

Luke 22:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

Analysis

The New Covenant cup: 'Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.' After instituting the bread, Jesus took 'the cup after supper' (τὸ ποτήριον... μετὰ τὸ δειπνῆσαι, to potērion... meta to deipnēsai), declaring: 'This cup is the new testament in my blood' (Τοῦτο τὸ ποτήριον ἡ καινὴ διαθήκη ἐν τῷ αἷματί μου, Touto to potērion hē kainē diathēkē en tō haimati mou). The term 'testament' (διαθήκη, diathēkē) means covenant. Jesus institutes a 'new covenant' prophesied in Jeremiah 31:31-34, ratified by His blood 'which is shed for you' (τὸ ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν ἐκχυννόμενον, to hyper hymōn ekchynnomenon, poured out on your behalf). The Old Covenant at Sinai was ratified with animal blood (Exodus 24:8); the New Covenant is ratified with Christ's blood. This is the heart of the gospel: Christ's substitutionary death establishes relationship with God.

Historical Context

The Last Supper occurred during Passover, when Jews remembered deliverance from Egypt through the lamb's blood (Exodus 12). Jesus reinterprets Passover through Himself—He is the true Lamb whose blood delivers from sin and death. The 'new covenant' fulfills Jeremiah's prophecy of internal transformation, written law on hearts, universal knowledge of God, and complete forgiveness (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Hebrews 8-10 extensively develops how Christ's once-for-all sacrifice surpasses the Old Covenant's repeated offerings. The Lord's Supper/Eucharist/Communion has been observed by Christians for 2,000 years, remembering

Christ's death until He returns (1 Corinthians 11:26). This simple meal encapsulates the gospel: Christ's body broken and blood shed for sinners' salvation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' institution of the New Covenant fulfill Old Testament prophecy and typology?
2. What does it mean that the covenant is 'in my blood'—why was blood necessary?
3. How should regular observance of Communion shape Christian life and worship?

Interlinear Text

ώσαύτως καὶ τὸ ποτήριον μετὰ τὸ δειπνῆσαι λέγων,
Likewise also which cup after which supper saying

G5615 G2532 G3588 G4221 G3326 G3588 G1172 G3004

Τοῦτο τὸ ποτήριον τὸ καὶνὴ διαθήκη ἐν τὸ^{τὸ}
This which cup which is the new testament in which

G5124 G3588 G4221 G3588 G2537 G1242 G1722 G3588

αἷματί μου τὸ ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν ἐκχυνόμενον
blood my which for you is shed

G129 G3450 G3588 G5228 G5216 G1632

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 11:25 (Covenant): After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

Matthew 26:28 (Covenant): For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Zechariah 9:11 (Covenant): As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water.

Hebrews 13:20 (Covenant): Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Exodus 24:8 (Covenant): And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.

Hebrews 12:24 (Covenant): And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Jeremiah 31:31 (Covenant): Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

Hebrews 9:17 (Covenant): For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

2 Corinthians 3:6 (Covenant): Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

Hebrews 9:15 (Covenant): And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.