

CUPS

¹³ Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. ¹⁴ But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

Genesis 15:13-16

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Psalms 23:5

I. A season of twin cups

A. Cups of judgement are overflowing

B. Cups of blessing are overflowing.

II. Two stumbling blocks while waiting for cups to fill.

(II Peter 3:9)

⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

A. The false belief that God is too slow in judging evil.

B. The false belief that God is too slow in rewarding the righteous.

III. Can full cups be emptied?

A. The thief on the cross is a personal example that a cup can be emptied of deserved wrath. (Luke 23:42,43)

⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

B. Jonah and Nineveh are examples that a collective cup can be emptied of deserved judgment. (Jonah 3:10)

¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

* Yet 150 years later it was utterly destroyed.

IV. A sovereign and unexpected cup (Genesis 44:12,13)

¹² Then the steward proceeded to search, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. ¹³ At this, they tore their clothes. Then they all loaded their donkeys and returned to the city.

A. Joseph's silver cup was placed in Benjamin's corn-filled sac for a strange and powerful purpose.

B. The cup represented a tipping point of great sorrow.

C. The cup disrupted their plans.

D. The cup changed their direction.

E. The cup brought Joseph's brothers back into his presence in all humility.

F. After the cup comes revelation. (Genesis 45:1)

¹ Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all

his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers.

G. After the cup comes closeness.

H. After the cup comes forgiveness and reconciliation.

