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The First Cup of Sanctification
Luke 22: 17-18
Friday evening the fifteenth of Nisan

The first cup of sanctification DIG: What does sanctification mean? How did it apply to Yeshua here? What is the Kiddush? What kind of wine was used? What does the phrase the fruit of the vine refer to? What is special about it? How many cups of wine does the Seder require? Where did we get that specific number? When Jesus said: I will not drink the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes, what did He mean?

REFLECT: In your walk with ADONAI, how are you being set apart for His purposes? Think about how you've grown in your faith since first accepting Christ as your Lord and Savior. What are some examples of you being set apart for His purposes?

Jesus was being sanctified, or set apart, for the purposes of **God the Father** with **His** upcoming crucifixion. Today, believers are also sanctified for the purposes of **ADONAI**. This does not mean that we are sinless or perfect by any means. But it does mean that we are a work in progress. Our holiness is being worked out and is a process that takes a lifetime. The result of our being set apart is peace with **God**, fruit of the Spirit and honor to **YHVH**.



When the Passover began, the head of the household, or leader of the company, took **the** first **cup of wine** in his hand and gave thanks. This is the *Kiddush*, which means *sanctification*. The famous messianic believer Alfred Edersheim (1825-1889) gives us an example of the spirit and direction of the prayer rather than the exact words when he wrote: **Blessed are You, LORD our God, who has created the fruit of the vine! Blessed are You ADONAI our God, King of the Universe, who has chosen us from among all the nations, and exalted us from all languages, and blessed us with Your commandments! And You have given us, O Sovereign LORD, in love, the solemn days for joy, and the feasts and appointed seasons for gladness; and this the day of the feast of unleavened bread, the season of our freedom, a holy observance, the memorial of our departure from Egypt. For You have chosen us; and Your holy feasts with joy and gladness You have caused us to inherit. Blessed are You, ADONAI, who set Isra'el apart and the appointed seasons! Blessed are You, LORD, King of the Universe, who has preserved us and sustained us and brought us to this season!**[1381]

The drinking of **the** first **cup of wine** followed the blessing of sanctification. This was alcoholic **wine**, not grape juice. Diluted by today's standards, but **wine** nonetheless. The phrase: **the fruit of the vine** refers to **Passover wine**. It had to be prepared in a special way, with natural fermentation, not with leaven. Kosher **Passover wine** has no sugar added to speed up the process.



The Seder requires **four cups of wine**. They would drink the first and second cups before the main meal and the third and fourth cups afterwards. The gospels discuss the first and third cups, not the second and fourth cups. Each cup is identified with one of **God's** promises in **Exodus 6:6-7**:

Therefore say to the children of Isra'el: I am ADONAI, and (1) I will bring

you out of Egypt; (2) I will deliver you from Egyptian slavery; (3) I will redeem you with My power; and (4) I will take you as My people and I will be to you a God.

When **ADONAI** said that **He would bring the Israelites out of Egypt**, **He** separated **them** for **His** purposes and therefore sanctified **them**. Thus, **the cup** of sanctification.

After taking the first **cup, He gave thanks and** softly **said: Take this and share it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on, I will not drink the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes (Luke 22:17-18 CJB).** By this **He** meant **the wedding feast of the Lamb** that will take place on earth *after* the Second Coming. Therefore, **the wedding feast** will start the messianic Kingdom **(Matthew 22:1-14, 25:1-13)**. Then all four stages the Jewish marriage system will be complete (see my commentary on **Revelation, to see link click Fg – Blessed Are Those Invited to the Wedding Feast of the Lamb**).

Barukh **attah Adonai eloheinu melekh ha-olam,**
borei peri hagafen.
Blessed **are You**, **LORD our God**, **King of the universe,**
Creator of **the fruit of the vine**.

They drank and, as **the cup** was passed, glances of envy were passed among **the talmidim** because each **one** felt that **he** should be close to **the Master**. The glances were followed by whispered words and then the words became louder. Some boasted, as **men** under tension will do at times, of **their** individual service and piety, and a few began to count **their** great accomplishments and moments each had lived with **Yeshua**. **The suffering Servant** observed closely. At first **He** said nothing. But then **He** did something highly unusual.