

THE CUP OF BLESSING

The content of a biblical cup gives the spiritual meaning to it. For example, Jesus asks the Samaritan woman for a cup of water (John 4:7) [water from Jacob's well]. Then Jesus asked her if she wanted to drink from His cup of living water (John 4:10-14; 4:42) [Eternal Life]

Our lesson text takes us to the famous Last Passover meal of Jesus with His disciples. At this meal, Jesus took the Passover cup of prophetic redemption and changed the meaning of its contents to the New Covenant cup of the blood of Jesus Christ (historical redemption).

(Luke 22:20) "And in the same way He took the cup (third cup of Passover) after they had eaten, saying, "This cup (cup of redemption) which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."

This lesson will study five aspects of the Cup of Blessing.
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Paul referred to the Passover cup of redemption as the New Covenant Cup of Blessing:

(1 Cor.10:16) "Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?"

1. The Jewish Passover meal traditionally celebrated four cups. Special attention will be given to the third cup, the cup of prophetic redemption (Ex.12:26-27).

Biblical historians believe the four cups associated with the Passover meal was derived from the "**I wills**" of Ex.6:6-7 (reconfirming land section of the Abrahamic Covenant; Gen.12:1; 13:15; 17:8).

- **First cup of consecration**
 - (Ex.6:6a) "**I will** bring you out from under the burden of the Egyptians."
- **Second cup of deliverance**
 - (Ex.6:6b) "**I will** deliver you from their bondage."
 - § (Sang the Passover Hallel of Ps.113-114) and normally served the paschal lamb
 - § (1 Cor.5:7) "For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed."
- **Third cup of prophetic redemption**
 - (Ex.6:6c) "**I will** also redeem (kinsman-Goel) [redeemer] you with an outstretched arm and with great judgment." This was accompanied by a pronounced blessing of salvation
 - § (Ps.116:13) "I shall lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord." Therefore it was also known as **the cup of blessing**.
- **Fourth cup of praise**
 - (Ex.6:7) "Then **I will** take you for My people, and **I will** be your God." (Sang Passover Hallel of Ps.115-118)
 - § "After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives." (Matt.26:30)

The Passover was instituted in Ex.12:1-36. "It is the Lord's Passover." (Ex.12) [15th century BC]

2. It was during the Passover of 30AD that Jesus changed the meaning of the content of the third cup of the Passover from shadow Christology (lamb's blood) to historical Christology (blood of Christ).

We will examine five examples of the transition from shadow Christology to historical Christology.

- (1 Cor.5:7) "For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed." (Isa.53:7)
- (John 1:29) "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (1 John 2:2)

- **(1 Pet.1:19)** “But with the precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.” (Heb.9:14)
- **(Eph.1:7)** “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.”
- **(Rom.5:9)** “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.”

“It is called in Jewish writings, just as Paul, ‘the cup of blessing,’ and is supposed to refer to the third cup of wine drunk at the Passover feast, over which a special blessing was spoken.” (Unger Bible Dict., pg.230)

“Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ?” (1 Cor.10:16a) [Eucharist]

3. Jesus was very much aware of what this Last Passover CUP meant for Him in the Father’s plan (Matt.16:21-23).

Jesus said to the two sons of Zebedee and their mother & the CUP:

(Matt.20:22-23) “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink? They said to Him, ‘We are able.’ He said to them, ‘**My cup** you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father.’” / James and John became among the first to suffer for Christ (Acts 12:2; Rev.1:9).

Gethsemane prayer & the CUP

(Luke 22:42) “Father, if you are willing, remove **this cup from Me**; yet not My will, but Yours be done.” (He asked three times)

End of Gethsemane & the CUP

(John 18:11) “So Jesus said to Peter, ‘Put the sword into the sheath; **the cup** which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it.’”

It was essential that Jesus Christ drink the content of the third cup of this last Passover. God’s will became drinking this third cup of the last Passover for Jesus (Luke 22:42).

4. The content of the last Passover cup that Jesus drank was the sin of the entire world.

The historical cup of redemption was the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

(Mark 15:25) “It was the third hour when they crucified Him.”

(John 1:29) “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (1 John 2:2)

(Luke 22:20) “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.”

(1 John 1:7b) “The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (Heb.9:22; 1 Tim.1:15; 2:5)

5. Since Jesus Christ drank the cup of the sins of the world, sin is not an issue of salvation.

(Heb.10:10) “By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Heb.7:27) [Note point 2]. The Old Covenant Cup was emptied of sins when Jesus drank it.

The New Covenant Eucharist Cup that the Christian drinks is filled with grace salvation (1 Cor.11:25). Paul called it the **Cup of Blessing** which we share in the blood of Christ.” (1 Cor.10:16)

This is the good news of the Easter message of grace salvation.

(Eph.2:8) “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.” (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16)