

Let This Cup Pass From Me!

*"Going a little farther, He fell face down and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this **cup** pass from Me! Yet not as I will, but as You will'" (Matthew 26:39).*

Accusations are inevitable in the walk of a believer. If you do anything for *Adonai*, you will be falsely accused: *"¹¹Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great! For in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matt. 5:11-12).* Vicious lies *will provoke* your life, either positively or negatively. If you are in ministry, you will be scrutinized, examined, dissected, contemplated, studied, watched, second-guessed, and evaluated continually. It is not a question of *whether or not* you will be falsely accused, the question is: *How will you react to it when it comes – and it will come.* All KS families (and friends who regularly visit) are in spiritual leadership and ministry. We, my friends and *mishpacha*, will be scrutinized. Are there Scriptural guidelines for handling false accusations? Am I even supposed to be falsely accused? Isn't it better ignored? How are we to handle other people's opinions? Shouldn't we consider the source, and if the critics are out of order themselves, why pay attention to their poison? Wee, are you ready for *Adonai's* purposes in allowing such trials?

¹²Loved ones, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal taking place among you to test you – as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³Instead, rejoice insofar as you share in the sufferings of Messiah, so that at the revelation of His glory you may also rejoice and be glad. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Messiah, you are fortunate, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵For let none of you suffer as a murderer or thief or evildoer or as a troublemaker. ¹⁶But if anyone suffers for following Messiah, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this name. ¹⁷For the time has come for judgment to begin with the house of God. If judgment begins with us first, what will be the end for those who disobey the Good News of God? ¹⁸Now, "if it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what shall become of the ungodly and the sinner?" ¹⁹So then, those who suffer according to God's will—let them trust their souls to a faithful Creator while continuing to do good" (1 Pet 4:12-19).

In *Parashat Nasso* we find Biblical guidelines for when a woman/wife is publicly attacked and accused. She must take *the cup of bitter water, drink-it and wait.* The Scriptural example is for a wife, but in the same manner we must also drink the bitter cup, while thanking *Adonai* for the trials He is giving us.

¹¹Adonai spoke to Moses saying, ¹²"Speak to Bnei-Yisrael and say to them: Suppose some man's wife goes astray and is unfaithful to him, ¹³and another man has sexual relations with her, but it is hidden from her husband's eyes and her impurity is not detected. Yet there was no witness against her and she was not caught in the act. ¹⁴Then a spirit of jealousy overcomes him and he is suspicious of his wife, when she is impure. Or a spirit of jealousy overcomes him and he suspects his wife, yet she is not impure. ¹⁵"Then he should take his wife to the kohen. He must also bring a tenth of an ephah of barley flour as an offering for her. He is not to pour oil or put incense on it, because it is an offering for jealousy, a reminder offering drawing attention to guiltiness. ¹⁶"The kohen is to bring her near and have her stand before Adonai. ¹⁷Then the kohen is to take some holy water in a clay jar and take some dust from the floor of the Tabernacle and put it into the water. ¹⁸Then the kohen will have the woman stand before Adonai, loosen the woman's hair, put into her hands the reminder offering, the offering for jealousy, while in the kohen's own hands are the bitter waters that bring a curse. ¹⁹Then the kohen will have her swear under oath, then say to the woman, 'If no man other than your husband has slept with you, and if you have not gone astray into impurity from your husband, may this bitter water that brings a curse not harm you. ²⁰If, however, you have gone astray from your husband and if you became impure and had sexual relations with a man other than your husband'—²¹Then the kohen is to have the woman swear under this oath of a curse, and say to the woman—'then let Adonai cause you to be cursed and denounced among your people when Adonai causes your thigh to rot and your belly to swell. ²²"May this water which brings a curse enter your body and cause your belly to swell and your thigh to rot.' "The woman is to say, 'Amen, amen!' ²³"Then the kohen is to write these curses on a scroll and wash them into the waters of bitterness. ²⁴The kohen will then have the woman drink the bitter water bearing curses, so that the water of the curses of bitterness enters her. ²⁵The kohen is to

take the jealousy offering from the woman's hand, wave the offering before Adonai and bring it to the altar.
²⁶*The kohen is to take a handful of the grain offering and burn it up in smoke on the altar as a memorial offering. The kohen will then have the woman drink the water.* ²⁷*"When she is made to drink the water that carries the curse, if she has defiled herself and been unfaithful to her husband, it will enter her and cause bitterness—her abdomen will swell and her thigh will waste away. She will be accursed among her people.*
²⁸*If, however, the woman has not defiled herself and is clean, she will be free from guilt and be able to have children.* ²⁹*"This is the Torah regarding jealousy, when a woman goes astray from her husband and defiles herself,* ³⁰*or when a spirit of jealousy comes over a man and he jealously suspects his wife. The kohen is to have her stand before Adonai and apply this entire Torah to her.* ³¹*The husband will be free of guilt, but that woman will bear her guilt!" (Numbers 5:11-31)*

How Do We Pass the Trial of the 'bitter waters that bring a curse'

- Thank God for the benefits you will obtain by going through it ("*In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Messiah Yeshua*" 1 Thess. 5:18).
- Expect friends to stay back and watch and wait ("*My friends and my companions stay away from my wound, and my kinsmen stand far off*" Ps 38:11) Why? They are waiting to see if you get bitter, for if you do, that proves you are guilty. An undeserved curse has no more effect on a person than a bird flying through the air. ("*Like a fluttering sparrow or a flying swallow, so an undeserved curse does not land*" Prov. 26:2)
- Realize that bitterness (and anger) on your part proves that your critics are right.
- Bitterness will also defile you, your family, and others (Heb. 12:15). God wants to *add more grace* (which is *the desire and the power to do His Will*), but grace only comes through humbling experiences. (James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6)
- Get the rewards of passing the test – those who do not revolt, He blesses. The rewards are cleansing, freedom (Nu. 5:28). The real concern should not be *what people think* (because this is *our strongest bondage*), but instead it should be what the *Almighty thinks!* If you pass the test, you will experience *freedom* from the *fickle and unscriptural attitudes of people*.
- Scripture tells us to rejoice (without anger or bitterness) when we are falsely criticized/accused (Matt 5:12). The reward for the trial is that she will become fruitful ("*will be able to have children.*") Thus, *new fruitfulness* will come to our lives *when we respond in love and joy in all situations*.

“♪ *In everything give thanks, for this is the Will of God, in Messiah concerning you*” ♪ (1 Thess. 5:18).