

## ***Cups and Swords***

Psalm 11:6

*“Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.”*

Isaiah 2:4

*“And He will judge between the nations and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.”*

Two of most influential metaphors in the Bible are cups and swords. The Bible story begins with a sword baring our way back to Eden. Jesus takes the cup in his hand and blesses the meal. The cup and sword have meaning in the Bible. I believe they also have tremendous meaning in our world today. Just try and avoid a sword and cup. Sword? In the Bible the tongue is considered a Sword. Words are sharp and they pierce the soul. We are still in turmoil all over the world. The sword can symbolize war, death, and bad words said.

The cup is everywhere. We raise a toast. We learn to drink as a baby and it's one of the first things we achieve. We win a cup. We will experience a cup of wrath. A bra having cups is a stretch but tell me a bra is not somewhat impacting. We drink and smash cups. Swords and cups are all over our history.

In the Bible, the range of the sword is massive. First, we have the flaming sword. God placed it before Eden to bar us entry back in. Angels produced swords as we try and go forward. Abraham and David were mighty commanders of the sword. Swords were used to murder and deceive in the Bible. Prophecy uses the sword to depict the days ahead when swords would be turned into plow shears. This symbolizes when peace would come. Finally, Jesus is depicted as one with sharp words. The Bible is called a two-edged sword. The tongue is like a sword that can love or kill. The sword is not just a word in the Bible.

The cup is all over the Bible too. There are what is called cup bearers in the Bible. These men drank the wine first for the king. If the wine was poisoned then the cup bearer died. We have dreams of cups. The tent of God had cups. We read of our portion on earth and in heaven are rendered in cups. There are cups of wrath and cups of judgment. Jesus asked to remove the cup from him. Jesus also called the religious rulers dirty cups. The word cup is not small in the Bible.

I wanted to talk about cups and swords because I see something in them. They are representing wrath and the anger of God. Yet, they represent the love and saving grace of God. The cup can be used for good or bad. The same could be said of the sword. Is it a good word or bad word? Is the sword baring us from peace? Do we raise our cup in thanks enough? Are we dirty cups on the inside. It makes me shudder at the thought of cups and swords.

Over the next several weeks let's dive into cups and swords. This study is just food for thought. I feel the Bible is more interesting than we give it credit. The written words are by many authors, yet they all share in these themes like cups and swords. They all saw something in these metaphors. The writers

of the Bible saw beyond a weapon and a drinking device. They saw deeper into what God is all about. Possibly we both might be wiser about God and this world he created as we study cups and swords. Have fun with it.