

## School Meeting Minutes – 6 April 2025

\*We met on the 19th day of the 1st month, which is the Resurrection Day, the Feast of Firstfruits. Christ is the Firstfruits, the First Born of the Dead, the First Born of the Resurrection.

- Lev 23:10 KJV Speak unto the Children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: 11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD to be accepted for you; on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.
- 1 Cor 15:20 KJV But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive 23 But every man in his own order (g5001 tagma): Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father.

\*From this day (the 19th day of the first month), we begin to count the Omer (50 days) that will lead us to Pentecost.

- Lev 23:15 KJV And ye shall count unto you the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete; 16 Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall a new meat offering unto the LORD.

\*This week we took a look at the Passover meal Christ had with His disciples in light of the Seder Meal.

- Seder is a transliteration of the Hebrew word סדר, which means "order" or "arrangement." Thus, Seder expresses the order of the meal service.
- When Christ had the Passover meal with His disciples, He followed some aspects of the traditional Pesach (Passover) Seder meal, which include the Cups, the Blessing, the Bread and the Singing of Hymns.
- We don't want to call it the "Last Supper" because Christ said plainly this would be performed again.
- Luke 22:16 KJV For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.
- Luke 22:17 KJV And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: 18 For I say unto you, I will not **drink** of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.
- Luke 22:30 KJV That ye may **eat and drink** at my table in my kingdom,

\*The Four Cups.

- One of the elements of the Seder Meal are the Four Cups of wine, which represent the four expressions of deliverance promised by YHWH in Exodus 6:6–7: "I will bring out," "I will deliver," "I will redeem," and "I will take."
- Ex 6:6 KJV ...I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments: 7 And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am יהוה אלהיכם 'ē·lō·hê·kēm.

\*The Cup of Vinegar.

- After the meal, Christ took another cup saying: "This cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is poured out for you."
- Luke 22:20 KJV Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.
- In mentioning this Cup there is no indication they drank from it, but the tradition afterward would have the singing of a hymn.
- Mat 26:30 KJV And when they had sung an hymn ὑμνῶν hymneō, they went out into the mount of Olives.
- This Hymn would be the Hallel Psalms: Psalms 113 to 118, and Psalm 136.
- The last Cup Christ mentioned would be the "fruit of the vine," notice it's not wine? Yet, this Cup would have two fulfillments; one being Vinegar and the other the New (Sweet) Wine, just like the scroll eaten by John and Ezekiel is bitter or sour like vinegar, and sweet like the dessert new wine.

- Christ then went to the Garden of Gethsemane which means “gath” (winepress) and “shemen” (oil or olive oil press). We see Him praying three times that this Cup would pass from Him, requesting to not drink of it.
- This place of prayer and sacrifice is expressed by being in the press such that “being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground,” Luke 22:44.
- It is astonishing to see the blood being shed even before the crucifixion. Christ Himself was the grape being pressed in the winepress!

\*The Cup of Thanatos (Death).

- When looking at Matthew 26 account, Christ says:
- Mat 26:38 KJV My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death (θάνατος thanatos): tarry ye here, and watch with me. 39 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.
- Mat 26:42 KJV 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. 44 And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.
- Then in John 19:28-30, He does drink from this Cup or a vessel.
- John 19:28 ABP I thirst. 29. A utensil (Cup) then was situated full of vinegar; and the ones having filled a sponge with vinegar, and putting on hyssop, brought it near his mouth. 30. When therefore Jesus took the **vinegar**, he said, “It has been finished.”
- We can conclude therefore that this vessel is the Cup. The Cup of Vinegar of His sacrifice on the cross!
- We see the hyssop in Exodus 12 during the Passover.
- Ex 12:22 KJV And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel.
- It is interesting to see that earlier (in Mat 20:22) Christ asked the disciples, “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.” Thus, at the conclusion of their ministries they would also die as martyrs.

\*The Cup of New Wine and the Manna.

- We looked at the Cups not only in light of Christ’s First Coming but also His Second.
- We see the key words Christ said: “I thirst,” the “fruit of the vine” and “It is finished” in Revelation 21.
- Rev 21:5 KJV And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst...
- The “new” is the new wine from the “fruit of the vine” in the Father’s Kingdom we see in Mat 26:29.
- Mat 26:29 KJV But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.
- Christ also said that He would “eat” in the Father’s kingdom, implying the bread.
- Rev 2:17 KJV ...To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna.
- In Rev 21:3, it says: “He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”
- We see this in Exodus 6:7 KJV “I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am.”
- Therefore, we have the Seder taking place also in Christ’s Second Coming!

\*The Cup of Yeshua.

- As mentioned before, the Hallel Psalms that were sang during the Seder meal include Psalms 113 to 118, and Psalm 136.
- Psalm 116 talks about the Cup of Yeshua.
- Ps 116:13 KJV I will take up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.
- Salvation in Hebrew is יְשׁוּעָה; Yešû‘âh.
- We also have a reference here to death (thanatos) we saw earlier with the Cup of Death.
- Ps 116:1 ABP I loved that the Lord shall listen to the נַחַח voice of my supplication. 2. For he leaned his ear to me; and during my days I shall call upon him. 3. The pangs of **death** (θάνατος thanatos) compassed me; the dangers of Hades found me; I found affliction and grief. 4. And the name of the Lord I called upon. O Lord rescue my soul! 5. The Lord is merciful and just; and our God shows mercy.

