

Psalms 75:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The psalm describes judgment: "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" (Hebrew *ki khos b-yad-YHWH v-yayin chamar male mesekh va-yaggēr mi-zeh akh-sh-mareha yim-tzu yish-tu kol rish-ey-aretz*). The "cup" symbolizes God's wrath throughout Scripture. "Full of mixture" indicates concentrated judgment. The wicked must "drink to the dregs"—consuming judgment completely. The image is sobering: divine wrath as inescapable intoxicating punishment.

Historical Context

The cup of wrath appears throughout prophets (Isaiah 51:17,22, Jeremiah 25:15-29, Ezekiel 23:31-34). It represents God's judicial anger against sin. Habakkuk 2:16 describes drinking the cup of shame. Jesus referenced this in Gethsemane: "let this cup pass from me" (Matthew 26:39,42)—He would drink the cup of God's wrath we deserved. Revelation 14:10, 16:19 depict final judgment as drinking wrath's cup.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the cup of wrath imagery help you understand sin's seriousness and judgment's reality?
2. What does it mean that Christ "drank the cup" of God's wrath in your place?
3. How should the certainty of judgment for the impenitent motivate evangelism and holy living?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	כּוֹס	בְּיַד	יְהוָה	וַיֵּין	חֹמֶר רוֹ	מָלֵא
H3588	there is a cup	For in the hand	of the LORD	and the wine	is red	it is full
	H3563	H3027	H3068	H3196	H2560	H4392
מִסֶּכֶּה	וַיִּזְרֹק	מִזֶּה	אֲנִי	שֶׁמֶרֶת		
of mixture	and he poureth out	of the same	H389	but the dregs		
H4538	H5064	H2088		H8105		
יִמְצְאוּ	וַיִּשְׁתּוּ	כָּל	רָשָׁעִי	אֶרֶץ:		
shall wring them out	and drink	H3605	thereof all the wicked	of the earth		
H4680	H8354		H7563	H776		

Additional Cross-References

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

Psalms 11:6 (Evil): Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.

Jeremiah 25:15 (References Lord): 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.

Revelation 16:19 (Parallel theme): And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

Isaiah 5:22 (Parallel theme): Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:

Psalms 60:3 (Parallel theme): Thou hast shewed thy people hard things: thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment.

Jeremiah 25:17 (References Lord): Then took I the cup at the LORD'S hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me:

Isaiah 51:22 (References Lord): 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:

Proverbs 23:30 (Parallel theme): They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

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.