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## The Silver CUP

*“Why have you repaid good with evil?  
Isn't this the cup my master drinks from  
also uses for divination?”  
(Genesis 44:5).*

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The mysticism of the esoteric Egyptian magicians included the practice of looking into a cup to understand a mystery or read into the future. Joseph's steward understood Joseph's silver cup was important, but he didn't understand the Hebrew duplicity of the cup and the message it held for the twelve tribes of Israel from that time to the return of Christ.

Joseph is understood by many as a type of Christ-figure. JewsforJesus.org provides a comprehensive list, some of which are included below. He, like Christ, was:

- Beloved by his father (Genesis 37:4 and Ezekiel 17:23-24)
- Envied and hated without a cause by his brothers (Genesis 37:4 and John 15:25b)
- A son in Jacob's old age and Yashuah, a **son of God who was like a root out of dry ground** (Isaiah 53:2, Ezekiel 17:22-23) while the older sons in Ezekiel 31 and 32 were withering
- Told that one day he would rule (Genesis 37:7 and Matthew 26:64b)
- Mocked by his brothers (Genesis 37:19 and Mark 3:21b)
- Betrayed by his brothers (Genesis 37:18b and Luke 19:14b, Luke 23:21)
- Stripped of his clothing (Genesis 37:23b and Matthew 27:28a)
- Put into the ground (Genesis 37:24a and Matthew 12:40b)
- Sold for silver and given over to the Gentiles (Genesis 37:28b and Matthew 26:15b)
- Raised from the pit (Genesis 37:28a and I Corinthians 15:4b)
- Falsely accused (Genesis 39:20a and Matthew 26:60a, 61a)
- Numbered among the transgressors (Genesis 39:20a and Luke 23:33)

Joseph, like Christ:

- Became a servant (Genesis 39:1-2 and Luke 22:27b, Philippians 2:7)
- Resisted temptation (Genesis 39:7-12 and Hebrews 7:26, Hebrews 4:15b)  
<https://jewsforjesus.org/newsletter-jul-1985/a-comparison-between-joseph-and-jesus-newsletter-jul-1985/>

Joseph's story mirrored the life of Christ; the cup they drank from was one of the same. The Egyptian steward did not understand the divination of that cup and the search for the holy grail also failed to discover the hidden mystery that Joseph claimed to know. To his brothers he said, "Don't you know that a man like me can find things out by divination?" (Genesis 44:15b). The

divination Joseph was referring to was his access to the Almighty God who gave him the understanding of the dreams that tormented the Gentile leaders.

“Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.’”

Joseph replied, “**I cannot do it, but God** will give Pharaoh the answer he desires” (Genesis 41:15-16).

The same God gave Daniel the interpretation of dreams prompting Nebuchadnezzar to say, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a **revealer of mysteries**, for you were able to reveal this mystery” (Daniel 2:47).

If it is God who gave Joseph and Daniel the meaning of the mysteries, what is the significance of the cup?

It is the cup of suffering. The sufferings of Joseph mirrored the sufferings of Christ.

“Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

‘What is it you want?’ He asked.

She said, ‘Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.

‘You don't know what you are asking,’ Jesus said to them. **‘Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?’**” (Matthew 20:20-22)

Even Jesus prayed for the removal of the excruciating suffering he fore-knew that he would experience on the cross, if and only if, there was another way for mankind’s redemption.

“Father, **if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me.** Yet I want your will to be done, not mine” (Luke 22:42).

Having a great love for mankind, the Son of God suffered to redeem a creation held captive by sin. His perfect sacrifice paid the price. Now, he urges believers to follow him wherever he goes: do as he did, live as he did, speak as he did, think as he did and become completely at one with him as he is with our Father in heaven. As Joseph gave Benjamin his cup, so Christ has given his followers, his blood-brethren, his cup of suffering.

“Jesus said to them, ‘You will indeed drink from my cup...’” (Matthew 20:23a).

The faithful followers from ancient times have drunk from the same cup. King David cried, “I have eaten ashes as food and mixed my drink with tears” (Psalm 102:9).

Author of Lamentations said, “He has filled me with bitterness, He has made me drunk with wormwood” (Lamentations 3:15-16).

The Smyrna church is prophesied to suffer. “Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you and you will suffer persecution for ten days” (Revelation 2:10a).

The saints in the last days will suffer. “As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High...” (Daniel 7:21-22a) and “He [the king who does as he pleases] will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place” (Daniel 11:36b).

What will be achieved drinking from the cup?

The rich young man of Matthew 20 obeyed **all** of God’s commandments, yet he was told that he was not complete.

“What do I lack,” he asked (Matthew 20:20b).

Christ replied, “**If you want to be perfect**, go, sell your possession and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, **follow me**” (Matthew 19:21).

The rich, young man went away sad for he understood the meaning of drinking from the cup. He enjoyed the security he provided for himself; he enjoyed deciding when he comes and goes; he enjoyed his position and status. He was not willing to put himself in a vulnerable position, relying on God for his needs and trusting in Him like that of a little child. Christ said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3). The cup of suffering Christ held proved his loyalty and trust in God.

- **He humbled himself and became a servant.**  
“But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men” (Philippians 2:7).
- **He spoke only the words of the Father—the Supreme God.**  
“For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken” (John 12:49).
- **He followed and continues to follow the lead of his Father.**  
“So Jesus replied, ‘Truly, truly, I tell you, **the Son can do nothing by Himself, unless He sees the Father doing it.** For whatever the Father does, the Son also does’” (John 5:19).
- **He did and continues to do the will of his Father, our Father. He was not self-reliant, self-determining, or self-glorifying.**  
“Yet I want your will to be done, not mine” (Luke 22:42b).

Christ knows that the Supreme God cannot breach righteousness. He is full of wisdom, knowledge, understanding and unchanging. God Almighty is omnipotent—all in all—the one who will not sin, cannot sin, abhors sin—for He is love.

**“The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power; in his justice and great righteousness, HE DOES NOT VIOLATE”** (Job 37:23).

After talking with the rich young man, Jesus concluded, “It is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God” (Matthew 19:23-24).

Then, who will enter the kingdom of God?

They are **those who desire to become perfect in righteousness and follow Christ.**

Matthew 5

- **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** Gotquestions.org provides a profound interpretation of the poor in spirit. “To be poor in spirit is to recognize your utter spiritual bankruptcy before God.” <https://www.gotquestions.org/poor-in-spirit.html>

The poor in spirit put their **total trust in God** and empty themselves of self-direction, self-reliance, and self-glory.

- **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.** The peacemakers will be resurrected into the glory of Christ for they love their Creator, their Savior and their fellow-man. They understand the grand plan; they know the enemy and the grip of deception on mankind.
- **Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** These believers stand strong against wickedness and do not love their lives so much that they are afraid to die. They are relentlessly faithful, unbending in truth, unable to be bribed, and will not deny the name of God or Christ.

God explains the purpose of **the cup of suffering**. **“I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them”** (Zechariah 13:9).

Such is the cup that Joseph and Yashuah were given. Both accepted it willingly, knowing that it was part of God’s grand plan of salvation. Now, the cup has been given to you—Benjamin, the church, O 21<sup>st</sup> century believers. Your time of testing lies on the near horizon. Stand strong, take the cup and lead the way.

*Compiled by Janette Andrejowich with gratitude to JewforJesus.org and Gotquestions.org for their insight.*