

WINE IN THE BIBLE - A SIGN OF GOD'S BLESSING - PROSPERITY

GENESIS 14:18-19 - MELCHIZEDEK'S BLESSING OF ABRAHAM

- 18** And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.
- 19** And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

GENESIS 27:26-28 - ISAAC'S BLESSING UPON ESAU (JACOB DECEIVED FATHER)

- 26** And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son.
- 27** And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said,
See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the Lord hath blessed:
- 28** Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven,
And the fatness of the earth,
And plenty of corn and wine:
- 37** And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son?
- 38** And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.

GENESIS 49:10-12 - JACOB'S BLESSING UPON JUDAH

- 10** The sceptre shall not depart from Judah,
Nor a lawgiver from between his feet,
Until Shiloh come;
And unto him shall the gathering of the people be.
- 11** Binding his foal unto the vine,
And his ass's colt unto the choice vine;
He washed his garments in wine,
And his clothes in the blood of grapes:
- 12** His eyes shall be red with wine,
And his teeth white with milk.

DEUTERONOMY 7:13 - GOD WILL BLESS ISRAEL'S OBEDIENCE WITH WINE

- 13** And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he swore unto thy fathers to give thee.

DEUTERONOMY 11:14 - GOD WILL BLESS ISRAEL'S OBEDIENCE WITH WINE

14 That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.

DEUTERONOMY 28:39 - GOD WILL REMOVE THE BLESSING OF WINE IF ISRAEL IS DISOBEDIENT

39 Thou shalt plant vineyards, and dress them, but shalt neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them.

DEUTERONOMY 28:51 - GOD WILL REMOVE THE BLESSING OF WINE IF ISRAEL IS DISOBEDIENT

51 And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee.

DEUTERONOMY 33:28 - WINE IS SEEN AS GOD'S BLESSING

28 Israel then shall dwell in safety alone:
The fountain of Jacob shall be upon a land of corn and wine;
Also his heavens shall drop down dew.

JOSHUA 9:13 - WINE IS SEEN AS FAVORABLE TO GOD AND MAN

13 And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?

PSALM 4:7 - GOD'S GLADNESS IS GREATER THAN THE GLADNESS PRODUCED BY WIN

7 Thou hast put gladness in my heart,
More than in the time that their corn and their wine increased.

PSALM 104:15 - WINE IS DESIGNED TO MAKE THE HEART GLAD

15 And wine that maketh glad the heart of man,
And oil to make his face to shine,
And bread which strengtheneth man's heart.

ECCLESIASTES 9:7 - DRINK WINE WITH A MERRY HEART

7 Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.

ECCLESIASTES 10:19 - WINE MAKETH MERRY

19 A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things.

PROVERBS 3:9-10 - THE BELIEVER WHO HONORS THE LORD WITH HIS GIVING WILL HAVE AN ABUNDANCE OF WINE

- 9 Honour the Lord with thy substance,
And with the firstfruits of all thine increase:
10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty,
And thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS OF WINE SEEN AS A BLESSING FROM GOD AND AN AID TO MAN

PROVERBS 31:6-7 - THE MEDICINAL USE OF WINE

- 6 Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish,
And wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.
7 Let him drink, and forget his poverty,
And remember his misery no more.

MARK 15:23 - CHRIST WAS OFFERED A PAIN KILLER AT THE CROSS BUT REFUSED IT

- 23 And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.

LUKE 10:34 - WINE USED BY THE GOOD SAMARITAN TO HELP THE WOUNDS

- 34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

1 TIMOTHY 5:23 - DRINK WINE FOR STOMACH PROBLEMS AND OTHER INFIRMITIES

- 23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

ANOTHER STUDY ILLUSTRATING GOD'S BLESSING WOULD BE WINE IN THE MILLENNIUM

1. In the worship
2. In the social lives of believers

JOEL 2:19-24 - WINE WILL BE GIVEN IN ABUNDANCE TO GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE MILLENNIUM

- 19 Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto his people,
Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil,
And ye shall be satisfied therewith:
And I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen:
20 But I will remove far off from you the northern army,

WINE IN THE BIBLE - OFTEN GIVEN AS A GIFT TO OTHERS

1 SAMUEL 16:20 - WINE GIVEN AS A GIFT TO SAUL FROM JESSE - DELIVERED BY HIS SON DAVID

- 20 And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul.

