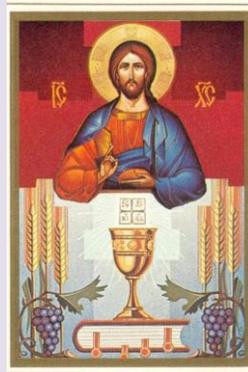


“THE CUP”



Introduction

Throughout the Bible the image of a cup appears: (left) Joseph’s Cup of Divination; (center) Jesus Last Supper Cup; and (right) the Cup of the Great Harlot of the Book of Revelations.

Are all these cups the same cup? What is the significance of this highly prophetic cup?

Summary

We propose the cup is a prophetic journey. It begins with the first great harlot, Rebekah, reaches a low point at the Last Supper and ends at the last great harlot of Revelations:



First Great Harlot of Babylon: Rebekah!

Rebekah was a sacred prostitute to Babylonian gods. We will provide evidence to back this up.

Rebekah's behavior is well documented in Scripture so we would know. We will take care to expose Rebekah for who she was so the reader will not be in doubt.

[1] Family Religion of Rebekah: Babylonian Idolatry

Genesis 24 relates the account of aged Abraham enlisting his servant to go **“back to my country and to my family and take a wife for my son Isaac”** (Gen. 24 v 4).

Who were these people who lived in Syria who were relatives of Abraham? Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees with his father Terah, his nephew Lot, and Sarai and traveled as far as Haran.

After Terah died, Abram, Lot, and Sarai sojourned on past Haran. The LORD told Abram:

“Get out of your country, from your family, and from your father's house to a land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you...” (Gen. 12 v 1)

It was for good reason the LORD told Abram to leave his country and his family. Joshua tells us:

“...Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods” (Joshua 24 v 2)

The 'River' refers to the Euphrates. The 'other side of the River' refers to Babylon. The area from which Abram first departed was 'Ur of the Chaldees'. Therefore, Terah and Nahor worshiped the gods of Babylon. The Babylonians were famous in the ancient world for their preoccupation with sorcery and divination. The purpose of the Tower of Babel was to be an astronomical observatory with a temple at the top devoted to telling the future from the stars.

The 'family' of Abraham who stayed in Haran worshipped the gods of Babylon. They did not sojourn to Canaan because they did not subscribe to the LORD God of Abram.

Rebekah's full brother was Laban. Her mother was Bethuel and her father was Nahor. Laban boasted of having the power of divination (Gen. 30 v 27). Clearly, Laban continued to worship the same Babylonian gods as his forefather Terah.

Did Rebekah worship Babylonian gods? She lived in the same household as her idolatrous brother Laban and their mother Bethuel. Is there any evidence of Rebekah's idolatry or sorcery? When Abraham's servant arrived he repeatedly blessed the name of the **“LORD God of my master Abraham”**. Rebekah never responded by blessing the name of the LORD. Neither did the servant of Abraham ask Rebekah's faith. Laban and Bethuel said **“The thing comes from**

the LORD; we cannot speak to you either good or bad” (Gen. 24 v 50). They were careful not to show disrespect for Abraham, who practiced a religion different than their own.

We infer by the fact Rebekah would not bless the name of the LORD God of Abraham that she shared in the family faith of Terah and Laban. She lived in Syria but her belief was Babylonish.

[2] Heart of Rebekah: Harlotry

What do harlots do? They sell their bodies (and souls) for money.

Why did Rebekah return with the servant of Abraham to marry his son Isaac if Rebekah did not share the faith of Abraham?

What did the servant of Abraham report to Rebekah?

“The LORD has blessed my master greatly and he has become great.
and He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves,
camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master
when she was old; and to him he has given him all that he has.” (Gen. 24 v 35-36)

What could tempt Rebekah to leave Haran? Wealth and social status.

[3] Occupation of Rebekah: Sacred Prostitute

The Bible says Rebekah was a virgin and very beautiful to behold (Gen. 24 v 16).

