

# **UNDERSTANDING GOD'S PURPOSE**

WE OFTEN DRAW FALSE CONCLUSIONS BY  
ASSESSING THINGS IN PART RATHER THAN  
IN WHOLE.

***The story is told of five blind men who are brought before an elephant and asked to describe what it is.***

1<sup>ST</sup> BLIND MAN GRABS ITS EAR AND SAID,

“IT’S A FLAG!”

**2ND BLIND MAN GRABS THE  
ELEPHANTS TAIL AND SAID,  
“IT’S A SNAKE!”**

**THE THIRD GRABS A LEG AND SAYS,  
"SILLY, IT'S A TREE TRUNK!"**

**THE FOURTH RUBS THE  
ELEPHANT'S SIDE AND SAYS,  
"MY, IT 'S A HUGE LIVING  
WALL!"**

**THE LAST GRABS THE ELEPHANT'S  
TRUNK AND PROCLAIMS, "NO, IT'S  
A FIREHOSE!"**

WE OFTEN DRAW FALSE CONCLUSIONS  
BY ASSESSING THINGS IN PART RATHER  
THAN IN WHOLE.

FOR THE CHRISTIAN, EVERYTHING BOILS  
DOWN TO JESUS.

**BOTH THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS  
SPEAKS OF CHRIST:**

**"BUT WHEN THE FULLNESS OF THE TIME HAD COME,  
GOD SENT FORTH HIS SON, BORN OF A WOMAN,  
BORN UNDER THE LAW, TO REDEEM THOSE WHO  
WERE UNDER THE LAW, THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE  
THE ADOPTION AS SONS." (GALATIANS 4:4-5)**

"GOD, WHO AT VARIOUS TIMES AND IN VARIOUS WAYS SPOKE IN TIME  
PAST TO THE FATHERS BY THE PROPHETS, **HAS IN THESE LAST DAYS**  
**SPOKEN TO US BY HIS SON**, WHOM HE HAS APPOINTED HEIR OF ALL  
THINGS, THROUGH WHOM ALSO HE MADE THE WORLDS; WHO  
BEING THE BRIGHTNESS OF HIS GLORY AND THE EXPRESS IMAGE OF  
HIS PERSON, AND UPHOLDING ALL THINGS BY THE WORD OF HIS  
POWER, WHEN HE HAD BY HIMSELF PURGED OUR SINS, SAT DOWN  
AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE MAJESTY ON HIGH, HAVING BECOME SO  
MUCH BETTER THAN THE ANGELS, AS HE HAS BY INHERITANCE  
OBTAINED A MORE EXCELLENT NAME THAN THEY. (HEBREWS 1:1-3)

MANY OF THE DEEPER MEANINGS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT ARE MISSED BECAUSE METAPHORS ARE USED SO EXTENSIVELY. EXAMPLES OF THIS ARE "EATING" AND "DRINKING," WHICH REFER TO LEARNING SPIRITUAL TRUTHS OR THE WORD;

JESUS USED THIS **METAPHOR** MANY TIMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, EVEN REFERRING TO HIMSELF AS THE **"BREAD AND WATER" FROM HEAVEN**. WE SHOULD EASILY RECOGNIZE THE METAPHOR OF EATING BECAUSE IT'S SO COMMON IN OUR SPEECH. SURELY, YOU HAVE HEARD SUCH EXPRESSIONS: "**I SWALLOWED HIS STORY, HOOK, LINE AND SINKER;**" OR, "**I SWALLOWED MY PRIDE;**" OR, "**I REALLY LIKED HIS IDEAS; I ATE THEM UP.**"

ISAIAH 3:1 IS ANOTHER VERSE THAT USES BREAD AND WATER TO REPRESENT SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD:

FOR, BEHOLD, THE LORD, THE LORD OF HOSTS, DOTH TAKE AWAY FROM JERUSALEM AND FROM JUDAH, THE STAY AND THE STAFF, **THE WHOLE STAY OF BREAD, AND THE WHOLE STAY OF WATER,**

THIS VERSE DOES NOT MEAN THERE WILL BE A FAMINE AND DROUGHT. IT MEANS THAT GOD IS GOING TO "TURN AWAY HIS FACE" SO ISRAEL WILL NOT KNOW HIM OR HIS WAYS.

