

Jeremiah 25:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.

Analysis

For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.

This vision of *kôs hayyayin haḥēmâ* (כוס הין ההמה, the wine cup of fury/wrath) introduces one of Scripture's most powerful symbols for divine judgment. The cup represents God's righteous anger against sin, which must be consumed fully. The imagery appears throughout Scripture—Psalms 75:8, Isaiah 51:17-23, Habakkuk 2:16, and crucially in Gethsemane when Jesus prayed 'let this cup pass from me' (Matthew 26:39).

Jeremiah functions as priest administering this cup to the nations—a symbolic prophetic act representing God's judicial sentence. The phrase *'el-kol-haggôyim 'ăsher 'ânôkî shōlēah 'ôtēkā 'ălêhem* (אֶל-כָּל-הַגּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי שִׁלַּח אֶתְּךָ אֶל־הֵם, to all the nations to whom I send you) emphasizes God's universal sovereignty. He judges not only covenant-breaking Israel but all nations according to their response to His moral law written on human conscience (Romans 1:18-32, 2:14-16). At the cross, Christ drank this cup fully on behalf of sinners (Mark 10:38-39), exhausting divine wrath against all who trust in Him.

Historical Context

This vision came during the fourth year of Jehoiakim (605 BC), the same year as Nebuchadnezzar's rise and the Battle of Carchemish. The 'cup of wrath' would be

administered through Babylon's conquests over the next decades. The vision's symbolic nature (Jeremiah didn't literally travel to all these nations with a physical cup) represents the prophetic word going forth to pronounce judgment. The list of nations in verses 18-26 encompasses the entire ancient Near East, demonstrating God's comprehensive sovereignty.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the 'cup of wrath' imagery help us understand what Jesus endured at the cross when He bore God's judgment for sin?
2. What does God's judgment extending to 'all nations' teach about universal moral accountability before the Creator?
3. How should the certainty of divine judgment on all unrighteousness shape our evangelistic urgency and personal holiness?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֵלַי	קַח
H3588	H3541	For thus saith	the LORD	God	of Israel	H413	unto me Take
		H559	H3068	H430	H3478		H3947
אֶת	כּוֹס	הַיַּיִן	הַחֲמָה	הַזֹּאת	מִדִּי	וְהִשְׁקִיתָ	אֹתוֹ
H853	cup	the wine	of this fury	H2063	at my hand	thee to drink	H853
	H3563	H3196	H2534		H3027	H8248	
אֶת	כָּל	הַגּוֹיִם	אֲשֶׁר	אֶנְכִּי	שֵׁלִי	אוֹתָךְ	
H853	H3605	and cause all the nations	H834	H595	to whom I send	H853	
		H1471			H7971		
אֵלֵיהֶם:							
H413							

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 75:8 (References Lord): For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.

Isaiah 51:17 (References Lord): Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem, which hast drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of his fury; thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling, and wrung them out.

Revelation 14:10 (References God): The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Job 21:20 (Parallel theme): His eyes shall see his destruction, and he shall drink of the wrath of the Almighty.

Isaiah 51:22 (References God): Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again:

