

# WHO EATS AND WHO IS EATEN IN ISA 25:6–8? THINKING ABOUT THE 'ESCHATOLOGICAL BANQUET' WITH A LOOK INTO THE LXX

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**Abstract.** This paper shows one example of why it is essential for biblical scholars of all fields to be familiar with the LXX and its exegesis. The study is conducted with regard to Isa 25:6–8, the so-called ‘eschatological banquet’ on Zion. The MT and LXX texts are compared and important differences between both versions are pointed out before the question is asked what the differences mean for an intertextually informed exegesis of the accounts of Jesus’ last supper in the Synoptic Gospels. The paper argues that reading Isa 25:6–8 in its LXX version as an intertext for the stories of the last supper changes the undertone set by the intertextual connection. It is not the motif of the celebratory banquet anymore that is in the foreground but instead the expectancy of triumph over the enemies and hope for consolation.

**Keywords:** last supper, eschatological banquet, kingdom of God, book of Isaiah, intertextuality.

## 1. Introductory Thoughts

It may seem adventurous to write about the LXX to honor a specialist in the field such as Erik Eynikel. Who better to notice any flaws or unanswered questions? And yet, what could be more fitting than taking up a research interest so close to Erik’s heart when honoring his many years of service to the guild and his contributions to biblical studies (and beyond)?

In this spirit of congratulation and appreciation my paper offers one small example of why LXX studies are not just a fascinating area of research in and of themselves but also of tremendous importance for New Testament studies (my own primary field of research).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Regarding the impact of LXX studies for understanding the New Testament see also the foundational article by Tobias NICKLAS, “Zwischen Hebräischer Bibel und Neuem Testament: Dimensionen der Bedeutung der Septuaginta für die Exegese des Neuen Testaments,” *Septuagint Vocabulary: Pre-History, Usage, Reception*, ed. Eberhard BONS & Jan JOOSTEN, SBL Septuagint and Cognate Studies 58 (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 2011), 189–206.