1 SAMUEL 25:18 - ABIGAIL GAVE TWO BOTTLES OF WINE TO DAVID TO SHARE WITH HIS 400 MEN - HOW WOULD TWO BOTTLES SERVE DAVID'S ARMY?

- 18 Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses.

2 SAMUEL 6:18-19 - DAVID BLESSED THE PEOPLE WITH THE GIFT OF WINE WHEN THE NATION CELEBRATED THE ARKS ARRIVAL TO JERUSALEM

- 18 And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts.
- 19 And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house.

1 CHRONICLES 16:3

- 3 And he dealt to every one of Israel, both man and woman, to every one a loaf of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine.

2 SAMUEL 16:1 - MEPHIBOSHETH GAVE DAVID A GIFT OF BREAD, RAISINS, FRUITS AND A BOTTLE OF WINE

- 1 And when David was a little past the top of the hill, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred loaves of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.
- 2 And the king said unto Ziba, What meanest thou by these? And Ziba said, The asses be for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink.

JOHN 2:3-9 - JESUS GAVE THE GIFT OF WINE TO THE POOR COUPLE BEING MARRIED

- 3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.
- 4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

- 5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.
- 6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.
- 7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.
- 8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.
- 9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

SUMMARIZE FROM THESE PASSAGES WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT WINE:

WINE IN THE BIBLE - PRESCRIBED BY GOD TO BE USED IN VARIOUS SACRIFICES - WORSHIP

EXODUS 29:39-41 - ACCOMPANYING THE DAILY MORNING AND EVENING OFFERINGS

- 39 The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even:
- 40 And with the one lamb a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil; and the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering.
- 41 And the other lamb thou shalt offer at even, and shalt do thereto according to the meat offering of the morning, and according to the drink offering thereof, for a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the Lord.

LEVITICUS 29:13 - WINE USED FOR THE DRINK OFFERING

- 13 And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the Lord for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin.

NUMBERS 15:5 - WINE USED FOR THE DRINK OFFERING ACCOMPANYING THE BURNT OFFERING

- 5 And the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering shalt thou prepare with the burnt offering or sacrifice, for one lamb.

NUMBERS 15:7 - WINE USED FOR THE DRINK OFFERING

7 And for a drink offering thou shalt offer the third part of an hin of wine, for a sweet savour unto the Lord.

NUMBERS 15:10 - WINE USED FOR THE DRINK OFFERING

10 And thou shalt bring for a drink offering half an hin of wine, for an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the Lord.

NUMBERS 28:7 - WINE USED FOR THE DRINK OFFERING

7 And the drink offering thereof shall be the fourth part of an hin for the one lamb: in the holy place shalt thou cause the strong wine (*HEBREW - SEKAR, intoxicating drink or fermented drink*) to be poured unto the Lord for a drink offering.

NUMBERS 28:14 - WINE USED FOR THE DRINK OFFERING

14 And their drink offerings shall be half an hin of wine unto a bullock, and the third part of an hin unto a ram, and a fourth part of an hin unto a lamb: this is the burnt offering of every month throughout the months of the year.

1 SAMUEL 1:23-24 - THE WORSHIPPER BROUGHT THE WINE NEEDED FOR THEIR PERSONAL OFFERINGS

23 And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the Lord establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

24 And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the Lord in Shiloh: and the child was young.

MATTHEW 26:27-28 IN THE NEW TESTAMENT - WINE WAS ALSO USED IN CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

SUMMARIZE FROM THESE PASSAGES WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT WINE:

WINE IN THE BIBLE - THE OT BELIEVER WAS COMMANDED TO TITHE THE WINE THAT THEY MADE

DEUTERONOMY 14:23 - TITHING (INCLUDING ONE'S WINE) DEMONSTRATED THAT THE BELIEVER RESPECTED GOD'S WORD AND FEARED THE LORD

23 And thou shalt eat before the Lord thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the Lord thy God always.

NUMBERS 18:12 - THE BELIEVER WAS TO OFFER THEIR BEST WINE

12 All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the firstfruits of them which they shall offer unto the Lord, them have I given thee.