THE VERSE THAT FOLLOWS (3:2) IS A  
SYNONYMOUS PARALLELISM WITH THIS VERSE,  
AND EXPLAINS WHAT TAKING AWAY THEIR  
WATER AND BREAD MEANS--HOW ALL WISDOM  
AND LEADERSHIP WILL FAIL IN ISRAEL:

# A DESCRIPTION OF BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY

**[THE LORD OF HOSTS WILL TAKE AWAY] "THE MIGHTY MAN, AND THE MAN OF WAR, THE JUDGE, AND THE PROPHET, AND THE PRUDENT, AND THE ANCIENT, THE CAPTAIN OF FIFTY, AND THE HONORABLE MAN, AND THE COUNSELOR, AND THE CUNNING ARTIFICER, AND THE ELOQUENT ORATOR." THIS MEANS THEY WILL LOOSE ALL OF THEIR SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP.**

ISAIAH 1:2 EXPLAINED WHY, "I (GOD) HAVE NOURISHED AND BROUGHT UP CHILDREN, AND THEY HAVE REBELLED AGAINST ME." IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THIS MEANS THE JEWS HAD NOTHING LEFT OF THE TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, EVEN BY THE TIME OF THE EXILE. **THEY ARE STILL IN A "DROUGHT."** (CF. AMOS 8:11,12.)

THESE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES WERE ALL THEY  
HAD TO PREACH CHRIST, IN THE EARLY CHURCH  
AGE.

## **CORINTHIANS (1 COR.10:1-4) PAUL MADE REFERENCE TO THE OLD TESTAMENT BY SAYING,**

MOREOVER, BRETHREN, I WOULD NOT THAT YE SHOULD BE IGNORANT, HOW THAT ALL OUR FATHERS WERE UNDER THE CLOUD, AND ALL PASSED THROUGH THE SEA;

AND WERE ALL BAPTIZED UNTO MOSES IN THE CLOUD AND IN THE SEA; AND DID ALL EAT THE SAME SPIRITUAL MEAT; AND DID ALL DRINK THE SAME SPIRITUAL DRINK:

FOR THEY DRANK OF THE SPIRITUAL ROCK THAT FOLLOWED THEM: AND THAT ROCK WAS CHRIST.

NOTICE THAT PAUL KNEW SPIRITUAL MEAT AND DRINK WERE KNOWLEDGE, OR IN OTHER WORDS, "THE WORD OF GOD," AND THE ROCK THAT THEY DRANK FROM "WAS CHRIST."

SINCE JESUS IS ALSO THE "WORD," THIS MIRACLE FORESHADOWED NOT ONLY **JESUS CHRIST (THE ROCK)**, SPRINGING UP LIVING WATER INTO EVERLASTING LIFE, BUT ALSO **JESUS CHRIST, THE WATER**.

NOTICE THAT THE "ROCK" HAD TO BE "STRUCK" BEFORE IT BROUGHT THE "SAVING" WATER.

# JESUS USED OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCE WHEN TEACHING IN JOHN 6: 51-58

THOSE WHO EAT **MY FLESH AND DRINK  
MY BLOOD HAVE ETERNAL LIFE**, AND I  
WILL RAISE THEM ON THE LAST DAY; FOR  
MY FLESH IS TRUE **FOOD** AND MY BLOOD  
IS TRUE **DRINK**.

UPON THE LAST GREAT DAY OF THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES, JESUS STOOD AND CRIED OUT, "IF ANY MAN THIRST, LET HIM COME UNTO ME, AND DRINK. HE THAT BELIEVES ON ME, AS **THE SCRIPTURE HAS SAID**, ([ISAIAH 58:11](#)) OUT OF HIS BELLY SHALL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER.

## RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

(BUT THIS SPAKE HE OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH THEY  
THAT BELIEVE ON HIM SHOULD RECEIVE: FOR THE  
HOLY SPIRIT WAS NOT YET [GIVEN]; BECAUSE  
THAT JESUS WAS NOT YET GLORIFIED" (JOHN  
7:38-39).

## **SPIRITUAL DRINK IS SUPERNATURAL**

PAUL CALLS THE WATER A "SPIRITUAL DRINK"  
ENJOYED BY ISRAEL IN THE DESERT.

(1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-6).

THE APOSTLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT **CHRIST**  
**WAS THE SOURCE OF THIS SUPERNATURAL**  
**WATER** THAT SAVED THE ISRAELITES FROM  
PERISHING AT REPHIDIM.

THE PROVISION OF WATER FROM THE ROCK IS SEEN AT THE  
BEGINNING OF THE WILDERNESS JOURNEY

(17:1-7) AND AGAIN NEAR THE ENDING OF THEIR  
WANDERINGS WHEN MOSES SINNED IN A FIT OF ANGER BY  
HITTING THE ROCK TWICE

(NUM. 20:1-13).