Was Rebekah a literal harlot? Would she willingly satisfy the carnal needs of strange men?

Yes. The Bible is not circumspect about this. There is evidence right in the story.

The servant of Abraham was asking for just such a woman:

“Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say ‘Please let down your pitcher that I may drink’ and she says ‘Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink’...”

The Hebrew word translated “pitcher” is **בַּדֵּךְ** (pronounced ‘Ka-Dek’). This is the only place in the Bible where this word is used. Elsewhere in the Bible the word for a cruse or jug for carrying liquids is **צִפְחָת** (pronounced ‘Tsa-Pahk-Ath’); e.g. 1 Sam 26 v 11 and 1 Kings 17 v 12.

The Hebrew word for “temple prostitute” is **קַדְשָׁה** (pronounced ‘Ka-Dosh-Ah’).

So, it wasn't an everyday jar or pitcher, a 'צַפְתָּת' ('Tsa-Pahk-Ath') that Rebekah was carrying on her shoulder. It was a sacred vessel, a 'כַּד', ('Ka-Dek') which a sacred prostitute, a 'קְדִישָׁה', ('Ka-Dosh-Ah') used as a sacred offering cup to present to her pagan gods.

The servant of Abraham arrived in the evening (Gen. 24 v 11). Rebekah 'watered the camels' and ran back to Laban. Laban ran to the servant of Abraham and they returned before dark.

A young woman with a water jar could not easily draw water for 10 camels. A camel drinks 30 gallons or 135 litres. Ten camels would be 300 gallons or 1,350 litres. A woman with a 2 litre jug would have to lift it 675 times. She would have to first draw water from the well, carry it to the camels, pour it out, then walk back. If it took her 2 minutes each trip, it would have taken her 23 hours to water ten camels! A young woman would be exhausted long before then.

The story does not permit Rebekah time to water 10 camels. But she could provide temple harlot services to 10 men. Her behavior astonished even the servant of Abraham:

"Whose daughter are you?" (Gen. 24 v 23)

[4] Offering Received for Sacred Services

In return for 'drawing water' for himself and for his ten men, Rebekah received an offering:

"So it was when the camels were finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels of gold."

Gen. 24 v 22

Even if a young woman was able to draw 1,350 litres of water out of a physical well to water ten camels in an hour or two, would this service be worth twenty and a half shekels of gold? No.

But the money wasn't to pay for watering camels. Nor was the money to pay for the harlotry services. The golden objects were sacred offerings to present before the local gods of Haran.

[5] Audience Granted to the Temple Priest

Having proven his religious loyalty by making an offering to the local gods, Rebekah ran to introduce the newcomer to the priest of the local gods, who was Laban.

It is not the least surprising that the servant of Abraham was an idolater or that he honored the gods of Syria. While Abraham was waiting for a son he complained bitterly to the LORD that if he died without a son, his heir would be Eliezer of Damascus (Gen. 15 v 2). Why else would Abraham force his Syrian servant to swear an oath, unless he deeply distrusted him.

The Cup: A Collection Bowl for Temple Harlots!

Our first key insight into the nature of the prophetic cup: it is a sacred vessel to pagans.



This cup is described in deplorable terms in the Book of Revelations:

“The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornications” (Rev. 17 v 4)

Gold is the precious metal associated in the Bible with the Kingdom of Babylon (Daniel chap 2).

The verse in Revelations suggests the temple harlot spewed out the ‘load’ she drew from the ‘camels’ (men) into the sacred cup. It was then taken into the sanctuary as proof the temple harlot had serviced the worshippers. What a horrible stench that would have been!

The money received by the sacred prostitute was delivered to the priest of the temple.

The servant of Abraham attached his gold offering to Rebekah’s nose and the gold bracelets to her arms so that under no circumstances would his offering come in contact with the sacred offering cup and its horrid contents.

What was the underlying spiritual belief behind these practices?

Men could ‘unload’ their sins. And gain a sense of euphoria: the approval of the gods.