DEUTERONOMY 18:4 - THE BELIEVER WOULD GIVE THE FIRST FRUITS OF HIS WINE IN HIS OBEDIENT WORSHIP OF THE LORD

4 The firstfruit also of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him.

SUMMARIZE FROM THESE PASSAGES WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT WINE:

WINE IN THE BIBLE - THE BELIEVER'S TITHE WAS USED FOR WORSHIP AS WELL AS PROVIDING FOR THE PHYSICAL NEEDS OF THE PRIESTS AND THE LEVITES

1 CHRONICLES 9:29 - THE WINE WAS STORED AT THE TEMPLE FOR THE PERSONAL USE OF THE PRIESTS AND LEVITES

29 Some of them also were appointed to oversee the vessels, and all the instruments of the sanctuary, and the fine flour, and the wine, and the oil, and the frankincense, and the spices.

2 CHRONICLES 31:4-5 - THE WINE WAS GIVEN TO THE PRIESTS TO MEET THEIR PHYSICAL NEEDS AS WELL AS TO BE A SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO THEM

4 Moreover he commanded the people that dwelt in Jerusalem to give the portion of the priests and the Levites, that they might be encouraged in the law of the Lord.

WINE IN THE BIBLE - GUIDELINES AND WARNINGS FOR LEADERS

THE PRIESTS AND LEVITES WERE NOT TO DRINK WINE WHILE THEY WERE ON ACTIVE SERVICE. THEY COULD DRINK WINE WHEN THEY WERE NOT ON DUTY.

LEVITICUS 10:9-11 - WARNINGS TO PRIESTS

- 9** Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:
- 10** And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;
- 11** And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.

ISAIAH 28:7-9 - WARNING TO PRIESTS AND PROPHETS

- 7** But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way;
The priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink,
They are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink;
They err in vision, they stumble in judgment.
- 8** For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness,
So that there is no place clean.
- 9** Whom shall he teach knowledge?
And whom shall he make to understand doctrine?
Them that are weaned from the milk,
And drawn from the breasts.

WINE IN THE BIBLE - THE OLD TESTAMENT KINGS AND PRINCES WERE NOT TO DRINK WINE

PROVERBS 31:1-5 - WARNINGS TO KINGS

- 1** The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.
- 2** What, my son? and what, the son of my womb?
And what, the son of my vows?
- 3** Give not thy strength unto women,
Nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.
- 4** It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine;
Nor for princes strong drink:
- 5** Lest they drink, and forget the law,
And pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.

WINE IN THE BIBLE - THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OFFICERS WERE TO BE EXTREMELY GUARDED REGARDING DRINKING WINE

1 TIMOTHY 3:3 - PASTORS/ELDERS/BISHOPS AND WINE

- 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

Greek word “given” (paroinon) means “addicted to wine,” or to be a drunkard, to live alongside wine as if wine is one’s partner in life. A pastor is not to be an alongsider with wine. The word “given” is an accusative, singular, masculine adjective.

TITUS 1:7

- 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

Greek word “given” is paroinon and is the same word used in 1 Timothy 3:3.

1 TIMOTHY 3:8 - DEACONS AND WINE

- 8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

Greek word “given” (prosechontas) means “take care” or “pay attention to” or “to serve” or “to devote.” Deacons are to be devoted servants, but not devoted to wine and to drink much wine was clearly forbidden. The verb declension is it is a present, active participle, plural, accusative, masculine form.

TITUS 2:3 - QUALIFICATIONS FOR GODLY WOMEN TO MENTOR

- 3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

Greek word “given” (dedoulomenas) and means “to be enslaved” or “bound” or “to be dominated” by wine. Our modern addiction would describe this word. The verb form is a perfect, passive, participle, plural, accusative, feminine. The verb describes a starting point, where someone begins to drink wine, and then continues to drink so that the wine takes over and dominates the life of the individual.

SUMMARIZE FROM THESE PASSAGES WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT WINE:

WINE IN THE BIBLE - THE NAZARITE VOW - DECISION NOT TO DRINK WINE FOR A SET PERIOD OF TIME

THE VOLUNTARY VOW INCLUDED FOR MEN AND WOMEN:

1. Not drinking wine or strong drink - avoiding all grape products and anything related to the "vine tree"
2. No cutting of one's hair - he would let his hair grow long (Jesus was from Nazareth. He was not under a Nazarite vow and consequently did not have long hair. The confusion comes when the interpreter equates being a Nazarene with one being under a Nazarite vow. However, they are two entirely different subjects. Jesus would drink wine and would come in contact with the dead. Safe to say he also cut His hair - He was not a Nazarite.)
3. Not killing anyone and not touching anything that was dead including family members who had died.

