

You Don't Want To Drink From This Cup !

“Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.” Psalm 11:6

In the Bible, a cup wasn't just a drinking utensil. It also represented and was symbolic of God's judgment against sin. In the Old Testament, there are many references to the cup representing God's wrath against not only the gentile nations, but also against Israel itself as she sank into the abyss of sin and degradation. Psalm 75:8 says, *“For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.”*

In Genesis 15:13, the Lord told Abram that his seed would be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and they (the Egyptians) shall afflict them 400 years. But, after 400 years, or in the 4th generation, they would come back to their land because *“the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full,”* or their cup was not yet full (verse 16). Once it was, Israel was allowed to defeat them and to take over their land.

The human race has raged against God here on the Earth for thousands of years, and they have, and will be made to drink from the cup of His apocalyptic wrath. Job 21:20 says, *“His eyes shall see his destruction, and he shall drink of the wrath of the Almighty.”* In Jeremiah's day, the Lord told him, *“Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it. And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them.”* (Jeremiah 25:15). Then, in verses 27 -- 28: *“Therefore thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Drink ye, and be drunken, and spue, and fall, and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you. And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup at thine hand to drink, then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ye shall certainly drink.”*

So, here we are in the 21st century, and we are approaching the Great Tribulation and the coming of the antichrist (1 John 2:18). Why? Because the transgressors have just about come to the full (Daniel 8:23-25), and the Bible says, *“God is angry with the wicked every day.”* (Psalm 7:11b).

In the second half of the Great Tribulation, the third of God's three heavenly angels proclaims to the inhabitants of the world not to worship the antichrist and his image (statue) and not to receive his mark in his forehead or in his right hand. If they do, they will drink of the wine of the wrath of God which is poured out without mixture (undiluted) into the cup of God's indignation, and they will be tormented with fire and brimstone, and the smoke of their torment will ascend up for ever and ever, having no rest day or night (Revelation 14:9-11).

God has a winepress, and at the end of the Great Tribulation when Jesus returns with all of His armies (Revelation 19:14), He is going to tread that winepress outside the city of Jerusalem, in the valley of Meggido, also called Armageddon (Revelation 16:16). And blood is going to flow for 1,600 furlongs, or for about 200 miles, up to a horse's bridle, or about 4 feet deep. Think about that! A river of human blood roughly about the distance from Buffalo, N.Y. to Pittsburg, PA. This is the cup of the wrath of almighty God! (Revelation 14:19-20).

Almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus was sent to this planet by the Father (John 3:16) to be the propitiation (appeasing sacrifice for God's wrath - 1 John 2:2) for all of the world's sins. He came, born of a virgin (Matthew 1:23), and of the Jewish race concerning the flesh (Romans 9:5). At the age of about 30 (Luke 3:23), He began to preach and to say *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”* (Matthew 4:17). He preached the message that salvation from ones sins would come through Him and Him only (John 14:6). He lived a sinless life (Hebrews 4:15) – the only person who ever did, and because of this, His sinless blood (1 Peter 1:19) would be the only sacrifice that the Father would accept as payment for our sins.

The Lord knew He was eventually going to have to drink from the cup of God's wrath in order to pay for the sins of the world. In Matthew 20:20-23a, James and John's mother asked the Lord a question, *“Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give”.*

And both James and John did drink of the cup that Jesus spoke of. In Acts 12:1-2, *“Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the*

sword.” So, James became the first apostle to die. And then in Revelation 1:9, we read that John, the brother of James, was exiled to the isle of Patmos “for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ”.

According to the word of God, there are two types of cups. There is the cup of the wrath of God, which all of the unsaved have, and will drink from, and there is the cup of the Lord’s sufferings which all Christians must partake of. The Bible says in Romans 8:16 – 17 “*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*” And, in Acts 14:22b, “*that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*” As Christians, we are all called to drink of the cup of the Lord’s sufferings and by doing so, we are making up the sufferings of the body of Christ, which is the church (Colossians 1:24).

The Lord knows the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46: 9-10), so Jesus knew how bad He was going to suffer partaking of the cup of God’s wrath so that we wouldn’t have to. That night, when it was almost time for Jesus to die to pay the price for our sins, after He ate the last supper with His disciples, they went over to the garden of Gethsemane, and going a little further, taking Peter, James, and John with Him, He began to be sorrowful, and very heavy. “*And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.*” (Matthew 26:39-42).

That night after He finished praying, He was arrested. Then, during His trial, He was mocked, spit upon, scourged, and then finally led away to be crucified (Mark 10:33-34). Three days later however, the Lord rose from the dead, defeating sin, death (I Corinthians 15:26), and hell. From now on, anyone wanting to be saved from their sins would have to go through God’s one and only mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself (1Timothy 2:5)!

All of mankind has a choice to make, and each one of us must make that choice before we die. Life or death, heaven or hell, Jesus or the devil. If you choose to truly repent of your sins (Acts 17:30), and receive Him into your heart as Lord and Saviour of your life (John 1:12), then you have chosen Jesus, heaven, and eternal life. But, if you refuse to repent of your sins, or you think there are other ways to God, other than through Jesus Christ alone, then you will die in your sins. In that case, you have chosen the devil, death, and hell, and you will burn with him in the lake of fire forever, which will even consume hell itself (Revelation 20:14-15).

“*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:*” Proverbs 9:10 says. Jesus also said in Luke 12:4-5, “*And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.*” Godly fear is good! It keeps you from going to hell!

We pray that after reading this study, you won’t be one of those people that will have to drink of the cup of the Lord’s wrath. So choose Jesus today, while there is still time (2 Corinthians 6:2). We are living in the age of grace right now, but that age will very soon come to an end, when the rapture occurs: “*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*” (I Thessalonians 4:16-17). If you miss it, there literally will be hell to pay on the earth, as the world plunges into the Great Tribulation, the worst 7 years of death and destruction the human race has ever known, or will ever know again (Matthew 24:21-22). The chance to be saved will still be there, but probably at the cost of your life (Revelation 6:9-11, 7:9, 13-14). So choose Jesus, heaven, and eternal life today! Why? Because Jesus loves you – He always has and always will!

Amen

All scripture references taken from the King James Bible)

--- Visit us at www.herehecomes.com ---