Sacred prostitutes who performed the ‘service’ opened a way for men to be ‘purified’.

Not just any woman could do this. She had to be ‘consecrated’ by the priest of the temple.

This is why Rebekah also needed Laban’s permission to be released from her ‘calling’.

(To this day in African & Mid-East cultures it is common to pin money to the garment of a woman pledged in marriage. A left-over custom from pagan practices with shrine prostitutes.)

The Cup: Sacred Vessel Used in Pagan Art of Divination

In Egypt, Joseph was in possession of a Cup which he used for divination (Gen. 44 v 5).

Joseph's mother Rachel stole the household gods of Laban, literally the idols of the pagan temple of Haran. Laban was furious. Why? Without the idols he lost his priestly income.

Why did Rachel steal the idols? She may have had in mind to pass down the family secrets of the pagan priesthood to Joseph. This would ensure Joseph of an income. With it he could support his mother if Jacob died and did not leave Joseph an inheritance (which happened!)

Laban practiced divination. Rachel stole the gods of Haran. Joseph practiced divination.

It seems Joseph was initiated into the secret pagan art of divination by his mother Rachel, who stole the idols and the initiation rites from Laban.

What was the initiation? Concerning Joseph's Cup, the Egyptian reported to his brothers:

"Is this not that from which my lord drinks when he practices divination?" (Gen. 44 v 5)

What on earth do pagans drink to practice divination? This author has no idea. It would be something utterly abominable to Judeo-Christian sensibilities. Perhaps human blood or animal blood. Or, perhaps the filth of the sacred prostitute's abominations offered to the pagan gods!

Interestingly, the Divination Cup which Joseph used was silver (Gen. 44 v 2).

Just as the statue of Nebuchadnezzar's dream had a head of gold, then a torso and arms of silver, the prophetic Cup which originated in Rebekah's Babylonish religion [gold] had diminished in potency into a prophetic Cup used in Joseph's Egyptian religion [silver].

(Aside: If the arms were silver, then the hands and the ten fingers were silver too. Thus, the ten brothers of Joseph who went down to Egypt were also stylized in the statue of Daniel.)

Joseph did not worship the God of Abraham. Joseph was an idolater like his mother Rachel. Evidently after living for so long in Syria, Jacob had either become ambivalent to idolatry in his close family or blithely unaware of it. [Heb. 11:22 says Joseph had a death-bed conversion.]

When Joseph revealed his dreams this raised a stench (!) among his brothers and Jacob. Joseph was setting the stage to function as the pagan priest of the family. They all knew it.

Joseph was booted by his brothers out of the family and out of the country. But as soon as Joseph arrived in Egypt he took up his practice of divination again. His gift drew the attention of Pharaoh. The rest of Joseph's life and how he impoverished all the people of Egypt, enriched Pharaoh, and advanced his career above the sun, moon, and stars, is documented in Genesis.

The Cup: Satanic Deception of True Believers

The LORD announced to Abraham that his Seed would inherit the Promised Land.

“And Abram said ‘You have given me no children so a servant in my household will be my heir’. Then the word of the LORD came to him: ‘This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your body will be your heir’.” (Gen. 15 v 3-4)

Satan concocted a scheme to thwart God’s promises. It was put into effect by the same servant of Abraham who stood to lose the inheritance. The servant sent to get a wife for Isaac.

The scheme was to choose a wife for Isaac that was as completely steeped in pagan practices as possible. The servant’s wish was to bring a wife to Isaac who was nothing less than a devoted sacred prostitute of Babylon’s gods. (Sadly, aged Abraham opened the door for him to do that).

The pagan mother of Isaac’s children would subtly corrupt their morals and guide them to forsake the God of Abraham and return to idols. This called for patience and deep deception. Isaac was a genuine believer. He would resist any such plot if it came to his attention.

On the trip back from Haran, the servant of Abraham had time to explain the plot to Rebekah. She was party to it and a full participant in the deception. What evidence do we have of this?

“Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She got down from her camel and asked the servant ‘Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?’. ‘He is my master’ the servant answered. So she took a veil and wrapped herself.” (Genesis 24 v 62-65)

This word ‘veil’ צַעִירָה (‘Tsaw-eef’) is only used in one other place in the Bible: in the account of Tamar who pretended to be a sacred prostitute to fool Judah into having sex with her:

“When Tamar was told ‘Your father-in-law is on his way to Timnah to shear his sheep’ she took off her widow’s clothes and covered herself with a veil to disguise herself, and then sat down...” (Genesis 38 v 13-14)

Rebekah also wrapped herself in a veil of disguise! But her pretention was to be a decent and upstanding woman of God, when in fact she was a sacred prostitute! Very opposite of Tamar!

Tamar succeeded in fooling Judah and gave birth to twins: Perez and Zerah. Rebekah fooled Isaac and gave birth to twins: Jacob and Esau! O the wiles of women who know not God!

Joseph was also instrumental in a deception of believers: to lure Israel to Egypt, into bondage.

The satanic gift of divination, the Cup, had an evil purpose: to thwart the Plan of God.

The Bottom of the Cup: The Dregs



'that serpent of old called... Satan, who deceives the whole world.' (Rev. 12 v 9)

Satan's plan to deceive believers was successful: God's Plan was off track. (But not irreversibly.)

Rebekah tempted Jacob to steal Esau's blessing by identity theft. Jacob eagerly took the bait. This resulted in Esau swearing vengeance and Jacob fleeing to Syria. Isaac's family was in disarray, God's Plan looked foiled. In Syria Jacob married more women from Laban's extended family and raised eleven of his sons under the influence of that dark place.

Joseph tempted Jacob's sons to come down to Egypt. They in turn tempted their father to follow them. Like a brief solar eclipse, Jacob transited the Promised Land from Syria and ended up in Egypt. He proved powerless at resisting temptation. He succeeded only in raising his sons in a pagan environment and ensuring generations after them would be too.

God brought the Children of Israel out of Egypt. But again, they slid back to into pagan ways and resisted following the LORD. That whole generation died in the desert except for two men, Joshua and Caleb. A new generation of God fearers was raised up in the desert under Moses.

God brought the Children of Israel into the Promised Land. But again, they fell back into customs avowed by the LORD. With the passage of time the northern tribes were taken into captivity by Assyria and some time afterwards Judah was exiled to Babylon.

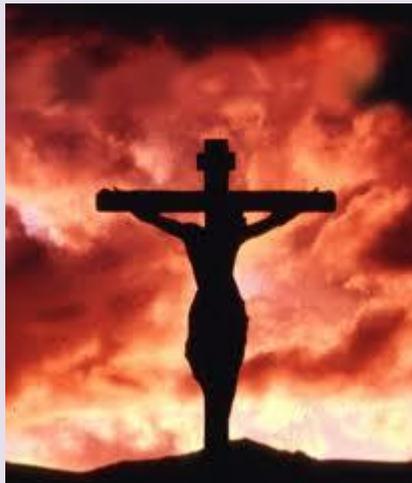
According to the word of Jeremiah a remnant returned to the Holy Land. Another generation of God fearers was raised up. However, the priesthood compromised its integrity by political entanglements with kings and Roman governors. Religious factions distracted the loyalty of Israelites from the pure worship of the LORD. The Jews were weak and divided.

The Cup: Judgments and God's Wrath



A cup holds its contents until the time it is poured out. This is a metaphor of how God keeps account of our life's deeds. On the Day of Judgment God recalls those thoughts, words, and deeds and rewards or penalizes accordingly.

All the evil schemes of Rebekah, the servant of Abraham, Joseph and other idolaters bore poisonous fruit in the lives of the Children of Israel from Jacob even to the present day.



Jesus took in his body on the tree of Calvary the punishment for the sins of all who will ever believe in His Name. Because Jesus took the curse: believers in Jesus walk free from their roots in pagan religion, whether those roots were in Gentile or in Jewish ancestry.

