

Mark 14:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

Analysis

At the Last Supper, Jesus said: 'This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many' (Τοῦτό ἐστιν τὸ αἷμά μου τῆς διαθήκης τὸ ἐκχυννόμενον ὑπὲρ πολλῶν). The cup represents Christ's blood establishing 'new testament/covenant' (diathēkē, διαθήκη). This echoes Exodus 24:8, where Moses sprinkled blood saying, 'Behold the blood of the covenant.' Jesus' blood ratifies the new covenant prophesied in Jeremiah 31:31-34. The phrase 'shed for many' (ekchynnomenon hyper pollōn, ἐκχυννόμενον ὑπὲρ πολλῶν) indicates substitutionary atonement—His blood poured out on behalf of others. 'Many' doesn't mean few but multitude (Romans 5:15, 19). Christ's blood cleanses from sin (1 John 1:7), purchases the church (Acts 20:28), and mediates the new covenant (Hebrews 9:11-28; 12:24). Communion celebrates this covenant until Christ returns.

Historical Context

The Last Supper occurred on Passover eve (or Passover itself, depending on Gospel chronology). Jesus transformed Passover symbolism: bread and wine became His body and blood. The 'new covenant' fulfilled Jeremiah 31:31-34's prophecy of forgiveness and heart transformation. Old covenant used animal blood (Exodus 24:8; Leviticus 17:11); new covenant uses Christ's blood (Hebrews 9:11-14). Early church celebrated communion/Eucharist regularly (Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Debates arose over real presence versus symbolic memorial. Roman Catholicism teaches transubstantiation (bread/wine become literal body/blood); Luther taught consubstantiation (Christ present with bread/wine); Reformed view

emphasizes spiritual presence and commemoration. All agree it's covenant meal celebrating Christ's atoning death.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' blood establishing the 'new covenant' fulfill and supersede the old covenant sealed with animal blood?
2. What does the phrase 'shed for many' teach about the extent and sufficiency of Christ's atonement?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εἶπεν	αὐτοῖς	Τοῦτό	ἐστιν	τὸ	αἷμά	μου	τὸ
And	he said	unto them	This	is	which	blood	my	which
G2532	G2036	G846	G5124	G2076	G3588	G129	G3450	G3588
τὸ	καινῆς	διαθήκης	τὸ	περὶ	πολλῶν	ἐκχυνόμενον		
which	of the new	testament	which	for	many	is shed		
G3588	G2537	G1242	G3588	G4012	G4183		G1632	

Additional Cross-References

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.

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.

Mark 10:45 (Parallel theme): For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

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.

1 Corinthians 10:16 (Blood): The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

John 6:53 (Blood): Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

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