would appear to herald the arrival of the Messiah, who we now know, of course, to be Jesus.

READ PSALM 117 and spend a few moments sharing (if you are with others) or pondering (if you are on your own) some reasons for praising God today.

*Some suggest that this refers to the future event of the marriage supper of the lamb in Revelation 19:6-9 or His 1000-year reign on earth in Revelation 20:4.