Satan's scheme to thwart God's Plan was blunted. Believers in Jesus were released from sin. A fresh wind of the Spirit of God breezed into the souls of millions saved by faith in Jesus.

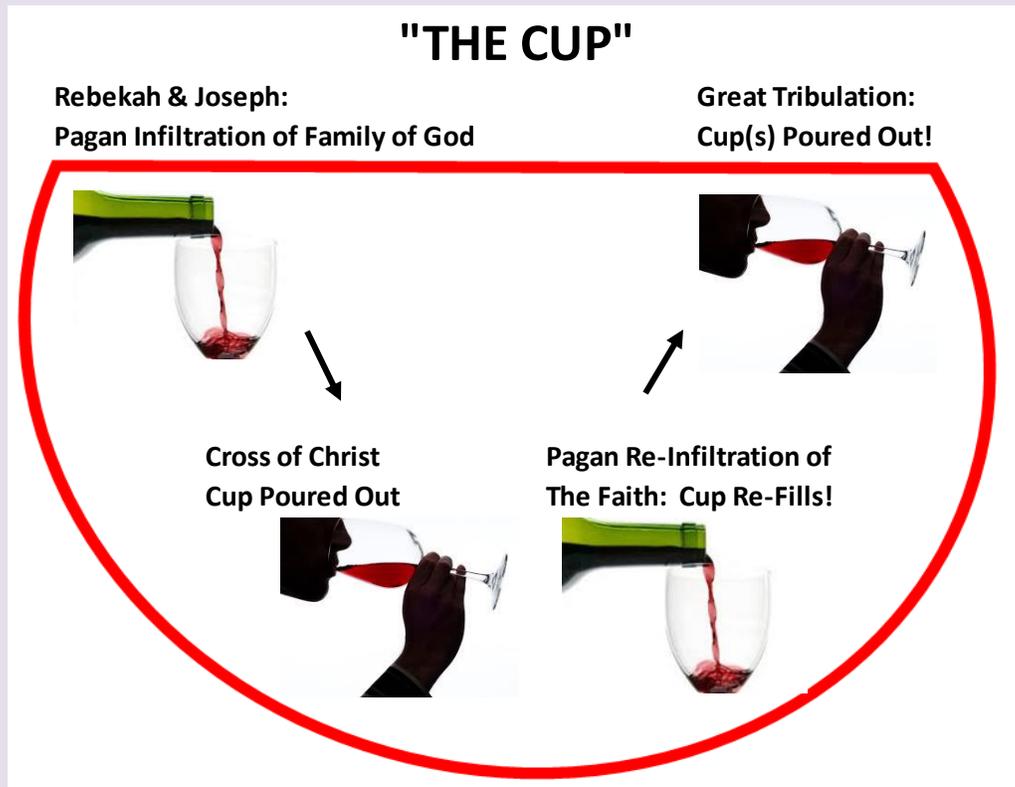
Visually: the shape of the Prophetic Cup had reached the inflection point at the Cross and begins to curve back upwards. Because of the Cross, Satan could continue to deceive believers but not forever. His plot was doomed. God's Plan would triumph at the other side of The Cup!

The Cup: Judgment for Sin of Pagan Religion

The cup shape is a clue for a truth of prophecy: symmetric on both sides.



This is one of the bigger mysteries of prophecy. What has happened before will happen again:



By drinking the Judgment of God at the Cross, Jesus Christ emptied the Cup. This made it possible for his believers to renew their faith in a new covenant with no carry-over of sins.

