

Cups and Swords

The cup of wrath

Isaiah 51:22

Thus, says your Lord, the Lord, even your God who contends for His people, "Behold, I have taken out of your hand the cup of reeling, the chalice of My anger; you will never drink it again. ""

The cup plays a roll in our destiny. Jesus famously asks God to remove the cup from him. Then he adds if I drink from it your will be done. What is in this cup? In the Bible the cup symbolizes many things. The cup itself is destiny, a portion of something, or possibly a duty. The cup Jesus spoke of was Gods wrath. How do I know? I believe it comes down to two verses in the Psalms. Psalm 11:6 says *"Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup."* Psalm 16:5 *"Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure."*

It's understood that Jesus died as the last sacrifice for us all. The wrath of God was satisfied within the death of Jesus. Those two verses above point to our portion of wrath and giving it to God to make our lot secure. To free us from the penalty of death through sin. In a way, Jesus stood there with the cup of wrath. He asked God if there was another way. Yet, Jesus drank (so to speak) the cup and took the punishment for us all. God's will be done.

Psalm 116:13 *"I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord."* It's not like the wrath of God was just in the old testament. The salvation term seems like a new testament thing. Yet, the Old testament uses that word 109 times. The new testament only references it 49 times. Salvation or rest is found in the Lord. The cup could be called salvation. Sometimes it's used for wrath and other times for saving. Either way, that cup has a price.

Revelation 14:10 says *"they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb."* Jesus asked two disciples if they will drink from the cup he drinks from. They said they would. They did not have a clue what that meant, but Jesus did. Jesus pleaded with the people to follow God. He wept for Jerusalem. Jesus knew all too well what was in the cup.

What's it all mean?

Revelation 16 is nasty. It's the pouring out of the bowls of wrath. If you thought the cup was bad, try a bowl. The Bible talks about portions. Jerimiah 49:12 is down right scary. *"This is what the LORD says: "If those who do not deserve to drink the cup must drink it, why should you go unpunished? You will not go unpunished but must drink it."* In Indiana Jones 3 the cup of Christ is called the Holy grail. This cup was thought to be the last supper cup they drank wine from or a cup that caught Jesus blood at the crucifixion. Neither is Biblical. There is no grail cup.

We like to make mountains from mole hills. Jesus shared wine from a cup. There was nobody there catching Jesus blood in a cup as he died. It's not in the Bible. Jesus cup is his portion in God. He died to remain our savior. Jesus took our portion on the cross. It was our cup of wrath from God for our sins. In the Bible some things are real and others are symbolic. There are people whole believe that when we partake of the supper ritual in church, that the wine becomes blood as we drink it and the

bread becomes his flesh as we eat it. It's a big word called Transubstantiation. We love to make the Bible and the words in it complicated. Jesus said to take the bread and wine in remembrance of him. We raise a toast to heroes, family, and friends. Jesus asked us to do this for him when we eat together.

What this means is really simple. The cup of wrath is real. Even if you say it's not, one day you will know. We partake in Jesus sacrifice by honoring his blood and flesh sacrifice. We drink a cup of juice or eat bread. We avoid the cup of wrath by believing in Jesus and his sacrifice. It's that simple. In a way the Bible built a case for the cup. God asked the people to make a cup. Then he symbolized it as filling it with wrath or salvation. He used it to pour our wrath or his Spirit upon us. What will you drink? What will be poured out on you?