

The Jewish celebration of Passover began this year on April 22nd, and will end the evening of April 30th, at least it will here in the United States. If you aren't familiar with Passover, it commemorates the Exodus of the Israelites from four hundred years of slavery in Egypt. As a Christian, I have a special place in my heart for Passover, especially, because of the way God showed up and fulfilled his promises to his chosen people. Because of Jesus, we have been grafted into God's family, and His story (history) is our story.

If you want to know more about Passover, and I encourage it wholeheartedly, Dr. Google will be happy to accommodate. I simply want to share my thoughts about my favorite cup, as depicted in the Passover Seder meal. Throughout the meal, the participants all drink from their cups as instructed, according to the four cups, or four "I Wills" as written in Exodus 6:6-7:

*"Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and **I will** bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. **I will** free you from being slaves to them, and **I will** redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. **I will** take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.'" (NIV)*

When Jesus was eating the Passover meal with his disciples the day before he was arrested:

"He took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you I my Father's kingdom." (Matthew 26:27-29 NIV)

When Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, he prayed with a heavy heart:

"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39 NIV)



My dear friends, the third cup or the third 'I Will' was: "***I will*** redeem you with an outstretched arm."

My Favorite Cup...

Blessings,

Lisa Jo