

# Hospitality and the End Times

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## Discovery Questions

- Which meals do you most look forward to?
- Which meal(s) remind you of the coming age?
- What significance will meals have after the end of this age?
- Other than thanking God for the provision of food, what spiritual connections are there between eating a meal and following Jesus?

Hospitality pictures the gospel and coming Kingdom of God. This is most vividly pictured in the Passover meals (past, present, future) which remind us that creation, redemption, and the completion of the Great Commission all exist so that we can eat with God. Eating, as God intends, will bring the end of this age!

## I. Creation

We were created for fellowship with God. This was pictured in eating with God in the garden.

“Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters.” (Genesis 2:8-10)

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.’” (Genesis 2:15-17)

## II. The Fall

Human rebellion was embodied in a decision about food.

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.” (Genesis 3:1-7)

### **III. Redemption: 3 Great Meals**

- a) The Passover
- b) The Lord's Supper
- c) The Messianic Banquet (the marriage supper of the lamb)

"Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there." They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 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." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:7-20)

#### **a) The Passover Meal**

Salvation of God's people out of slavery pictured in a meal – a lamb with bitter herbs.

Saved out of slavery to a new meal and a new way of eating.

- **A land with great food.**

"So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites." (Exodus 3:8)

- **A land with plentiful food.**

"When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you." (Deuteronomy 8:10)

- **A way of eating that expresses faith.**

"Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the Lord your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the Lord your God always." (Deuteronomy 14:22-23)

"At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands." (Deuteronomy 14:27-29)

- **Other feasts also included the "stranger".**

"Then Moses commanded them: At the end of every seven years, in the year for canceling debts, during the Festival of Tabernacles, when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose, you shall read this law before them in their hearing. Assemble the people—men,

women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law.” (Deut 31:10-12)

## **b) The Lord’s Supper**

1. Remember what God did in bringing his people out of slavery.
2. Remember what Jesus accomplished as the Passover lamb.
3. Look forward to the Messianic Banquet. It is an establish eschatological meal.

“For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.” (Luke 22:16)

“For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” (Luke 22:18)

“For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” (1 Cor. 11:26)

4. A place where the outsider (stranger) is to be included.

“Then Jesus said to his host, ‘When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’” (Luke 14:12-14)

“... Jesus replied: ‘A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ ‘But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ ‘Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ ‘Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ ‘The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ ‘‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ ‘Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’” (Luke 14:15-24)

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:2)

## **c) The Messianic Banquet (the marriage supper of the lamb)**

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.’ (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.) Then the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’ And he added, ‘These are the true words of God.’” (Rev 19:7-9)

“And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, ‘Come, gather together for the great supper of God...’” (Rev 19:17)

Pictures the completion of God’s plan for all nations to eat at his table.

“I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 8:11)

“On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine— the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.” (Isaiah 25:6-8)

“People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.” (Luke 13:29-30)

This age ends with completion of the great commission.

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14)

### **c) The Messianic Banquet (the marriage supper of the lamb)**

A major theme in the Gospels:

- Matthew 21:33-46: The parable of the vineyard
- Matthew 22:1-14: The great supper
- Matthew 25:1-13: The parable of the wedding feast
- John 2:1-11: Jesus turns the water into wine
- John 21:1-14: The large catch of fish
- Luke 5: Levi throws a banquet
- Luke 9: The feeding of the 5,000
- Luke 13:29-30: The great banquet
- Luke 14:1-24
- Luke 15: The great banquet

## **IV. Practice hospitality as an expression of Salvation and the coming age**

### **Regularly celebrate the Lord’s Supper with new meaning.**

- Regularly invite outsiders and strangers into our lives around meals
- Connect with foreigners who come to our cities
- Understand hospitality as normative for Christian living (Romans 12:13, Heb 13:2)
- Expect hospitality to be modeled in the life of leaders (1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:7-8)
- Overcome cultural obstacles
- Learn the basics of sharing food, drink, and conversation
- Expect God to show up

## **V. Resources to help you grow in hospitality**

Making Room – Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition

by Christine Pohl

Eerdmans Publishing Co.

God’s Welcome: Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World

by Amy Oden

Pilgrim Press