



The Fifth Cup: Our Way of Hope – April 1, 2020

The four symbolic “cups” of the Passover Seder (based on the promises of Exodus 6:6-7) helped the Jews to recall the miraculous ways by which God kept these promises and delivered his people..... the cup associated with God’s wrath – the cup that Pharaoh tasted before letting the Hebrews go. Although it is unclear whether or not this “fifth cup” was part of the first-century Passover tradition, it appears that it is the cup Jesus had in mind when he prayed in the garden after the Last Supper for his heavenly Father to “take this cup from me.”

9 Then another angel, a third one, followed them and said in a loud voice, “If any worship the beast and its image, and receive a mark on their foreheads or their hands, 10 they themselves will also drink the wine of God’s passionate anger, poured full strength into the cup of His wrath. They will suffer the pain of fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb. (Revelation 14:9-10)

The wine of God’s anger that would otherwise be “poured out” on sinners would be poured out on Jesus instead.

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” 33 He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. 34 And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” 35 And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.” (Mark 14:32-36) (also see Matthew 26:39 and Luke 22: 42-44)

During the arrest in John we hear these words 18:11...**Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”.**

Thus, all four of the gospel writers record some element of the “cup of wrath” that is referenced in the Scriptures. Each of us deserves the cup of God’s wrath.... Instead of drinking from the cup of God’s wrath, we drink from the cup of the new covenant that Jesus offered to his followers during the Last Supper. (Matthew 26:27-29; 1 Corinthians 11:25-26). That cup proclaims the death of the Lord Jesus and promises the gift of eternal life.

THE GARDEN

John 18:1-2

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. 2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples.

In the Bible, gardens convey significant meaning because they provide an image of God’s shalom – His perfect harmony and order....This picture of a blessed relationship between God and His people is why gardens serve as metaphors for the entire biblical story...garden of Eden, promised land, New Jerusalem....In each family garden, which was an eternal

inheritance from God, the people were free to fulfill God's command to care for His creation with all their might...Jesus prayed to be delivered from the cup of God's wrath but also submitted himself to his Father's will in the garden.

Biblical gardens symbolized a sacred space where God's abundant provision satisfies human longing.

Isaiah 58:11

**The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.**

Keep Watch

Exodus 12:42

That was for the Lord a night of vigil, to bring them out of the land of Egypt. That same night is a vigil to be kept for the Lord by all the Israelites throughout their generations.

God commanded that the night following the Seder was to be a night of watching. Passover celebrants were to watch and wait in anticipation of God's deliverance....As the blood of the Passover lambs covered the doorposts of the Hebrews in Egypt and protected them from the angel of death, Jesus' blood covers the doorposts of our lives and protects us from the death we deserve because of our sin...The story of Jesus' suffering draws us to him. His anguish reminds us of the painful struggles we face as we seek to walk in God's ways.

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Videos available on Right Now Media. Need a free account?

Contact the office or fill out the request form on the bottom of the front page of our website, armstrongchapel.org

The Path to the Cross, Ray Vander Laan copyright 2010 Zondervan

