

BA42. Partaking of Bread and Wine in Unison and with a Pure Heart in Remembrance of Yeshua.

We are to partake of bread and wine in unison and with a pure heart in remembrance of Yeshua.

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 26:26-28

While they were eating, Yeshua took a piece of matzah, made the b'rakhah, broke it, gave it to the talmidim and said, "Take! Eat! This is my body!" Also he took a cup of wine, made the b'rakhah, and gave it to them, saying, "All of you, drink from it! For this is my blood, which ratifies the New Covenant, my blood shed on behalf of many, so that they may have their sins forgiven.

Mark 14:22-25

While they were eating, Yeshua took a piece of matzah, made the b'rakhah, broke it, gave it to them and said, "Take it! This is my body." Also he took a cup of wine, made the b'rakhah, and gave it to them; and they all drank. He said to them, "This is my blood, which ratifies the New Covenant, my blood shed on behalf of many people. Yes! I tell you, I will not drink this 'fruit of the vine' again until the day I drink new wine in the Kingdom of God."

Luke 22:19-20

Also, taking a piece of matzah, he made the b'rakhah, broke it, gave it to them and said, "This is my body, which is being given for you; do this in memory of me." He did the same with the cup after the meal, saying, "This cup is the New Covenant, ratified by my blood, which is being poured out for you."

1 Corinthians 11:23-31

For what I received from the Lord is just what I passed on to you- that the Lord Yeshua, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and after he had made the b'rakhah he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this as a memorial to me"; likewise also the cup after the meal, saying, "This cup is the New Covenant effected by my blood; do this, as often as you drink it, as a memorial to me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord, until he comes. Therefore, whoever eats the Lord's bread or drinks the Lord's cup in an unworthy manner will be guilty of desecrating the body and blood of the Lord! So let a person examine himself first, and then he may eat of the bread and drink from the cup; for a person who eats and drinks without recognizing the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself. This is why many among you are weak and sick, and some have died! If we would examine ourselves, we would not come under judgment.

Additional New Testament Scriptures

John 6:33, 35, 48-51, 53-58

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Luke 24:30

Related New Testament Mitzvot

None

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Genesis 14:18-20

Malki-Tzedek king of Shalem brought out bread and wine. He was cohen of El 'Elyon [God Most High], so he blessed him with these words: "Blessed be Avram by El 'Elyon, maker of heaven of earth, and blessed be El 'Elyon, who handed your enemies over to you." Avram gave him a tenth of everything.

Comment

Matzah is traditionally used at Passover meals (*sedarim*) to remember the unleavened bread the Israelites brought with them out of Egypt, and wine is traditionally used to represent the blood of the lamb that was sacrificed and placed on the doorposts of Israelites' homes to save their firstborn sons from the angel of death. The *matzah* eaten by Ashkenazic Jews at their *sedarim* represents the lamb that was consumed at the original Passover, whereas Sephardic Jews serve lamb as one of the Passover foods for the same reason.

Bread and wine have been used as far back as Abraham as elements for sealing covenants. We read in Genesis 14:18-20:

"Malki-Tzedek king of Shalem brought out bread and wine. He was cohen of El 'Elyon [God Most High], so he blessed him with these words: "Blessed be Avram by El 'Elyon, maker of heaven of earth and blessed be El 'Elyon, who handed your enemies over to you." Avram gave him a tenth of everything."

At his last *seder*, Yeshua used *matzah* and wine in an unusual way but in a way that was consistent with its historical covenantal meaning. We read in Matthew 26:26-28:

While they were eating, Yeshua took a piece of matzah, made the b'rakhah, broke it, gave it to the talmidim and said, "Take! Eat! This is my body!" Also he took a cup of wine, made the b'rakhah, and gave it to them, saying, "All of you, drink from it! For this is my blood, which ratifies the New Covenant, my blood shed on behalf of many, so that they may have their sins forgiven."

We who are New Covenant believers in Yeshua understand this to be a sacrament intended for us today as well. We call it by various names such as "The Lord's Table," "Holy Communion,"

“*Seudat Ha-Adon*,” etc., but how often and under what circumstances we are to take it is a matter of debate. It was during a Passover *seder* that Yeshua lifted the *matzah* and wine and is quoted to have said:

"This is my body, which is for you. Do this as a memorial to me"; likewise also the cup after the meal, saying, "This cup is the New Covenant effected by my blood; do this, as often as you drink it, as a memorial to me." (1 Corinthians 11:24-25).

Some argue, therefore, that Yeshua meant for us to remember him with bread and wine only during Passover. Others argue that the words “*as often as you drink it*” mean any time we drink wine, and still others say it simply means “often.”

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