



The Fourth Cup

Lamb of
God

Recap

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, **the Lamb of God**, who takes away the sin of the world! **John 1:29**”

Recap

The First Sacrifice-Genesis 3:21

The start and failure of the Sacrifice System

Passover

The Day of Atonement

The word **Seder** is a Hebrew word meaning “order.” It refers to the ritual presentation of Passover, or more specifically the reading and acting out of the Haggadah (the Exodus text). The typical seder consists of fourteen (sometimes fifteen) parts. Today these are done in identical order almost without exception.

The Four Cups

“Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the Lord, and **I will bring you out** from under the yoke of the Egyptians. **I will free you** from being slaves to them, and **I will redeem** you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. **I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God.** Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.’” **Exodus 6:6-7**

The Four Cups

1st Cup – Cup of Sanctification

“I will bring you out”

2nd Cup – Cup of Deliverance or ThanksGiving

“I will free you”

3rd Cup – Cup of Redemption

“I will redeem”

4th Cup – Cup of Completion or Hallel

“I will be your God”

These four cups teach us about the **four steps**
God takes His people through as **He prepares**
them to dwell with Him in His Kingdom.

Rabbi Reuel Dillon

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. **Mark 14:23**

“This is my **blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. “**Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.**” When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

vs 24-26

Barech: Grace after Meals (13th Step)

The third cup of wine is poured, and birkat ha-mazon (Grace after Meals) is recited. This is similar to the grace that would be said on any Shabbat, but with the special insertion for Passover. At the end, a blessing is said over the third cup and it is drunk.

In the same way, **after the supper** he took **the cup**, saying, “**This cup** is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” **Luke 22:20**

3rd Cup – Cup of Redemption
“I will redeem”

Hallel: Praises (14th Step)

The standard group of psalms that make up a full Hallel are recited at this point. A blessing is recited over the last cup of wine and it is drunk.

When they had **sung a hymn**, they went out to the Mount of Olives. **Matthew 26:30**

The Passover ceremony is incomplete. **The fourth cup** isn't poured and Jesus doesn't pronounce the benediction

Part of the problem is that we do not understand the Passover imagery which Jesus was using. Jesus and the apostles had just come from eating their Passover meal, during which time they would have drunk deeply from **three cups of wine**. At that time, the table would usually share one, large, communal cup. The custom was that when the cup came to the place you were reclining, you must drink from it as deeply as you could, before passing it on to the next person at the table. Before you could “let this cup pass” you had drink deeply from it.

If it was emptied, it would be filled again before being passed on. Often, at the bottom of the cup, there were bitter dregs from the wine. If you were the person to empty the cup, you must drink the bitter dregs as well, before you “let this cup pass.” So when Jesus prays, “Let this cup pass from me,” He is not saying, “I don’t want to drink it,” but is rather praying, “Let me drink of it as deeply as I possibly can before I pass it on to humanity. **Let me empty it. Let me drain it. Let me drink all of it,** even the bitter dregs at the bottom of the cup.”

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, **may this cup** be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” **Matthew 26:39**

He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible **for this cup** to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.” **vs 42**

When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, **saying the same thing.** **vs 43-44**

So in Matthew 26:39, in place of the Greek word *parerchomai*, the Ginsburg Hebrew New Testament contains **the Hebrew word *abar*, which means “to pass through.”** This is crucial word in the account of the Passover (cf. Exodus 12:12, 23). In that account, the Lord “**passed over**” (Heb. *pesach*), the houses of the Israelites which had blood of the lamb on the doorpost, but He “**passed through**” (Heb. *abar*) the houses of the Egyptians which did not.

It appears that when Jesus prayed to let this cup pass, **He used the word abar**. He was not praying to escape the pain and suffering, and have it pass over (pesach) Him, but was praying to take it on fully, to experience the pain, death, and suffering of the cup of God's wrath.

In the first Passover those who obeyed had death pass over their homes, but the lamb had death pass through it. The lamb bore death so that the home was spared

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “**I am thirsty.**” A jar of **wine vinegar (sour wine)** was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “**It is finished.**” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19:28-30

4th Cup – Cup of Completion or Hallel/
restoration, “**I will be your God**”

The events of Christ's crucifixion becomes transformed in understanding them in context of completion of the Passover meal

Jesus drank the fourth cup because that was the plan from the beginning. In the garden God enacted the plan of redemption for all of humanity

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. “Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. **vs 24-26**

Final Thought

This man (Jesus) was handed over to you **by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge**; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. **Acts 2:23**

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the **empty way of life** handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, **a lamb without blemish or defect**. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. **1 Peter 1:18-19, 21**