The Nazarite vow was a serious commitment to being set apart, separated unto the Lord. It was a time devoted to a unique pursuit of knowing and doing the will of God. It was a time where one looked to God to enable/empower them to do God's work His way. It was an act of surrender, separation, consecration and devotion that would set a believer a part from the temporal and the world.

NUMBERS 6:2-3 - DURING THE SET TIME PERIOD OF THE VOW THE PERSON WAS NOT PERMITTED TO DRINK WINE OR STRONG DRINK

- 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the Lord:
- 3 He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried.
- 20 And the priest shall wave them for a wave offering before the Lord: this is holy for the priest, with the wave breast and heave shoulder: and after that the Nazarite may drink wine.

JUDGES 13:4-7 - SAMSON A NAZARITE FOR LIFE

- 4 Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing:
- 5 For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.
- 6 Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an angel of God, very terrible: but I asked him not whence he was, neither told he me his name:

7 But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

JUDGES 13:13-14 - ZORAH AND MANOAH TOOK A NAZARITE VOW IN ORDER TO HAVE SAMSON

13 And the angel of the Lord said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware.

14 She may not eat of any thing that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all that I commanded her let her observe.

SAMSON WILL SADLY BREAK EVERY RULE RELATED TO A NAZARITE VOW. HIS VIOLATIONS AND LACK OF SEPARATION WOULD LEAD TO GOD’S POWER BEING REMOVED FROM HIS LIFE.

1 SAMUEL 1:11 - SAMUEL A NAZARITE FOR LIFE

11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

LUKE 1:15 - JOHN THE BAPTIST A NAZARITE FOR LIFE

15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb.

ACTS 18:18 - PAUL BRIEFLY ENGAGED IN A NAZARITE VOW

18 And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchræa: for he had a vow.

THE NAZARITE VOW ILLUSTRATES THAT THERE WERE BELIEVERS WHO TOOK SERIOUSLY THEIR WALK WITH GOD, WHO VOLUNTARILY, FOR A SET TIME, VOWED NOT TO DRINK ALCOHOL. AT LEAST THREE FOUR PROMISED NOT TO DRINK A

SUMMARIZE FROM THESE PASSAGES WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT WINE:

WINE IN THE BIBLE - THE RECHABITE VOW

JEREMIAH 35:1-10

- 1 The word which came unto Jeremiah from the Lord in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying,
- 2 Go unto the house of the Rechabites, and speak unto them, and bring them into the house of the Lord, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink.
- 3 Then I took Jaazaniah the son of Jeremiah, the son of Habaziah, and his brethren, and all his sons, and the whole house of the Rechabites;
- 4 And I brought them into the house of the Lord, into the chamber of the sons of Hanan, the son of Igdaliah, a man of God, which was by the chamber of the princes, which was above the chamber of Maaseiah the son of Shallum, the keeper of the door:
- 5 And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pots full of wine, and cups, and I said unto them, Drink ye wine.
- 6 But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever:
- 7 Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have any: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye be strangers.
- 8 Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our father in all that he hath charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, nor our daughters;
- 9 Nor to build houses for us to dwell in: neither have we vineyard, nor field, nor seed:
- 10 But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed, and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us.

THE RECHABITE VOW HAS THESE ELEMENTS:

1. A father who was concerned for his kids and did not want them to ever drink wine. The reasons for this mandate are not given, but can only be surmised.
2. The children to obey, honor and please their father vowed not to drink wine their entire lives. It was a promise based upon the Fifth Commandment, where these children wanted to honor their father.
3. Jehoiakim, the king of Judah, tested their resolve by putting before the house of the Rechabites a rather open bar. The Rechabites did not yield to the king's invitation and demonstrated their obedience. This obedience was what was lacking in Judah and would lead to the nations demise. In this narrative, the Rechabites were being commended as the example for the nation to follow when it came to the nation honoring God and the faith of their fathers.
4. There is a place today for the believer to consider making a vow of abstinence to God our Father. (I have made such a vow that I will not drink alcohol socially in this

life and if I did I have asked God to strike me dead for breaking my vow.) There is a place today as a parent to challenge your children to make such a vow.

