

Cups and Swords

The cup we make

Exodus 37:19

“three cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with calyx and petals, on one branch, and three cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with calyx and petals, on the other branch—so for the six branches going out of the lampstand.”

God asked his people to make a tent for him to dwell in. There is a difference between residing in and dwelling in. God does not live there. However, I get the impression his Spirit may have. God does not need a house. God cannot be contained. Yet, when God spoke to those people it was through the priests and Moses in the tent. It was called the tent of meeting. I suppose you could call it a board room.

This place was special. The reason it was a tent and not a palace is that God never let his people get too comfortable in one place. They were his nomad people. They picked up the tent and moved it. Most of the time God went before them in a pillar of smoke or fire. This was made by Gods design. Within this design were other things like bowls, cups, and utensils for sacrifice. God had them make elaborate cups. These cups were holding the light for the tent. There were other cups that were said to hold 3000 baths. The bath was a water measurement of about 22 liters.

That’s a lot of water in a cup. Were they basins for sacrifice? Were they actual baths for the priests to cleanse themselves before and after. Imagine slaughtering 1000 bulls. It might get messy. There is a lot of talk that these things in the tent were made meticulously like creation was. The cups brought light, cleanness, and maybe drink. Later on, Aarons sons were accused by God of being drunk in the tent. We are to drink of the cup. We are to use the cup to minister within Gods house.

Finally, we see Jesus using the cup to drink out of. He blesses the meal. He turns water to wine in his beginning of ministry. Verse 18 of Matthew 26, Jesus says that his time is at hand as he prepares for the Passover meal. A woman pours perfume on him at that dinner. Jesus said to drink from the cup in remembrance of him. I feel he is passing the cup to us. He did say that some of his disciples would drink from the cup Jesus did. Not a real cup but the cup of salvation and wrath of God.

What’s it all mean?

Psalm 11:6 “On the wicked he will rain coals of fire and sulfur; a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.”

There are many scriptures that use the cup as an analogy. Jesus used it at the last supper. Jesus asked if the cup of judgment could be taken from him. Yet, verses later he said if it must be then I will drink it. The cup is clearly the cup we make. Do we make a cup for the Lord? Do we drink the wrath of God? Is our destiny in life a cup that we made? We forge the cup of our folly. The Bible is full of cup examples.

Isaiah 65:11 “But you who forsake the Lord, who forget my holy mountain, who set a table for Fortune and fill cups of mixed wine for Destiny.”

Jesus destiny was forged in a cup. Isaiah says our destiny is forged in a cup. God demanded sacrifice. He told them to pour out the blood on the alter. Jesus blood was spilled for us on the cross. The key really is we make it. God gave us the design to live a godly life. Make a place for me to dwell. Drink of the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18 says get drunk on the Spirit instead of wine. Finally, Jesus mentions our dirty cups. What is in the cup we made? Is it holy or something else? It's interesting that Jesus wanted to pass the cup but he had to keep it. I think our cup is ours alone. We have no choice in drinking from the cup we forged. What's in yours?