- Ps 116:8 KJV For thou hast delivered my soul from **death**, תָּתִי מִן הַמָּוֶת mine eyes from tears, תָּתִי מִן הַדְּמָעוֹת and my feet from falling.
- Ps 116:9 ABP I should be well-pleasing (εὐαρεστῶ euaresteō g2100) before the lord in the place of the living.
- Ps 116:17 KJV I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving (תִּשְׁבַּח tîšbâḥ) or praise (ainesis).

#### \*The Cup of Elijah.

- Another tradition of the Seder meal is to set a place at the table for Elijah. This became the fifth cup to be known as the Kos shel Eliyahu ("Cup of Elijah"). Over time, people came to relate this cup to the notion that Elijah will visit each home on the Seder night as a foreshadowing of his future arrival at the end of the days, when he will come to announce the coming of the Messiah.
- Mal 4:5 KJV Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.
- We discussed in the past how Elijah has appeared to us in Eliyahu in the Book of Job.
- The Cup of Elijah could be the leather bag with the new wine that he talks about when he appears to Job.
- Job 32:19 ABP and my belly is as if a leather bag of sweet new wine bubbling, being tied up.
- Then we see the bread in Job 33:20.
- Job 33:20 KJV So that his life abhorreth bread, and his soul dainty meat.
- Thus, the coming of Elijah is at hand, so is the Kos shel Eliyahu ha-Navi (the cup of Elijah the Prophet)!

#### \*The Elements of the Seder Meal.

- We took a look at the traditional Pesach meal Jesus had with His disciples to see in which ways He had fulfilled certain elements. The order goes back to Exodus 12.
- Ex 12:8 KJV And they shall eat the flesh (lamb) in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread מַצָּה matzâḥ; and with bitter מֶרֶר merôr herbs they shall eat it.
- In time, a text was put together many centuries after Christ, which is called the Haggadah, with various rituals of bread, wine, herbs, storytelling and songs. In our case, we only took a look at what was commanded in Exodus 12, and what Jesus did with the disciples during the Pesach feast.
- Nirtzah (נִרְצָה) Desired – A hope for the Messiah is expressed by saying: "L'shanah haba'ah b'Yerushalayim! or "Next Year in Jerusalem!"
- Luke 22:15 KJV With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.
- Urchatz (וּרְחַץ) and Wash! – the washing of the hands.
- Luke 22:10 KJV Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in.
- Jn 13:1 KJV Now before the feast of the passover. 4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. 5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.
- Shulchan oreich (שֻׁלְחָן עוֹרֵיךְ) Set a table – the serving of the holiday meal.
- Luke 22:11 KJV And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? 12 And he shall shew you a large upper room furnished: there make ready.
- Motzi (מוֹצֵי) "Who brings out..." – a blessing over the bread.
- Mat 26:26 KJV And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.
- The word "blessed" in Matthew is εὐλογέω eulogeō, but in Luke, it's εὐχαριστέω eucharisteō.
- Water added to Wine – When Christ said "divide" the wine, this could mean adding water to the wine.
- Luke 22:17 KJV And he took the CUP, and gave thanks (εὐχαριστέω eucharisteō), and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves.
- The Fruit of the Vine – A cup of wine is drunk and a brief blessing for the "fruit of the vine" is said: "Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine."
- None of the Gospel writers used the word "wine" in the Passover meal. Instead, we see the expression "the fruit of the vine" used not only for the vinegar and the sweet new wine but because this is part of the Seder blessing.
- Hallel (הַלֵּל) Exalt! – recital of the Hallel, traditionally recited on festivals; drinking of the fourth cup of wine. The Hallel Psalms are Psalms 113-118 and 136.
- Mat 26:30 ABP And having sung praise ὑμνέω hymneo, they went forth unto the mount of the olives.

- Also, Christ made a reference to Psalm 118 (one of the Hallel Psalms) a few days earlier when He said in Mat 23:39 KJV “For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.”
- Ps 118:26 KJV Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
- Invite the stranger or poor - It is customary to invite guests, especially strangers and the needy. This is why they thought Christ would give to the poor.
- Jn 13:29 KJV For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor.
- Rev 19:9 ABP ...Blessed are the ones being called to the supper of the wedding of the lamb.

\*What have we learned?

- When Christ had the Passover meal with His disciples, He fulfilled many elements of the Seder meal. We cannot call it the “Last Supper” because He will do it again in the Father’s Kingdom. After the meal, He went to the Garden of Gethsemane, a place called the “winepress”. As He was in the “winepress,” we see Him praying about the Cup, the Cup of His Blood, the Cup of His Sacrifice. This is the final Cup in the Seder service. It is not the new wine, but it’s vinegar and it is dipped in hyssop, because that’s what was done in the Exodus. There is another Seder service at Christ’s Second Coming. He has shown us the New Wine and the Hidden Manna. We will also sing the Hallel Psalms including Psalm 116 that talks about the Cup of Yeshua, the Cup of Salvation. In the Seder service, we also have the Cup of Elijah. It is the wine skin, the leather bag. Elijah appeared to us in the Book of Job! Once we enter the Millennium, there is another Seder meal. The Cup of the Sacrifice and Suffering becomes the New Wine. We see it in Revelation 21, which provides us with the “new”, “athirst” and “it is done”.

**We will meet again during our regular 4 time zone assemblies on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Have a blessed week as we continue to watch and pray, and obey the voice that came out of the Throne, saying Praise our God, all you His servants, both small and great!**