SUMMARIZE FROM THESE PASSAGES WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT WINE:

WINE IN THE BIBLE - THE WARNINGS

PROVERBS 20:1 - WINE IS A MOCKER - DON'T BE TRICKED BY IT!

20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging:
And whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

PROVERBS 21:17 - DON'T LIVE LIFE TO PARTY AND TO LOVE TO DRINK

17 He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man:
He that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.

HOSEA 3:1 - DON'T LET PARTYING AND DRINKING WINE BECOME YOUR GOD

3:1 Then said the Lord unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the Lord toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.

ISAIAH 28:1 A WOE IS PRONOUNCED UPON THE DRUNKARDS

28:1 Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim,
Whose glorious beauty is a fading flower,
Which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!

JEREMIAH 23:9 - THE DRUNK SHAKES AND IS OVERCOME

9 Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets;
All my bones shake;
I am like a drunken man,
And like a man whom wine hath overcome,
Because of the Lord, and because of the words of his holiness.

HOSEA 4:11 - WINE CAN LEAD YOUR HEART AWAY FROM GOD

11 Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.

AN INTERESTING STUDY WOULD BE TO STUDY THE MANY VERSES DEALING WITH GOD'S JUDGMENT WHERE GOD DRAWS AN ANALOGY FROM GRAPES, WINE, ETC.

REVELATION 14:8 - DRINK THE WINE OF THE WRATH OF HER FORNICATION

- 8** And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

REVELATION 14:10 - DRINK OF THE WINE OF THE WRATH OF GOD

- 10** The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

WINE IN THE BIBLE - THE DRUNKS AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR DRUNKENNESS

PLEASE SEE SEPARATE STUDY ON THIS TOPIC. IT CITES THE PASSAGES OF NEARLY EVERY DRUNK PERSON IN THE BIBLE BY NAME AS WELL AS THE HORRIFIC CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR CHOICES TO GET DRUNK!

WINE IN THE BIBLE - SUMMARY

In view of what the Bible teaches regarding wine:

- 1) Wine a sign of God's blessing to His people, a gift from God
- 2) Wine given as a gift to others
- 3) Wine used sacrificially with certain offerings and used for the drink offering
- 4) Wine was to be tithed to sustain the livelihood of the priests and Levites
- 5) Wine was not to be drunk by the priests when serving in the office
- 6) Wine was not to be drunk by kings and princes - those that govern
- 7) Wine was not to dominate, or control the lives of pastors, deacons, and those who sought to have an effective mentoring role in the lives of others
- 8) To safeguard wine having a negative impact on the personal life of a believer, a believer could vow to abstain for a set period of time or for life.
- 9) The Bible presents many warnings regarding the use of wine/alcohol. The Bible is emphatic that drinking to excess, drinking too "much," being drunk is sin.
- 10) The Bible presents a number of examples of people who got drunk and the horrific consequences.
- 11) The Bible instructs that the loving believer will not drink if it might be a stumbling block to a weaker believer.

- 12) The discerning believer recognizes that there are many differences between the culture of the Bible and our American culture in the 21st Century. Several differences that must factor into one's decisions relating to alcohol:
- 1) Current laws (i.e. drinking age laws - to violate would be sin)
 - 2) The dangers of driving a car inebriated versus riding home drunk on a donkey. The large number of people killed each year as the result of drunk drivers is an unparalleled number not seen in Bible times.
 - 3) The understanding that current distilling practices inflate the alcoholic percentages of certain beverages beyond anything imaginable in Bible times.
 - 4) To understand that the Jewish practice regarding drinking wine was to dilute the wine with water. This would reduce the percentage of alcohol in a drink and the effect it would have on the person drinking. It effected the kidneys more than the mind.
 - 5) To understand that wine was very expensive in the ancient world, Whereas in today's world one can affordably secure larger quantities of alcohol.
 - 6) In many parts of the world the ancient world water was not safe to drink. The use of wine, in some cases, would be the safer beverage when the water supply was unhealthy. Today, we have incredible access to safe drinking water and many other non-alcoholic beverages. (1 Timothy 5:23, Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.)
 - 7) Today, more than ever, drinking alcohol is glorified by the world. The focus is not on responsible drinking, but drinking for the effect. Wine is not typically viewed as a gift from God to enjoy responsibly, but as a means to an end, to be controlled by a substance to fulfill the lusts of the eye, the lusts of the flesh and the pride of life.
 - 8) Today, we have believers who are very proud of their drinking liberties and who belittle believers who have chosen not to drink alcohol. This superior and critical attitude would be more pronounced today than in Bible times.
 - 9) History of American Christianity and how Christians were viewed who drank alcohol. Conservative, born-again believers largely held to an abstinence position. The world would in many cases state this was one difference between a Christian and a non-believer: the one did not drink alcohol and the other did. They had the perception that good Christians did not drink and did not get drunk. These practices and views are changing rapidly with the major shift within conservative Christian circles to embrace social drinking.
 - 10) Second, third and fourth generation Christians have been typically removed from the nasty consequences of alcohol abuse. Often the first generation Christian had problems with alcohol and are very aware of the dangers of alcohol. They often have moved to an abstinence position. Their children and grandchildren are naive to the first-hand dangers of the misuse of alcohol. Often they think they can handle it and jump right into social drinking. The fruit of this spirit is going to lead to much heart ache.

