ROMANS 6:3-11

<sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:3-11

<sup>5</sup> For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup> for he who has died is freed from sin.

#### Romans 6:3-11

<sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, <sup>9</sup> knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. <sup>10</sup> For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. <sup>11</sup> Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

#### Romans 6:3-11

# Threshold Covenant

Passover

<sup>26</sup> For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup> but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.

#### Hebrews 10:26-29

<sup>28</sup> Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.<sup>29</sup> How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

Hebrews 10:26-29

2 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a <u>cup</u> of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:2

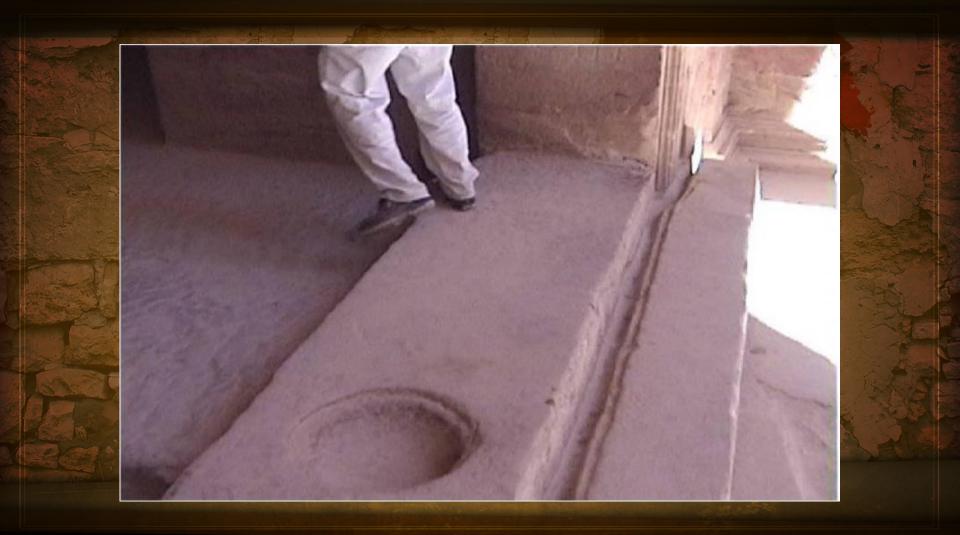
The word for "cup" in that verse is not as accurate as the Hebrew. The Hebrew word for "cup" in that verse is actually "saf" (Sawf). From H5605 in the Strong's, its original sense of containing; a vestibule (as a limit); also a dish (for holding blood or wine): - a bason, bowl, cup, door (as in doorpost), gate, post, or a THRESHOLD.

In ancient times, and even today in the Middle East, there is a custom called "The Threshold Covenant" which is where people make covenants with one another by putting the blood of an animal at the threshold of the door.

For those that do not know what a threshold is, it is the bottom part of your doors that people step over to enter into your homes. In the eastern world, the threshold was the most sacred part of the entire house. It was where covenants were made with one another and also with deities (the gods or god of the home).

This was, and still is, a common practice. Do you all remember the Passover account? YHWH told Israel to put blood (of a Lamb) on the doorposts and mantel. This was a sign of the covenant.

We are used to seeing a basin as a bowl we hold in our hands. However in ancient times, the basin (the hole) was built into the threshold of the door so you could put the blood into the threshold, and then put it on the doorposts.



The Passover custom was nothing really new. Ancient cultures did these sorts of things all the time towards their gods and to each other. We are ignorant to these customs because we are westernized. The Bible was written in the Middle East, by eastern people, who lived a very Eastern lifestyle, not a western lifestyle.

The concept of Covenant was rather intense in the eastern culture. At times, people who were instituting covenants with one another would identify the best of their animals, and then take and kill the animals. They would then cut them in pieces so that there would be blood seen in order to show that a blood covenant was being made.

They would then set the animal pieces on each side like two rows with a walkway in the middle. They would then say the covenant with each other, then both walk through the walkway between two rows of dead animals.

When they were done, they would say to each other, "If one of us breaks the covenant we just made with each other, may we be like the animals we just killed..." This is significant to understand, because YHWH, the Creator of the universe, made an everlasting covenant with Abraham.

YHWH came to Abraham in a dream and showed him a bunch of animals already killed, and YHWH Himself passed between the pieces! Do you see the picture of Covenant YHWH is trying to show us? We wouldn't realize this unless we understood the customs of covenant according to the eastern cultures.

<sup>12</sup> Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, <sup>[1]</sup>terror and great darkness fell upon him. 13 God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your <sup>[]</sup>descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, <sup>[]</sup>where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years.

Genesis 15:12-18

<sup>14</sup> But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with <sup>[]</sup>many possessions. <sup>15</sup> As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup> Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete."

Genesis 15:12-18

<sup>17</sup> It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:

Genesis 15:12-18

Now with all that in mind, now you understand more fully the context of Zechariah 12:2 when YHWH says, "I will make Jerusalem a THRESHOLD of trembling." In other words, Jerusalem is the anointed place where Messiah will reign, and where YHWH has placed His Name. It is the threshold of His "house".

Those who cross over it with evil intent in their hearts show that they despise His covenant, and they will become like the cut up pieces of the animals that were killed. This is heavy duty covenant language. You might ask, how can we really be sure that this is covenant language?

<sup>3</sup> It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured<u>(cut in pieces)</u>. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.

#### Zechariah 12:3

Here you have Zechariah 12:2-3 using ancient covenant language to express the heart of YHWH. Those who cross over His threshold (which is Jerusalem, the place of covenant) with evil intent shall be cut to pieces like animals as if one broke covenant with another man right after walking through the animal pieces like the example in Genesis 15.

If Jerusalem is the threshold of YHWH where the covenant is made with all nations, then what blood was shed at that "threshold" to regather us back to His covenant? Jesus, or His Hebrew name Yeshua should have come to mind.

Yeshua was sent as the Lamb of YHWH whose blood was shed in Jerusalem (the threshold of YHWH) so that we can be renewed into His covenant and be Israel again. The owner of the house was responsible for the lives of those in covenant as soon as they entered the house even if that meant death. (Psalms 91)(Genesis 19:2-8)