To his disciples, Jesus said: **"Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. Jesus told them, "You will indeed drink from my bitter cup."** (Matt. 20: 22-23)

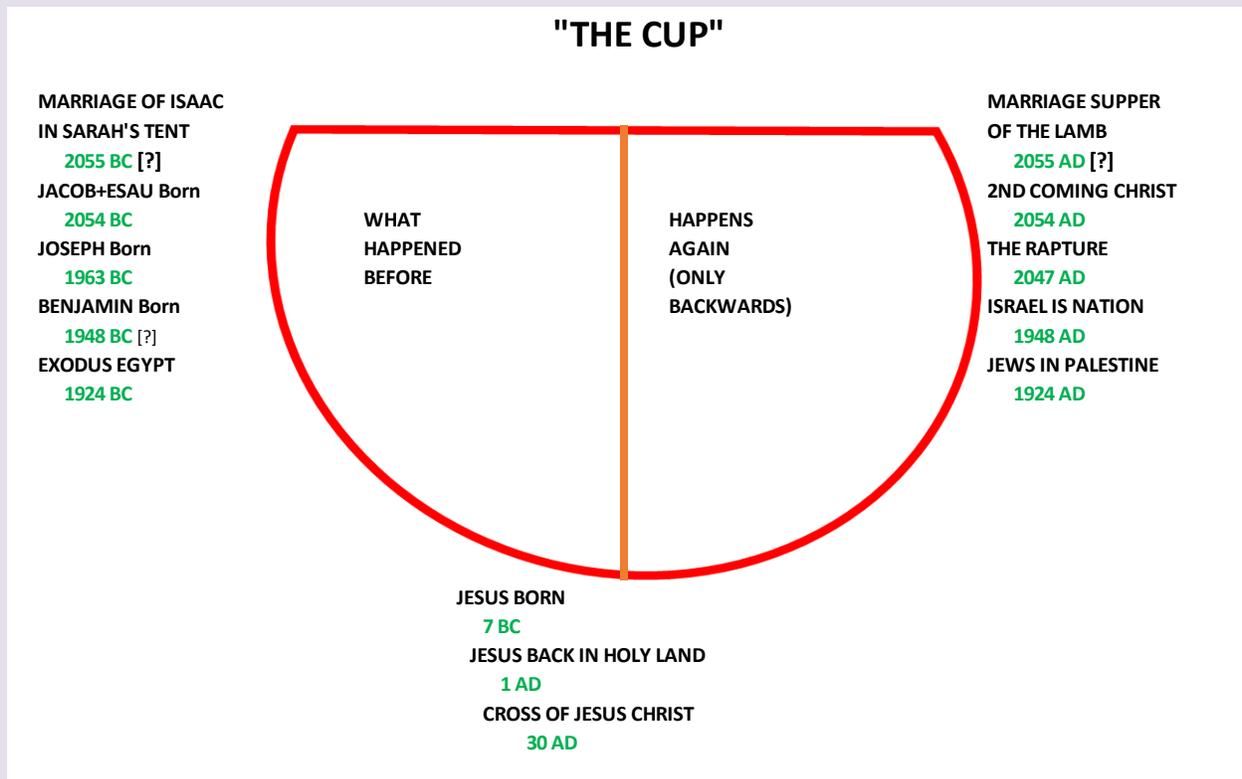
Jesus knew his believers would be re-infiltrated by pagan religions, and be judged for it.

The Cup: Prophetic Time Line – A Reflection Across Ages

What has happened before will happen again. In amazing detail!

We have studies of [Prophetic Time](#) on our site. One of these is: [Key Dates in Bible Chronology](#). Using Bible dates we find amazing parallels in the stories of the Bible and modern-day events.

Prophecy reads forward until the Cross. Then prophecy reads backwards. Events occur again, but in reverse order. To grasp this fully the Bible student needs to know the prophetic types.



We will leave it to the reader to explore in more detail the mirror-image parallels in historical events before 1 AD, and events in modern history after 1 AD. We invite the reader to explore other papers in our site www.biblenumbersforlife.com especially pertaining to prophecy.

We have proposed a year for the Rapture of 2047. In the diagram above we can see the symmetry with events on the opposite side of the prophetic "Cup". Readers should not be shocked that we propose a year. Only the day and the hour are uncertain.

Blessings, dear ones. Do not give up your precious faith. Hold to the hope set before you. Jesus Christ is returning again from heaven, and it could come in the lifetimes of some who read these words.

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