MY PERSONAL VIEW AND PRACTICE REGARDING ALCOHOL

I acknowledge that wine was seen favorably as a gift from God to His people in the Old Testament. I also acknowledge that wine was used in a very special way in the worship of God in compliance to the OT sacrificial system. Wine was very much a part of the culture of Israel. It was to be enjoyed, but not abused. Drunkenness was condemned in both the Old and New Testaments. The concerns for such abuse are clearly seen in the specific warnings to those in leadership in the theocracy (kings/ princes and priests/Levites) as well to the New Testament office holders. Leadership is held to a very high standard when it comes to the use of alcohol.

The Scriptures give two different vows that relate to a believer's voluntary choice to abstain from alcohol use to safeguard one's testimony and to focus especially on one's walk with God and ministry opportunities. Those two vows open the door to any believer to choose to abstain from alcohol so that they can, in their conscience, honor God and where appropriate man (i.e. a father - Jeremiah 35). In both of those vows, the believer making them, would be in the minority when it came to the practice of most believers as it related to drinking alcohol. They were not looked down at for their personal decisions or convictions. They would likely have been looked at with respect for their choices. For those who made such vows (i.e. Nazarite, Rechabite), you do not see them campaigning against those who were not under such vows. There appears to be a mutual understanding as to the individual's choices as it relates to alcohol use. Both groups would also agree Biblically, that to drink in excess to drunkenness is sin and forbidden in the Scriptures. In view of these relationships and issues, the matter of alcohol use is left to the individual believer to determine. My appeal would be to take heed to the warnings and do the loving thing when it comes to others so that a believer would never cause another brother to stumble when it comes to alcohol use. I would also go one more step, as stated in this document, we do have some new variables in the 21st century that should cause the believer to at least evaluate in the process to formulate a personal view. In view of all factors, I believe the abstinence position is the safest position for a Christian to take and a sacrifice that does not seem to be burdensome. I can wait to the millennium to drink of the fruit of the vine. As for now, I will echo and cling to the words of Jesus on the eve of His crucifixion, **"I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come (Luke 22:18)."**

DESCRIBE YOUR PERSONAL VIEW OF THE USE OF ALCOHOL AS A BELIEVER - IF STILL PROCESSING WHAT ARE WEIGHING OUT?

TITLE: WHO IS HAVING PROBLEMS WITH ALCOHOL AND WANTS HELP?

INTRODUCTION:

1. Often the lure of unfaithful women and alcohol are advertised together.
2. The eyes are the gate by which women and wine seduce the heart.
3. The chiasmic catchwords are “your eyes/heart” . . . “your heart/eyes” (23:26, 33).
At the center of the chiasm is the command not to yield to wine’s temptation.
4. SAYING #19 of THIRTY IN THIS UNIT

(23:29) Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

1. The question is in 23:29; the answer is found in the next verse.
2. There are six questions.
3. The description of the person’s flashing eyes.
4. The full portrait of a drunk is described.
5. Drunkenness is not a disease; it is a sin. It is a choice. It is a choice that leads to many premature deaths.
 - a. 20% of freezing deaths are alcohol-related.
 - b. 25% of choking deaths are alcohol-related.
 - c. 50% of deaths from falls are alcohol-related.
 - d. 52% of fire deaths are alcohol-related.
 - e. 60% of suicides are alcohol-related.
 - f. 64% of murders are alcohol-related.
 - g. 72% of robberies and assaults are alcohol-related.
 - h. 60% of rapes are alcohol-related.
 - i. 80% of criminal court cases are alcohol-related.