**PAUL DREW THE CONCLUSION THAT CHRIST HAD  
"FOLLOWED THEM" AROUND IN THE WILDERNESS  
PROVIDING WATER.**

- ALL OF THE ISRAELITES IN THE WILDERNESS ATE THE SAME SPIRITUAL FOOD AND ALL DRANK THE SAME SPIRITUAL DRINK. **THEY WERE DRINKING FROM A SPIRITUAL ROCK THAT FOLLOWED THEM, AND **THE ROCK WAS THE CHRIST.****

HE IS ALSO THE SOURCE OF SUPERNATURAL  
WATER FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT  
CHURCH.(CF. JOHN 4:10-14).

# THE VIRTUE AND POWER OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST ARE SET BEFORE US IN HEBREWS 9 AND HEBREWS 10

1. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST PURGES, OR CLEANSES THE SINNER'S CONSCIENCE FROM DEAD WORKS TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD (HEB. 9: 14).
2. IT HAS REMOVED THE TRANSGRESSIONS OF SAINTS OF OLD, WHICH HAD BEEN FOR CENTURIES ACCUMULATING UNDER THE FIRST COVENANT, I.E., THE LAW (HEB. 9: 15).

# THE VIRTUE AND POWER OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

3. IT HAS RATIFIED A NEW COVENANT OF GRACE (HEB. 9: 15-18).
4. IT HAS REMOVED THE BELIEVER'S SINS, AND LAID THE BASIS FOR THE PUTTING AWAY OF SIN IN ITS TOTALITY (HEB. 9: 22 AND 26).

# THE VIRTUE AND POWER OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

5. IT HAS SO COMPLETELY DONE SO FOR FAITH THAT ONCE PURGED, THE BELIEVER'S CONSCIENCE IS CLEARED FOR EVER SO FAR AS THE JUDICIAL QUESTION OF HIS SINS IS CONCERNED (HEB. 10: 2).
6. IT THEREFORE GIVES THE BELIEVER BOLDNESS TO ENTER INTO THE VERY PRESENCE OF GOD (HEB. 10: 19).

# THE VIRTUE AND POWER OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

7. IT HAS ONCE AND FOREVER SANCTIFIED - SET APART - THE BELIEVER FOR GOD (HEB. 10: 10 AND 29).

# THE MEANING OF “THE CUP”



# CHOOSING “THE CUP”



Now here's another curious point.

**THE SACRIFICE OF FLESH WAS ALWAYS  
LINKED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WITH A  
SACRIFICE OF BREAD.**

IN THE PASSOVER MEAL THE FLESH OF THE LAMB  
WAS EATEN ALONG WITH UNLEAVENED BREAD,  
  
IN THE WILDERNESS THE ISRAELITES WERE GIVEN  
MIRACULOUS FLESH AND BREAD TO EAT CALLED  
**MANNA**; AND IN THE OLD TESTAMENT SACRIFICIAL  
SYSTEM THE **GRAIN OFFERINGS** WERE JUST AS  
IMPORTANT IN THEIR WAY AS THE FLESH  
OFFERINGS.

REMEMBER I SAID THE FLESH OFFERINGS WERE  
FULFILLED WHEN JESUS WAS BORN AT  
BETHLEHEM?

IT IS NO CO-INCIDENCE THAT THE NAME  
'BETHLEHEM' ACTUALLY MEANS **HOUSE OF**  
**BREAD**, AND OF COURSE JESUS WENT ON TO  
CALL HIMSELF **THE BREAD OF LIFE**.

SO AT BETHLEHEM **THE FLESH OFFERING**  
**IS ONE WITH THE BREAD OFFERING.**

JESUS' FLESH AND BLOOD HUMAN LIFE IS LINKED  
WITH THE BREAD AND THE FLESH OFFERINGS OF  
THE OLD TESTAMENT SACRIFICES.

# WHAT DOES THE CUP SYMBOLIZE?

**REDEMPTION.** REDEMPTION MEANS TO "BUY BACK" OR "BUY OUT OF" IN ORDER TO SET FREE BY THE PAYMENT OF A RANSOM PRICE. LUKE WRITES OF THE "**CHURCH OF GOD WHICH HE PURCHASED WITH HIS OWN BLOOD**" (ACTS 20:28).

PAUL EXPLAINS TO THE EPHESIANS THAT "WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD" (EPHESIANS 1:7).

PETER REFERS TO OUR BEING "REDEEMED...WITH PRECIOUS BLOOD, AS OF A LAMB UNBLEMISHED AND SPOTLESS" (I PETER 1:19).

JOHN CONCURS BY NOTING THAT CHRIST  
**"PURCHASED FOR GOD WITH HIS BLOOD  
MEN FROM EVERY TRIBE, TONGUE, PEOPLE  
AND NATION" (REVELATION 5:9).**

## WHAT DOES THE CUP SYMBOLIZE?

**PROPIRATION.** THE SHED BLOOD OF JESUS IN HIS SACRIFICIAL DEATH WAS THE OBJECTIVE SATISFACTION OF GOD'S DEATH PENALTY FOR SIN. "GOD DISPLAYED JESUS AS A PROPIRATION IN HIS BLOOD" (ROMANS 3:25).