(23:30) They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

1. This verse answers the six questions in 23:29. In the final question, is better “dullness” (of eyes) rather than “*redness of eyes.*” This is the dullness produced in one who imbibed too much alcohol.
2. These difficulties fall upon those who give themselves to drink – to alcohol.
3. They “*tarry long*” over the wine and “seek mixed wine.” This last is literally “those who go to search (i.e. taste) mixed wine.” Apparently, this refers to wine mixed with spices to enhance its flavor.
4. Do not mess with the wine to make it more spicy, potent, and enjoyable by mixing it with honey and spices (Isaiah 5:11). Do not linger, delay, hesitate around wine. We would say hang out with wine.
5. The word “wine” is found 233 times in 213 verses.

(23:31) Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, *when* it moveth itself aright.

1. Since the wine can produce such bad effects, the young man should avoid it. He should not be overcome by its attractive appearance, described as “*red*.” Advertisements make booze look so good.
2. The undiluted wine can have a deep, rich red color, attractive to the eye.
3. The phrase “*colour in the cup*,” is literally “eye in the cup.” This metaphor is used to describe the appearance of the wine. The eye is the window to the soul, a barometer of inner feelings, and here, so applied to the wine, the vehicle for conveying its attractiveness.
4. The final phrase, “*when it moveth itself aright*” is better rendered “when it goes (down the throat) smoothly.”
5. Do not let wine work its charm in your heart and life.
6. Do not become addicted to wine. Do not abuse alcohol. Do not be charmed by its color, its sparkle, its goblet’s shape, or its delectable taste as it glides down smoothly.

(23:32) At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

1. Booze called “King Cobra!”
2. Though the wine may be attractive because of its appearance, there is a disastrous end to those who indulge in it.
3. The verb “*stingeth*” occurs only here.
4. The wine kicks, bites like a snake.
5. Snake in the verse is escalated to a poisonous viper; wine’s danger is hidden and lethal – deadly.
6. It will bite, and when it does, it is deadly like a viper.

(23:33) Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

1. Alcohol may cause one to hallucinate, to see “strange things” (rather than “*strange women*”).
2. The mind will bring forth “*perverse things*.”
3. Wine’s nightmarish effects are depicted.
4. Wine is delusional and perverse.
5. Incredible sights when drunk or drugged up!
6. A drunk cannot speak straight and cannot see straight.
7. The drunk loses touch with reality.
8. There is a strong connection between alcohol and immorality.
9. The vile and vulgar things people say when they are drunk.

(23:34) Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

1. The passage closes with two illustrations. The intoxicated person is like a person lying down on a ship in the midst of the sea.

2. The swells passing under the ship cause him to move back and forth, a disagreeable feeling to one who is drunk.
3. He is also like a man lying on top of a “*mast*.” Since the context relates to the sea, “*rigging*” expresses the sense well. Sleeping on a pile of rope, the man is uncomfortable.
4. Alcohol makes you oblivious to the dangers around you and to the real world around you.
5. The drunk exposes himself to unnecessary dangers and risks.

(23:35) They have stricken me, *shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.*

1. To show the drunkard's incoherent thinking process, Solomon pictures him as talking to himself of his recent experience.
2. He has been struck by someone, but he has not become “*sick*,” he has been beaten, yet he did not know it.
3. So enslaved is he to drink that he expresses his longing even before he is fully awakened.
4. Been beaten but feels no pain.
5. Gets in a fight, gets beat up, and feels no pain. This is foolishness, insanity.
6. “Men first trample the grapes and makes wine, then the wine tramples the man and makes fools.” Senn
7. The passage describes the habitual drinker. They do this insanity and then do it all over again.
8. The drunkard discovers the next day his bruises and scars. He may not even be able to tell you what happened the night before.

SUMMARIZE FROM THESE PASSAGES WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT WINE:

I HAVE PROBLEMS WITH ALCOHOL OR A CHEMICAL ADDICTION: _____

I WANT HELP! _____ IF SO, Please take the 3 x 5 card and say, “I want help.” Please give us your name, phone number and email address on the card. We will follow up with a call and/or an email to share the details about the FREEDOM THAT LASTS ministry we are hoping to start in the near future.