## WHAT DOES THE CUP SYMBOLIZE?

**CLEANSING.** AS THE PENALTY OF SIN WAS TAKEN IN THE DEATH OF THE SAVIOR, THE BLOOD OF CHRIST THUS CLEANSES FROM SIN. **"THE BLOOD OF CHRIST...WILL CLEANSE YOUR CONSCIENCE FROM DEAD WORKS TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD" (HEBREWS 9:14).** **"THE BLOOD OF JESUS CLEANSES US FROM ALL SIN"** (I JOHN 1:7).

## WHAT DOES THE CUP SYMBOLIZE?

**ACCESS TO GOD.** THERE COULD BE NO ACCESS TO GOD UNLESS OUR SINS WHICH ALIENATE US FROM GOD WERE DEALT WITH IN DEATH. EVEN THE GENTILES WERE "**BROUGHT NEAR (TO GOD) BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST" (EPHESIANS 2:13).**

AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD "WE HAVE  
CONFIDENCE TO ENTER THE HOLY  
PLACE BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS"  
(HEBREWS 10:19).

# WHAT DOES THE CUP SYMBOLIZE?

**SANCTIFICATION. THE DEATH OF JESUS AND THE BLOOD SHED THEREIN SERVES TO "SET APART" CHRISTIAN PEOPLE TO FUNCTION AS GOD INTENDED IN HOLINESS. "JESUS... THAT HE MIGHT SANCTIFY THE PEOPLE THROUGH HIS BLOOD, SUFFERED OUTSIDE THE GATE" (HEBREWS 13:12).**

## WHAT DOES THE CUP SYMBOLIZE?

**FORGIVENESS.** THE DEATH OF CHRIST,  
SYMBOLIZED BY THE CONCEPT OF SHED  
BLOOD, RELEASES AND FORGIVES MEN FROM  
THE PENALTY OF THEIR SINS WHEN RECEIVED  
BY FAITH.

**"WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR TRESPASSES" (EPHESIANS 1:7). HE "RELEASED US FROM OUR SINS BY HIS BLOOD" (REVELATION 1:5), FOR "WITHOUT SHEDDING OF BLOOD THERE IS NO FORGIVENESS" (HEBREWS 9:22).**

## THE NEW COVENANT MEAL

THE TYPE OF **BREAD** AND **CONTENTS** OF THE  
**CUP** USED IN THE LORD'S SUPPER IS  
UNLEAVENED, BECAUSE THERE WAS NOT SIN  
IN HIM.

## THE NEW COVENANT MEAL

THE PHRASE "DRINKING OF THE CUP"  
EVENTUALLY SYMBOLIZED SHARING THE  
CONSEQUENCES OF WHAT WAS IN THAT  
CUP.

# THE NEW COVENANT MEAL

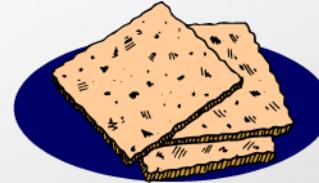
THEREFORE, THE LORD'S IS AN OBSERVANCE OF HIS DEATH UNTIL HE RETURN.

HOWEVER, THE SYMBOLS OF HIS FLESH AND BLOOD (THE BREAD AND CUP) MUST REPRESENT THE TYPE OF FLESH AND BLOOD OF THE LAMB OF GOD.

**"TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, HE WHO HEARS  
MY WORD, AND BELIEVES HIM WHO SENT ME,  
HAS ETERNAL LIFE, AND DOES NOT COME INTO  
JUDGMENT, BUT HAS PASSED OUT OF DEATH  
INTO LIFE" (JN. 5:24).**

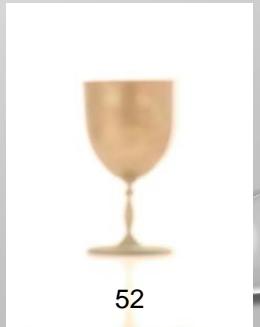
- "JESUS SAID TO THEM, "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE; HE WHO COMES TO ME SHALL NOT HUNGER,  
**(REFERRING TO THE BREAD OF LIFE)**

**(SYMBOL IS UNLEAVENED BREAD)**



- AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME SHALL NEVER THIRST  
**(REFERRING TO THE LIVING WATER)" (JN. 6:35).**

**(SYMBOL IS THE CUP)**



# LET US READ MATTHEW 26:

