

IN THE BEGINNING



As man came forth from the hand of his Creator, he was of lofty stature and perfect symmetry. His countenance bore the ruddy tint of health and glowed with the light of life and joy.

“And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and keep it.” [Gen 2:15]

In this garden were trees of every variety many of them laden with fragrant and delicious fruit. There were lovely vines growing upright yet presenting a most graceful appearance with their branches drooping under their load of fruit of the richest and most varied hues. It was the work of Adam and Eve to train the branches of the vine to form bowers, thus making a dwelling from living trees covered with foliage and fruit. The blue heaven was its dome; the earth with its delicate flowers and carpet of living green was its floor; and the leafy branches of the goodly trees were its canopy. Its walls were hung with the most magnificent adorning – the handiwork of the great Master Artist. Eden bloomed on earth. No taint of sin marred the fair creation. The great Jehovah had laid the foundations of the earth; He had dressed the whole world in the garb of beauty and had filled it with things useful to man. **“And God saw everything that He had made and behold it was very good.”** [Gen 1:31]

To dress and keep this garden was not a wearisome occupation but pleasant and invigorating. The Creator prepared no place for the stagnating practice of indolence. Their intellectual powers were but little less than that

of angels. They held converse with leaf and flower and tree, gathering from each the secrets of life. On every leaf of the forest God’s name was written. The sinless pair wore no artificial garments; they were clothed with a covering of light and glory.

Eating fruit from the Tree of Knowledge had been made a test of their obedience and love to God. There was but one prohibition in all the vast creation. Satan chose to employ as his medium the serpent. The serpent was then one of the wisest and most beautiful creatures on the earth. It had wings and while flying through the air presented an appearance of dazzling brightness, having the color of brilliancy of burnished gold. Resting in the richly laden branches of the forbidden tree and regaling itself with the tempting fruit, it was an object to delight the eye of the beholder.

Eve soon found herself gazing with mingled curiosity upon the forbidden tree. The fruit was very beautiful and she questioned herself why God would withhold it from them. Instead of fleeing from the spot she lingered wonderingly to hear a serpent speak. **“Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”**

[Gen 3: 4,5] The serpent plucked the fruit and placed it in the hands of the half-reluctant Eve. Perceiving no evil results from touching the fruit she did eat. She seemed to feel a vivifying power and imagined herself entering upon a higher state of existence. And now having transgressed she became the agent of Satan in working the ruin of her husband.



Adam's love, gratitude and loyalty to his Creator were overborne by his love to Eve. He could not endure the thought of separation. He resolved to share her fate; if she must die, he would die with her. Adam decided to brave the consequences, seized the fruit and quickly ate. The robe of light which enshrouded them now disappeared and the air seemed to chill the guilty pair. Adam endeavored to cast the blame upon his wife and God: **"The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat."** [Gen 3:12] Eve's response was also to lay blame: **"The serpent beguiled me and I did eat."** [Gen 3:13]

Announcement of the penalty of transgression was swift. The beautiful serpent, the jewel of creatures, was relegated to become the most groveling and detested of them all lest he forever mock mankind flying overhead in superiority. Evolutionists claim the snake has appendages proving it once flew. **"Upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life."** [Gen 3:14]



Satan's immortality was prophesied to come to an end on a lonely hill: **"I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; It shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise His heel."** [Gen 3:15]

Eve's harmonious union with her husband could only be maintained while she remained in subjection: **"Thy desire shall be to thy husband and he shall rule over thee."**

[Gen 3:16] Adam's lot would also serve as his protection: **"Cursed is the ground for thy**

sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

[Gen 3: 17-19]

Heavenly angels were hastily commissioned to guard the tree of life lest sin be perpetually immortalized. None of the family of Adam was permitted to pass by their glittering swords to continue to eat of the tree of eternal life. Adam and Eve in a state of conscious guilt for their disobedience were instructed to leave the Garden of Eden. In unutterable sadness they bade farewell to their beautiful home and went forth to dwell upon the earth where now rested the curse of sin. The Lord mercifully clothed them with garments of animal skin for warmth. As they witnessed the drooping flower and falling leaf in the first signs of decay, Adam and his companion mourned more deeply than men now mourn their dead. The death of the frail, delicate flowers was indeed a cause of sorrow; but when the goodly trees cast off their leaves the scene brought vividly to mind the stern fact that death is the portion of every living thing.



The Garden of Eden remained upon the earth long after man had become an outcast from its pleasant paths. The fallen race was permitted to gaze upon the cherubim guarded home of innocence. Hither came Adam and his sons to worship, renewing their vows of obedience. Only when the tide of iniquity overspread the world resulting in its destruction by a flood of waters did the hand that had planted Eden withdraw it from the earth. In the final restitution when there shall be a **"New heaven and a new earth"** [Rev 21:1] Eden will be more gloriously adorned than at the beginning.

Through unending ages the inhabitants of sinless worlds shall behold in that garden of delight a sample of the perfect work of God's creation, untouched by the curse of sin – a sample of what the earth would have become had man but fulfilled the Creator's glorious plan.

Proof that the Antediluvian race prior to the flood had perverted God's original creation by turning the pure fruit of the vine into fermented spirits is verified by the fact that Antediluvian lives mirror those of a drunkard – fierce, evil, disrespectful, scoffers, corrupt, immoral, and pleasure seekers disobedient unto their own destruction. God was dealing with a world full of eight hundred year old giant drunkards steeped in idol worship. **“Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”** [Gen 6:5] Jesus summed up the first stage of humanity in simplicity: **“They did eat, they drank.”** [Lk 17:27] We can rest assured it was not the pure unfermented grape juice this gluttonous generation drank. Alcohol helped mar God's humanity made in His image to the place where God finally decreed: **“I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; for it repenteth Me that I have made them.”** [Gen 6:7]



“As it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man.” [Lk 17:26] The days spoken of by Jesus refer to the state of man prior to His Second Coming. Nary can a movie be made or a book written by the secular mind in which the flask of spirits is not prominently displayed in the hand of weak sops. Not a sports game or a good time can seemingly be had without the blessing of the insidious spirit industry devoted to destroying men's lives.

WORDS FOR WINE



The Dictionary Reference defines wine in the English language as being:

1. an alcoholic drink produced from fruits and flowers fermented with water and sugar
2. an intoxicating, cheering or invigorating effect
3. **fermented** grape juice containing an alcohol content of 14% or less together with ethers and esters that give it bouquet and flavour
4. **unfermented** juice of various fruits or plants

The strong English inference is that wine is a fermented alcoholic beverage most of the time but leaves the door open, in rare cases, for the use of unfermented wine. When we read an English translation of the Bible only one word appears – *wine* – for all circumstances. In the ancient Hebrew Bible the word use of wine suggests many different meanings:

HEBREW (Old Testament)

Aciyc - fresh, squeezed out juice; new, just trodden out, sweet wine
Chamar - to ferment with scum; to glow with redness; trouble
Chemar - wine as fermenting; pure, red wine
Cobe - a drink, especially alcoholic beverage; drinking party; carousal; drunken; tipsy
Enab - to bear fruit; grape, ripe grape
Mamcak - wine mixture, as with water, spices; drink offering

Shekar - intoxicant; intensely alcoholic liquor; strong drink; drunkard

Tiyrosh - rarely fermented; expulsion of fresh grape juice; new sweet wine

Yayin - To give off bubbles of gas, as in fermenting liquors (effervesce); intoxication, banqueting, winebibber; rare reference to unfermented wine



GREEK (New Testament)

Glenkos - sweet wine; fresh juice; also highly inebriating fermented wine

Killayown - consumption; falling; destruction; pining

Oinos - wine, literal or figuratively

AFTER THE FLOOD

However long it took for Noah to plant a vineyard then wait for its harvest after the flood is open to speculation. What isn't questioned is what Noah did with the first harvest of grapes. Perhaps it was the witness of devastation caused by the flood to a landscape which barely resembled the earth they once knew that weakened his resolve to remain faithfully pure. Everywhere were strewn the dead bodies of men and beasts. The turbid seas were blown by violent winds and shifted to cover their remains. A world that formerly knew no rain was now mostly covered in water. The earth presented an appearance of confusion and desolation impossible to describe. The mountains, once so beautiful in their perfect symmetry, were jagged and irregular. Temperatures were now extreme compared with the terrarium-style existence enjoyed prior to the flood. The earth itself was

now tilted exposing the frigid barrenness of the north and south poles. Among the buried remains were fermenting forests and massive decay creating extensive coal beds which mixed with lime and water frequently ignited resulting in earthquakes and volcanic eruptions above its surface. These natural phenomenon were God's chosen agent to alert the inhabitants that the end of this earth is inevitable. Perhaps the immense responsibility resting upon the shoulders of the last patriarch of the Antediluvian age were too much for him to bear. Noah **"became heir of the righteousness which is by faith"** [Heb 11:7] having passed from Adam to Enoch to Methuselah, but he also succumbed to the temptations of the Antediluvian race by dulling his senses to reality through the use of fermented spirits.

"And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine, and was drunken." [Gen 9: 20, 21]



One could say that Noah discovered the art of winemaking after harvesting the vineyard but chances are more likely that the Patriarch had enjoyed a nip or two on the other side of the flood which would have been more in harmony with the social norms of the dark Antediluvians. Thus, Noah is the first recorded drunkard in Scripture by name. The world would have been a better place had Noah discontinued the intricate art of winemaking this side of the flood. As so often is the case whenever alcohol is involved, shame and embarrassment closely followed: **"And he was uncovered within his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father ..."** [Gen 9:20-23]

THE PATRIARCH JOB



In the oldest recorded book of the Bible, the patriarch Job was so concerned over his son's feasting with wine that he made sacrifices for them continually. **"His sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually."** [Job 1: 4,5]

And so it has ever been the pattern of concerned parents to fret over the wayfaring ways of their children involved with alcohol. They offer intercessory prayer when their reasoning and pleadings are ignored. Deep down inside parents know cursing God and alcohol go hand in hand. Satan was very present in this case and nothing has changed as he continually seeks the destruction of our loved ones with alcohol his favorite medium.

"And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine [*yayin - fermented*] in their eldest brother's house." [Job 1:13] Satan's fury was unleashed without reserve and a servant carried the sad news to their father Job: **"Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: and behold there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead."** [Job 1: 18,19]

Every circumstance differs but how many God

fearing parents have lost their precious offspring when one common denominator was present – alcohol - which numbs the senses and invites the devil's wrath.

MELCHISEDEK & ABRAM

The King of Elam and allies had invaded Sodom and Gomorrah and among those taken captive were Abram's nephew Lot and his family. Abram organized a small army and surprised the victorious Elamites whom had given themselves up to reveling which resulted in their utter destruction. Abram turned down the opportunity to claim the spoils of rich booty and subsequent indebtedness to the King of Sodom by saying **"I will not take from a thread even to a shoe latchet ... lest thou shalt say I have made Abram rich."** [Gen 14:23]

In a type of Christ, Melchisedek, King of Salem (which would eventually become Jerusalem) came forth: **"And Melchisedek, King of Salem, brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he said, *blessed be Abram.*"** [Gen 14:18, 19] Abram responded by paying tithes to the king. Later in the seventh of the Book of Hebrews, Paul used this story to illustrate how Abraham's offspring Levi paid tithes while he was still in his father's loins; thus proving Jesus was qualified to be Israel's heavenly High Priest even though He was from the tribe of Judah.



Likewise, Melchisedek had no beginning or end of priestly Jewish lineage (Levi) and was yet superior to Abram (father of the priesthood). This event was also a forerunner of the communion service of the Last Supper where bread and wine were brought forth. The word used for wine here is *yayin – fermented with a rare instance of*

being unfermented. It is our conclusion that this was the rare case due to the direct implications pointing forward to our Savior whose life on earth was typified by unleavened bread and unfermented wine.

God used the life of Abraham to define the Two Covenants. At his best, Abraham typifies all that is well in the New Covenant experience: **“He believed in the Lord; and He counted it to him for righteousness.”** [Gen 15:6] Nowhere in the gospel does salvation get any simpler or purer than this declaration.

At his worst, Abraham typifies Old Testament living which was rife with polygamy, divorce, slavery, prostitution, an eye for an eye, murders, and stoning for sinners. As difficult as it is for modern Christians to understand, the Israelite lifestyle was conservative compared to the undisciplined heathen nations surrounding them. Drinking alcohol became a way of life for God’s chosen people. Winepresses abounded, and often the primary determination of Israel appeared to be the harvest of a good crop of grapes for wine making. God’s people resorted to drinking mixed wines and strong drink to ease the burden of life. There appears to be no abstainers among the patriarchs, other than those who took a vow of abstinence or who were in mourning. In the many situations of Scripture where fermented alcohol is involved - rare is a positive result. Unsanctified living was never God’s final plan. Hard-hearted Old Covenant followers were tolerant of alcohol and many other sins. Old Covenant lifestyles are not time sensitive divided neatly by the Cross. Unfortunately, there are legions of Old Covenant believers wandering around today, bottle in hand, with much sin resulting. **“But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound ... What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid.”**

[Rom 5:20; 6:1, 2]

LOT IN SODOM

Lot’s peril was due to his selfishness in formerly choosing the best land for himself when he **“pitched his tent towards Sodom.”** [Gen 13:12] Rescued once from his experience in Sodom, Lot returns to the most sinful city in the world.

Like so many modern cities, Sodom was rife with mirth and revelry, feasting and drunkenness. The vilest and most brutal passions were unrestrained. The inhabitants of Sodom had passed the limits of divine forbearance and the fires of God’s vengeance were about to be kindled in the vale of Siddim. Jesus summed up the fate of Sodom with those who perished in the flood in these few words: **“Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank.”** [Lk 17:28] Men marvel at the immorality flaunted in today’s society. Look no further than the influence of alcoholic beverages. It loosens men’s morals to less than those of brute beasts. The end result of the sinful Sodomites parallels that class of wine bibbers living in our day oblivious to the signs of the times all around them.

“It rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.” [Lk 17: 29,30] **“And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him. And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth: Come let us make our father drink wine [yayin - fermented], and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.”**

[Gen 19:30-38]



By the days of Abraham’s nephew Lot, alcohol was so common that his daughters simply had to persuade their father to drink existing wine stocks. How drunk must Lot have been to not recognize his own daughters (we give him the benefit of the doubt) throw all decency to the wind and engage in an immoral act? Two sons born through this debauchery formed two

nations, the Moabites and the Ammonites who later became the bitterest enemies of the Hebrew race.

LOW STANDARDS

The Jews turned to wine and strong drink for their happiness. **“And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry [tithe of increase of seed] ... Then shalt thou turn [tithe] into money ... And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after ... for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy should desireth: and thou shalt rejoice, thou and thine household.”**

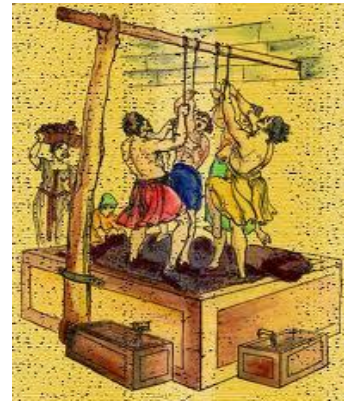
[Deut 14:24-26] This counsel to purchase strong drink, as their souls lusted after, is along the lines of God allowing situations such as polygamy, divorce and slavery. Low was the patriarch standards compared with NT believers and Christians today.

“The spoiler is fallen upon thy summer fruits and upon thy vintage ... and I have caused wine to fail from the winepresses: none shall tread with shouting; their shouting shall be no shouting.” [Jer 48:33] It is hard to imagine anything today, short of someone winning the lottery, where shouting for joy is the norm. But such was the reward for harvesting the pure fruit in the making of fermented wine. Hard punishment to the Old Covenant heart is the taking away of their wine. It is like taking a soother away from a baby, candy from a child, or the bottle from the drunkard. Be certain a rebellion will ensue.

“The Lord of hosts shall defend them and they shall drink [shathah - imbibe, drunk] and make a noise as through wine [yayin - fermented]. And the Lord God shall save them in that day as the flock of His people.” [Zech 9:15,16] If anyone doubts the mercy of God in the Old Testament, look no further than this verse which demonstrates God’s willingness to save a polygamous, murderous, often idolatrous, nation of drunks. Once saved by grace, it was God’s plan to sanctify this people.

Buying and selling wine had become vital to the Jewish economy. **“Judah, and the land of Israel, they were thy merchants: they traded in thy market. Damascus was thy merchant**

in the multitude of the wares of thy making, for the multitude of all riches ... in the wine of Helbon, and white wool.” [Ez 27:17,18]



“Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor ... ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them.” [Amos 5:11] Those who oppress the poor shall not reap the joy of drinking wine.

Symbolically, the Jews were given every conceivable clue to their Messiah but when He came they rejected the Husbandman of the vineyard.

Examine these Old Testament qualifications for suggested alcohol consumption in Proverbs 31 verses 6 & 7: **“Give strong drink unto him ...**

[1] **Ready to perish** - A person who is on his deathbed without hope in the resurrection.

Christians do not call out for liquor as they lay on their deathbed dying. This is more in harmony with the practice of mercifully giving stupefying drink to those criminals in great pain who were being crucified

[2] **wine unto those that be of heavy hearts** - Those who do not trust in Jesus to lift the burden of a heavy heart. The KJV Bible margin on this verse suggests *heavy hearts* are those *bitter of soul*.

[3] **Let him drink, and forget his poverty** - those who do not trust in God’s promises to deliver from temporal want.

[4] **Remember his misery no more** - If someone told you that victorious Christian living consisted of possessing heavy hearts living in poverty and misery - who would join this movement? Fermented drink is for the weak in mind, body and spirit.

THE PRIESTHOOD



The priesthood was set apart to be holy, as defined in great detail in the books of Moses. The Apostles would later grasp onto these illustrations to prove that Christians are peculiar people set apart for holy living. They would be followers of Jesus living in this world, but not of it. **“And the Lord spake unto Aaron, Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation ... that ye may put difference between holy, and between unclean and clean.”**

[Lev 10:9,10] In the face of widespread alcohol use, God places restrictions on the holy priesthood, setting them apart from the common people, so they would be able to discern His will. **“Neither shall any priest drink wine, when they enter into the inner court.”** [Ez 44:21] **“And this shall be the priest’s due from the people, from them that offer a sacrifice, whether it be ox or sheep ... the first fruit also of thy wine.”** [Deut 18:3,4]

Worshippers brought the first fruits of unfermented wine, not the fermented by-product of the grape.

Strangely, we do find an instance where fermented wine was used in the sanctuary services: **“and the fourth part of a hin of wine (yayin - meaning fizz or sparkle, as in intoxicated) for a drink offering.”** [Ex 29:40] Fermentation is likened in the Bible to sin, as in the leavened bread versus the unleavened. We need look no further as to why God would order fermented spirits to be used in the holy services:

“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” [2 Cor 5:21] Christ suffered the death which was ours, so that we might receive the life which was His; with His stripes we are healed.

ELI THE PRIEST

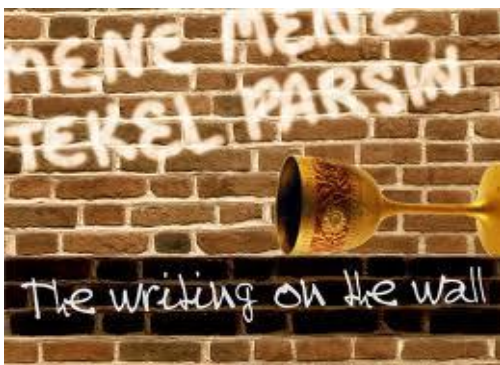


“Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. And Eli said unto her, “How long wilt thou be drunken? Put away thy wine from thee. And Hannah answered and said, “No my lord ... I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink.” [1 Sam 1:14,15] Eli the priest, wrongfully accuses Hannah of drinking fermented beverages, something both seemed quite familiar referencing. Hannah’s response shows how common and widespread drinking alcohol was in ancient Israel, even amongst the women.

RULERS

“Now the name of the man was Nabal ... the man was churlish and evil in his doings. And Abigail came to Nabal; and behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal’s heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken.” [1 Sam 25:37] We clearly see the feasts of kings were steeped in drunkenness. Nabal was hung over from drinking when a heart attack suddenly ended his life.

BELSHAZZAR



“Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand. Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone. In that same hour came forth fingers of a man’s hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace. Then was Daniel brought in before the king ... This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians ... In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Mede took the kingdom.”

[Daniel Chapter 5]

Thus ended the reign of Babylon, the first of four kingdoms prophesied to rule the world. [Dan 2: 37-40] Alcohol was a key factor in its overthrow. As there was a Witness at the feast of Babylon, there is also a Witness in every scene of sacrilegious mirth, recording the names of those weighed in the balances of eternity.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

The third prophesied world kingdom was Greece. Even though the Grecian armies were

symbolized by the speed of the leopard, their leader, Alexander the Great, could not outrun the ravages of alcohol abuse. This emperor died in his mid-thirties in a drunken stupor before he could enjoy the spoils of global rule. Alexander conquered the world, but in the end alcohol conquered him. “Alexander is said to have wept that he had not another world to conquer but for what? That he might do well to his fellow-men, bless and elevate the race? No; but to gratify his own insatiable thirst for power, and to pander to his ungovernable lusts. With contemptible arrogance, he claimed for himself divine honors. He himself often murdered his own friends and favorites in his drunken frenzies. He encouraged such excessive drinking among his followers that on one occasion, twenty of them together died as the result of their carousal. At length, he, having sat through one long drinking spree, was immediately invited to another, when, after drinking to each of the twenty guests present, he twice drank full the Herculean cup containing six of our quarts. He thereupon fell down, seized with a violent fever, of which in a few days after he died in the very prime of life.



Such was Alexander, whom the fulsome pages of history style “The Great.” If vice, cruelty, and vain-glory, and love of power, and thirst for blood, constitute greatness, he was great; if otherwise, he was a monster because his powers of mind, some of which he possessed to a remarkable degree, were prostituted to unholy ends.” [Daniel & Revelation, Uriah Smith]

KING DAVID



It is wondered how the shepherd boy, a man after God's own heart, could commit adultery and murder, then lust after wives and concubines. The following verses establish David's pattern of drinking fermented spirits, devilishly designed to loosen any man's morals.

"The servant of Mephibosheth met him with a bottle of wine [yayin - fermented] that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink."

[2 Sam 16:1,2] **"And [David] dealt the whole multitude of Israel bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine" [yayin - fermented]**

[2 Sam 6:19] By the time of David's ascent to the throne, wine and feasting were an established way of life for most of the chosen nation. **"And all the rest of Israel were of one heart to make David king. And there they were with David three days, eating and drinking." [shathah - drunk]** [1 Chr 12:40]

"And over the king's treasures and over the vineyards was Shimei: over the increase of the vineyards for the wine cellars was Zabdi." [1 Chr 27:27] David was overseer of the world class wine cellars at Jerusalem.

"That He may bring forth wine [yayin - fermented] that maketh glad the heart of a man." [Ps 104:15]

The king's participation with alcoholic spirits did not quench the work of the Spirit in telling David what is right and wrong. **"For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and He poureth**

out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them." [Ps 75:8] **"Thou hast shown Thy people hard things: Thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment."** [Ps 60:3] The NAS version reads, **"Thou hast given us wine to drink that makes us stagger ... Then the Lord awaked as one out of sleep, and like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine."** [Ps 78:65] Anyone who has ever witnessed a drunken man awake in a rage knows how fearful a sight this can be.

Like father, like son, David's offspring continued in his spirit-abusing and often sinful footsteps: **"Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, 'Mark ye now when Ammon's heart is merry with wine [yayin - fermented] and when I say unto you, Smite Ammon; then kill him.'" [2 Sam 13:28]** Ammon, brother of Absalom, was obviously a pattern drinker of fermented wine. Ammon's vulnerability through drunkenness preceded his jealous murder by his own brother.

KING SOLOMON

Solomon's reign was stained with the use of spirits. Alcohol abuse peaked during the apostasy of Solomon. Under his leadership, seeds were planted for the eventual break up of the kingdom of Israel, from which she never recovered. How much alcohol was a factor in Israel's demise we can only speculate but there can be no doubt that alcohol was steeped in the extravagant lifestyle of the world's wealthiest king. In the building of the temple, Solomon poured his generosity through wine: **"Behold, I will give to thy servants, the hewers that cut timber, twenty thousand baths of wine."** [yayin - fermented] [2 Chron 2:10]

The *Song Of Solomon*, apparently written for one of Solomon's beloved wives, is interpreted as the picture of pure love, an allegory of the relation between Christ and His church. In Solomon's poetic verse he continually uses wine [yayin - fermented] as an illustration to show his love. **"Thy love is better than wine."** [SS 1:2]



“The vines with the tender grape give a good smell.” [SS 2:13] “How much better is thy love than wine!” [SS 4:10] “We will remember thy love more than wine” [SS 1:4] “I have drunk my wine with my milk.” [SS 5:1] “The roof of thy mouth like the best wine for my beloved, that goeth down sweetly, causing the lips of those that are asleep to speak.” [SS 7:9] Reference is made to those who talk in their sleep after drinking what is termed the *best* or most potent wine. “Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear.” [SS 7:12] “I would cause thee to drink of spiced wine of the juice of my pomegranate.” [SS 8:2] Alcohol might explain how the wisest man could end up running after heathen women, and watching as children were sacrificed to false gods.

Solomon’s words in the Book of Ecclesiastes pitifully describe the experience of the drunkard: “I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and behold, this also is vanity. I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine [*yayin - fermented*], I planted vineyards and whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them. I hated life.” [Ecc 2:1-17] King Solomon may have hated life, but during this period he did not hate one of the main causes of his miserable condition: “Drink thy wine [*yayin - fermented*] with a merry heart” [Ecc 9:7] “Wine makes merry.” [Ecc 10:19] [*yayin - fermented*]

King Solomon’s writings have been ridiculed as not being inspired (see The Amplified Bible footnotes on Ecclesiastes). There can be no

doubt that Solomon’s reign was only a shadow of what it could have been. There was a decided shortage of spirituality during his kingship but there was no shortage of alcoholic spirits. However, before he died, Solomon became the first of the Bible writers to counsel believers against the use of spirits, pointing out its varied evils. The King finally spoke vigorously against the use of fermented spirits: “Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow? Who hath contentions? Who hath babbling? Who hath wounds without cause? Who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.” [Prov 23:29,30] “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.” [Prov 20:1] “Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.” [Prov 20:31,32] “He that loveth wine shall not be rich.” [Pro 21:17] “Be not among the wine-bibbers ... for the drunkard shall come to poverty.” [Prov 23:20,21] “Enter not into the path of the wicked ... avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it ... for they drink the wine of violence.” [Prov 4:17]

It was eventually recommended by Solomon that those in political leadership should abstain from spirits, undoubtedly recounting his own errors: “It is not for kings to drink wine [*yayin - fermented*]; nor for princes strong drink: lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgement of any of the afflicted.” [Prov 31:4,5] “Wisdom hath mingled her wine, come drink of the wine which I have mingled.” [Pro 9:2,5] Israel knew all too well the effects of being drunk. Symbolically, Solomon states that wisdom from God is portrayed as something a man should be drunk in, not alcohol. Thanks to Solomon’s eventual strict stand against alcohol, Christians can live today in happy sobriety. New Testament writers emphasizing holy living used the wise man’s counsel to instruct new believers.

The sin of alcohol use continued to pass through generations of David’s offspring always with predictable results: “Rehoboam fortified the strong holds, and put captains in them, and

store of victual, and of oil and wine.” [yayin - fermented] [2 Chr 11:11] **“I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me and keep My commandments.”**

[Ex 20:5]

QUEEN ESTHER



Fortunately, there would always be temperate followers of Christ. There is no record of Queen Esther being used by alcohol, but the Bible depicts how she used fermented spirits to her advantage. Brave Queen Esther knew the heart of her heathen husband could be loosed through wine to achieve the saving of Israel. **“And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, ‘What is thy petition? And it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? Even to the half of the kingdom shall it be performed.’”**

[Esther 5:6] How did Esther know the will of her heathen husband king? His past was well documented for all to see, and Esther owed her rule as the new Queen in part to her husband’s weakness through alcohol-steeped flesh when he abused his former wife Queen Vashti.

“In the days of Ahasuerus the king made a feast. They gave them drink in vessels of gold, and royal wine in abundance and the drinking was according to the law ... for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man’s pleasure. On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded to bring Vashti the

queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty. But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king’s commandment therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.” [Esther 1:1-13]

PRIME MINISTER DANIEL

After understanding the 70 week prophecy outlining Messiah to come, and Christ’s prophesied rejection by the chosen nation, Daniel went into mourning: **“I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.”** [Dan 10:3]

This fast indicates that Daniel the beloved, trained faithfully through childhood to withstand the king’s temptations, may have undertaken the Nazarene vow of separation. There is a strong probability that exemplary Daniel never drank fermented spirits, as on rare occasions the Hebrew word *yayin* translates “unfermented.”

KING HEROD



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The Bible portrayal of the death of John the Baptist is brief (Mat 14:1-12) However, various commentaries portray the scene as it undoubtedly was: On the King’s birthday an

entertainment was to be given to the officers of state and nobles of the court. There would be feasting and drunkenness. Herod would thus be thrown off his guard, and might then be influenced according to [Herodias] will. The King was dazed with wine. Passion held sway, and reason was dethroned. **“Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. And she, being instructed of her mother, said “Give me here John Baptist’s head in a charger.”** [Mat 14:7,8]

“The oath had been made in honor of his guests, and if one of them had offered a word against the fulfillment of his promise, he would gladly have spared the prophet. Shocked at the girl’s demand, they were too besotted to interpose a remonstrance. They had given themselves up to feasting and drunkenness until the senses were benumbed.” [Desire of Ages]

THE PROPHETS



God put the illustration of alcohol and its debilitating, addictive effects to marvelous use. After centuries of alcohol abuse, God uses spirits as an object lesson to paint a description of a rebellious and stiff-necked people who have grown weak and dependent upon this substance. He used alcohol to best describe the Anti-Christ in Revelation. He spoke to the people in language they knew all too well, through a substance they loved far too much. After

Solomon’s much needed counsel, God’s prophets began to speak boldly concerning alcohol use among His beloved children. Drinking mixed spirits are prophetically symbolized as being a curse combined with the pending overthrow of their nation. One must look long and hard to find any prophetic passage where drinking alcohol is symbolically blessed.

AMOS

“They drink the wine of the condemned in the house of their God.” [Amos 2:8] Israel continues to feel the wrath of God for her disobedience. **“Woe unto them that are at ease in Zion ... that drink wine in bowls ... they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.”** [Amos 6:1,6] Wine is used as an illustration of forgetting the most important matters.

HABBAKUK

“Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken. He is a proud man who enlargeth his desire as hell.” [Hab 2:15, 5]

HOSEA

“The children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine ... Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart ... The princes have made him sick with bottles of wine ... they assemble themselves for corn and wine, and they rebel against Me.” [Hos 3:1; 4:11; 7:5,14] Ephraim the Bible says is a drunkard, **“Joined to idols: let him alone.”** [Hos 4:17]

ISAIAH

“How is the faithful city become a harlot ... thy wine mixed with water.” [Is 1:22] Jerusalem is portrayed as a city that has been compromised by spiritual dilution. No doubt Jesus recalled this verse when He wept over the demise of the holy city. **“Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them. And the harp, and the viol, and pipe, and wine are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the Lord,**

neither consider the operation of His hands ... Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: which justify the wicked for reward and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!”

[Is 5:11,12,22]

“Behold ... eating flesh and drinking wine ... for tomorrow we shall die.” [Is 22:13]

“The new wine mourneth, the vine languisheth, all the merry-hearted do sigh. The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth. They shall not drink wine with a song; strong drink shall be bitter to them that drink it.” False days of happiness are over as the judgements of God had now come upon the land and its ungrateful inhabitants.

“There is crying for wine in the streets ... the mirth of the land is gone.” [Is 24:7-11] God notes in prophecy how rampant the use of alcohol was amongst His beloved children.

“Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower ... them that are overcome with wine! ... the drunkards of Ephraim shall be trodden under feet ... 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 judgement. For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.”

[Is 28:1,3,7-9]

“Therefore hear now this, thou afflicted, and drunken, but not with wine ... Behold I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of My fury; thou shalt no more drink it again.” [Is 51:21]

Over again, the Lord rebukes Israel using their obsession with drinking wine as a spiritual object lesson. “Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough ... come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and tomorrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.” [Is 56:12]

JEREMIAH

“Every bottle shall be filled with wine: and they shall say unto thee, Do we not certainly know that every bottle shall be filled with wine? ... Behold, I will fill all the inhabitants of this land, even the kings that sit upon David’s throne, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, with drunkenness.” [Jer 13:12,13] Drunkenness is viewed as a self-inflicted means of punishment.



“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.”

[Jer 23:9] Jeremiah, the “weeping prophet,” is heartbroken over the influence of false prophets in the land. He uses alcohol to symbolize his broken hearted, shaken, defeated condition.

“Take the wine cup of this fury at My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it. And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them. Then took I the cup at the Lord’s hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the Lord had sent me: To wit, Jerusalem, and the cities of Judah, and the kings thereof ... to make them a desolation, an astonishment, an hissing and a curse ...” [Jer 25:15-18] The Lord’s disgust with this rebellious nation reaches the limit in this illustration of drunkenness. Insanity, fury, violence, desolation, mocking, and a curse are couched around the sustained use of alcohol. “Babylon hath been a golden cup in the Lord’s hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.” [Jer 51:7]

JOEL

“Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine, for it is cut off from your mouth.”

[Joel 1:5] **“I shall bring again the captivity of Judah. Ye have sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.”** [Joel 3:3]



THRESHING THE WINE-PRESS.—*Am. Ill. J.*

MICAH

“If a man walking in falsehood do lie, saying, I will prophesy unto thee of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be the prophet of this people.” [Mic 2:11]

“Thou shalt sow, but thou shalt not reap ... thou shalt not drink wine.” [Mic 6:15]

MOSES

Moses relays the pending judgement of God upon a people who were unmindful of **“The Rock that begat thee - For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter: For their vine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps.”**

[Deut 32: 18,33,38]

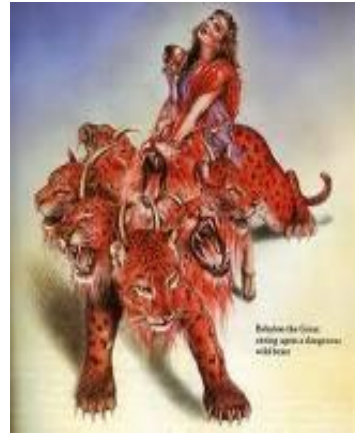
ZECHARIAH

“And they shall drink, and make a noise as through wine.” [Zech 9:15]

“And they of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine.” [Zech 10:7]

JOHN THE REVELATOR

“If any man worship the beast and his image the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out (poured undiluted, Amplified Version) without mixture into the cup of his indignation.” [Rev 14:9,10]



“The great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.” [Rev 16:19]

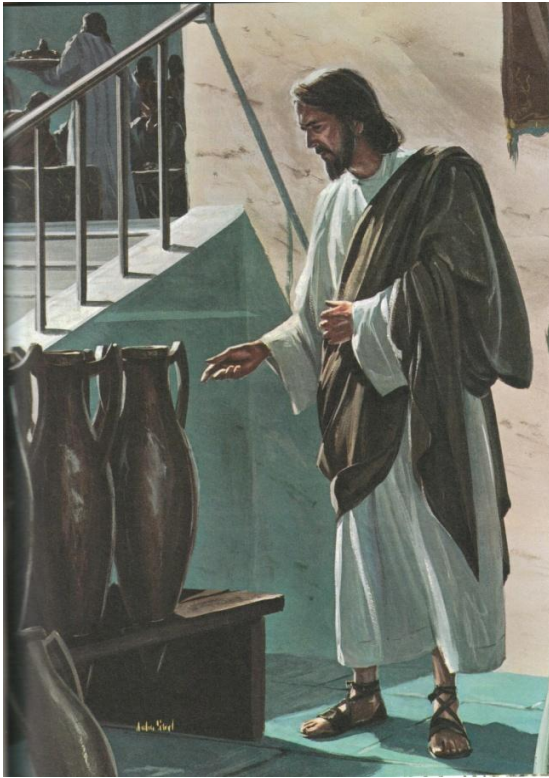
“I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore .. with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”

[Rev 17:1,2] **“Babylon the great is fallen is fallen ... for all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”**

[Rev 18:2,3; 14:8] **“Babylon, that mighty city ... is thy judgement come for no man buyeth their merchandise any more ... wine ... and souls of men.”** [Rev 18:10,11,13]

In the Lord’s wisdom, He used fermented spirits over the centuries to hammer home a vital point in the last days. Spiritual Babylon is portrayed as having all the characteristics of a drunken man. In terms every reader of Scripture could understand, wicked Babylon is revealed as being fierce and fornicating. She is drinking pure alcohol, under judgement and insane. At last mighty Babylon falls, only this time for good. Woe unto them who drink the polluted wine of Babylon. Then appears one of the most tender appeals in the entire Bible: an Angel sent from God pleads with humanity, **“Come out of her My people.”** [Rev 18:4] We are so thankful that God does not ridicule, but actually calls those deceived in Babylon, those with the pure hearts, His people. He judges not upon our knowledge but our hearts. Do you have a heart right with God? Do you need to set aside the drink of spirits and come out of Babylon?

JESUS



John Steele artist

“Jesus saith unto them, *“Fill the waterpots with water.”* And they filled them up to the brim. And He saith unto them, *“Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast.”* And they bare it. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine ... the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, *“Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.”*”

[John 2:7-10]

People believe they have a license to drink alcohol because Jesus sanctioned its use at the wedding feast in Cana. It was the custom of the times for marriage festivities to continue several days. There can be no doubt these men were somewhat inebriated through their continued use of alcoholic spirits. For centuries men have looked to discredit the Bible by finding contradictions within its writings. Jesus had guided holy men of old as they penned what would later become our Scriptures. It is not

credible that Jesus would reverse the counsel of Solomon, who is regarded as the wisest man who ever lived, as well as the multitude of prophets and their stern warnings about alcohol. Was Jesus immune from condemnation by the holy writers? Did He defy Scripture and supply the village with alcohol so they could continue in their feasting? If the Bible is a sum of its total parts then it is beyond dispute that Jesus created unfermented wine at the wedding feast. **“Thus saith the Lord, *As the new wine [tiyrosch - freshly squeezed out] is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it.”*** [Is 65:8]



If Jesus was of a mind to quote scripture to the ruler of the feast He could have quoted: **“Thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.”** [Deut 32:14] **“All the best of the wine [tiyrosch – fresh squeezed] have I given thee.”** [Num 18:12]

The reason Jesus’ wine tasted so good compared to the other wine was because it was pure, unadulterated grape juice. Any child will choose the taste of the common grape over the dry, bitter taste of fermented grape juice.

The gift of Christ to the marriage feast was a symbol. The water represented baptism into His death; the wine, the shedding of His blood for the sins of the world. So abundant is the provision of His grace to blot out the iniquities of men, and to renew and sustain the soul.

“I AM the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. I AM the vine, ye are the branches ... for without Me ye can do nothing.” [John 15:1-5] To the disciples, centuries of illustrations alluding to the vine, the husbandman, those treading the grapes, now made sense. Jesus was always the symbolic vine. To find salvation without Christ would be to embark upon an impossible journey of righteousness by works.

THE PASSOVER



Jewish wine drinking was not part of the original Passover feast given by God to Moses. The OT never mentions a cup for Passover, only the lamb, unleavened bread and bitter herbs. The ancient Jews had been instructed to search their houses carefully before eating the Passover supper, to make sure that there was not even a particle of leavened bread in their homes.

[Ex 12:19] They had been taught to regard it as a type of sin. Jesus linked leavened bread to sin, warning His disciples of the crafty Pharisees:

“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees.”

[Mat 16:11]

Paul writes, **“Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened, for even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”** [1 Cor 5:7,8] Strong’s Concordance defines leavening as *“swelling by fermentation.”* Thus, the communion table bread should be unleavened, or unfermented.

“All alcoholic beverages contain a certain portion of ethyl alcohol and carbon dioxide. This substance is produced by a variety of yeasts or microscopic fungi acting as a leavening agent on the sugar molecule of fruit juice. They decompose fruit glucose in a process known as alcoholic fermentation.” [Encyc of Foods, v1, 376] Fermentation turns juice, or other wholesome products, into dangerous liquor. In the Hebrew language, from which our Bible is derived, there are multiple words for wine, some *non-fermented*, others, *fermented*. Fermented wine is aptly described: **“Behold, my belly is as wine**

which hath no vent [is not opened, margin]; **it is ready to burst like new bottles.”** [Job 32:19]

During Jesus ministry, when all Jews were partaking of the traditional Passover Feast, He set the stage for Communion in the new Christian dispensation. Immediately after the miracle of the loaves and fishes, Jesus declared to the questioning multitude looking for a sign equal to that of the manna from heaven: **“I am the bread of life.”** [John 6:35] While the Jews mulled over this perceived blasphemy, Jesus followed by stating: **“Except ye drink [the Son of man’s] blood, ye have no life in you.**

Whoso drinketh My blood, hath eternal life. He that drinketh My blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him.” [John 6:53-56]

The stage was now set for the Christian Passover, now known as the Communion Service. At the end of the Last Supper, Jesus surprised His disciples: **“And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink all of it; For this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”** [Mat 26:28] **“He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as ye ... drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till He come.”** [1 Cor 11:25,26]

Paul asks, **“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?”** [1 Cor 10:16] Symbolically, Christ’s blood must be pure because to drink fermented wine is to drink what Jesus became for us - sin itself. We drink the grape in symbol of what He was - pure and holy - and Jesus became what we are - impure and unholy. We accept His awesome righteousness in exchange for our terrible sinfulness. Therefore, in the Communion Service we should never partake of fermented wine, for it distorts the very sacrifice of Jesus. Fermented wine represents Christ being made sin, as presented in the Old Testament sanctuary service. The mystery of Christ being made flesh and bearing our sins in His own body on the tree, while never yielding to temptation, is revealed in the Communion Service. Let this service be pure and holy, not an alcoholic mockery.

Fermented wine is used 28 times in the NT (*oinos* - Greek) but never in conjunction with the

Passover. Yet, even in the church on the sacred Communion table, Satan's traps are fulfilled whenever fermented alcohol is used during the Communion service. Satan leaves nothing undone to create and foster the desire for fermented intoxicants.

Passover wine sold in Israel accounts for over 25% of its annual sales. The Jews do not consider grapes for Passover fermented unless they are made from a particular mould grown on bread. Therefore, Jews do not restrict themselves from drinking alcohol on their annual Passover feast.

THE NAZARENE VOW



There is an object lesson given in the Book of Jeremiah of the sons of Jonadab and their descendents. There is reason to believe that they partook of the Nazarene vow, or at least the portion regarding the grape. The Lord uses the faithfulness of the descendants of Jonadab, also known as the house of the Rechabites, to illustrate faithful obedience during the toughest of times. Jonadab had commanded his descendants (probably of the tribe of Jethro, Moses' father-in-law) to observe three things:

- (1) they should drink no product of the vine
- (2) they should never build a house
- (3) they should dwell in tents.

Clarke's Commentaries on these commands:

WINE - "Ye shall preserve your bodies in temperance, shall use nothing that would deprive you of the exercise of your sober reason at any time; lest in such a time ye should do what might be prejudicial to yourselves, injurious to your neighbor, or dishonorable to your God."

HOUSES - "Ye shall not court earthly possessions; ye shall live free from ambition and from envy, that ye may be free from contention and strife."

TENTS - Ye shall imitate your forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and the rest of the

patriarchs, who dwelt in tents, being strangers and pilgrims upon earth, looking for a heavenly country, and being determined to have nothing here that would indispose their minds towards that place of endless rest, or prevent them from passing through temporal things so as not to lose those that are eternal."

"The Lord sends Jeremiah to tempt these descendants when they are at their lowest ebb, having been forced by Nebuchadnezzar to take refuge in the ruined city of Jerusalem. **"Go unto the house of the Rechabites and give them wine to drink ... But they said, "We will drink no wine for our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever."** [Jer 35: 2-5]

"The Lord uses this illustration of faith to rebuke the citizens of Judah who have chosen to disobey their heavenly Father, **"The words of Jonadab are performed but ye hearkened not unto Me."** [Jer 35:14] "Then Jeremiah declares unto the faithful Rechabites, **"Because ye have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts, and done according unto all the he hath commanded you: therefore Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not want (lack) a man to stand before me forever."** [Jer 35:19] True Christians may be considered as their genuine successors."

[Clarke's Comm. v4, p 348-9]

The life of Jesus comes to light in the story of the sons of Jonadab: **"The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head."** [Mat 8:20] Men of renown were separated unto God to do a mighty work and nothing was to stand in their way.

There is indication that Jesus took the Nazarene vow. Not from birth but through circumstances leading up to His death on the cross. It was prophesied from days of old and Matthew may not have fully understood this prophecy when he wrote, **"And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene."** [Mat 2:23]

To take a Nazarene vow was to take a vow of separation unto God. The disciples could not come to grips with the imminent first death of Jesus. How could they understand Jesus'

separation from His Father during the eternal Second Death experience that He was about to suffer?



The complex Nazarene vow included two distinct characteristics: (1) **“He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink ... moist grapes or dried.”** (2) **“All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head ... he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow.”**

[Num 6:3-5]

Three notables were prophesied Nazarites. Two are strong types of Christ, the other introduced Jesus to the world. Of the strong deliverer, who would die to save his people, it is written, **“The child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death ... his name Samson.”** [Jud 13:7,24] Of the godly priest who would guide the nation of Israel through critical times, it is written, **“I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head ... his name Samuel ... as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord.”** [1 Sam 1:11,20,28] Of **John the Baptist**, it is written, **“For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink.”** [Lk 1:15] John the Baptist was a reformer. To him was committed the great work for the people of his time. All his habits were carefully regulated from his birth. John went forth to prepare the way of the Lord, a voice crying in the wilderness. He was a noble representative of those living in the last days, to whom God has entrusted sacred truths to present to the people, to prepare the way for the Second Coming of the Lord. And the same principles of temperance which John practiced should be

observed by those who in our day are to warn the world of His soon coming.

At the Last Supper, Messiah chooses to partake of the ancient Nazarene vow, which had always pointed forth to the Christ. Centuries of mystery were swept away. **“Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.”** [Lk 22:17,18] **“But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”** [Mat 26:27-29]

The time of Christ’s separation was at hand. His promise to never partake of the pure grape until we are reunited with Him in heaven proves this vow of separation lingers – Jesus remains separated from His beloved brethren.

In Gethsemane, the disciples were separated from Jesus when He most needed their support. **“What, could ye not watch with Me one hour? He came and found them asleep again.”**

[Mat 26:40,45]

“As Christ felt His unity with the Father broken up, He feared that in His human nature He would be unable to endure the coming conflict with the powers of darkness. With the issues of the conflict before Him, Christ’s soul was filled with dread of separation from God. In His agony He clings to the cold ground, as if to prevent Himself from being drawn farther from God. The cypress and palm trees were the silent witnesses of His anguish. From their leafy branches dropped heavy dew upon His stricken form, as if nature wept over its Author wrestling alone with the powers of darkness. Hitherto He had been an intercessor for others; now He longed to have an intercessor for Himself.”

[Desire of Ages, p. 686-89]

Upon the cross came the ultimate separation between the Father and the Son. He, the Sin Bearer, endures the wrath of divine justice, and for thy sake becomes sin itself. Then **“Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying ... My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?”** [Mat 27:46]

The prophet Isaiah foresaw this event: **“For a small moment I have forsaken Thee.”** [Is 54:7]

“The Saviour could not see through the portals of the tomb. Hope did not present to Him His

coming forth from the grave a conqueror, or tell Him of the Father's acceptance of the sacrifice. He feared that sin was so offensive to God that their separation was to be eternal. And in that dreadful hour, Christ was not to be comforted with the Father's presence." [ibid] **"I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with Me."** [Is 63:3] "The sun refused to look upon the awful scene. Complete darkness, like a funeral pall, enveloped the cross. In that thick darkness, God's presence was hidden. In the thick darkness, God veiled the last human agony of His Son." [Desire of Ages, 753-755]

"They gave Him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when He had tasted thereof, he would not drink." [Mat 27:34] **"And they gave Him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but He received it not."** [Mk 15:23]

According to Strong's Concordance, this vinegar was *sour wine*. Inebriating drinks were mercifully given to condemned criminals, to render them less sensible of the torture they endured in dying. This is what was offered to our Lord; but he refused it, in accordance to the Nazarene vow: **"Drink no vinegar of wine."** [Num 6:3] It was also in accordance to Proverbs: **"It is not for kings to drink wine."** [Prov 31:4]



As Christians living in these last days, should it not be our duty to symbolically separate ourselves unto God, to be peculiar from the world? Alcohol is a way of life for lovers of the world. Should we even touch this fermented beverage to our lips? Our Lord refused to take a pain killer. Should we alter our perception of reality? Do we need to resort to spirits to deaden the pain of living? Is the sacrifice of Jesus not enough to have us carry on in faith?

To those churches who continue to partake of the fermented wine in their services, do they not fulfill the words of the prophet? **"But ye gave Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophecy not."** [Amos 2:12]

Christ's sacrifice is panoramic across the globe. **"These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and the Lamb."** [Rev 14:4] **"Christ is risen from the dead and become the first fruits [aparche - non-fermented] of them that slept."** [1 Cor 15:20] At the end of time, there are two sickles conducting two different kinds of work.



"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple crying with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud, 'Thrust in Thy sickle and reap: for the time is come for Thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.' And He that sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped." [Rev 14:14-16] This symbolizes all believers in Christ and the harvest that Jesus spoke of.

"And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, 'Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.' And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand six hundred furlongs." [Rev 14:17-20] This symbolism speaks of the end of time when wickedness has peaked in non-believers who will now have to deal with this angel of fire. The slaughter is great, and what better way to describe it other than through the familiar Hebrew winepress.

NEW HEARTS



After the Babylonian captivity, Jeremiah wrote these words to those remaining: **“For the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the Lord, for wheat, and for wine [tiyrosch- freshly squeezed] ... and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.”** [Jer 31:11-12]

“Gather ye wine and summer fruits and put them in your vessels ... and gathered wine [tiyrosch] very much.” [Jer 40:10,12]

“They shall build the waste cities, plant vineyards, and drink the wine [tiyrosch] thereof.” [Amos 9:14] A priority after the desolation was to restore the pure fruits of the vine. **“In that day sing ye unto her, a vineyard of red wine. I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment lest any hurt it. I will keep it night and day.”** [Is 27:2] God’s idea of keeping a vineyard in this day of rejoicing was far different than the Israelite Old Covenant understanding.

“For how great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty! Corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine [tiyrosch - freshly squeezed] the maids.” [Zech 9:17]

“The [children and sucklings] say unto their mothers, Where is corn and wine?” [tiyrosch] [Lam 2:12] Every decent mother teaches her child to desire and strive for purity.

“For [the unfaithful wife] did not know that I

gave her corn and wine [tiyrosch] ... therefore I will return and take away My wine [tiyrosch] in the season thereof.” [Hos 2:8,9]

The unfaithful bride of the Old Covenant was given everything symbolized in the pure blood of Christ, but they rejected it. Messiah was soon appearing, would the results be different this time?

“Ho, every one that thirsteth ... come ye buy wine [tiyrosch] without money.” [Is55:1]

The prophesied day had come. The Righteous One walked among men, many would thirst for the Word of God, the True Vine and Old Covenant ignorance would no longer be winked at: **“This shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel ... I will write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be My people.”** [Jer 31:33]

Jesus came to change the Old Covenant manner of thinking: **“Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you but from the beginning it was not so.”** [Mat 19:8]

Jesus declared, **“Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with drunkenness so that day come upon you unawares.”** [Luke 21:34]

How widespread was the consumption of alcohol and drunkenness in New Testament times? So much so that this report was given during the strange events at Pentecost: **“Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.”** [Acts 2:13]

During the time of the early rain, Christian character reformation was in full throttle. The apostles denounced the use of fermented wine that was so freely consumed by their forefathers. New Covenant believers, full of faith, with hearts of flesh, were urged to choose holy living over the former ways. God speaks to New Covenant Christians today, likening us to those who are set apart to do His will: **“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.”**

[1 Pet 2:9] Christian’s today are part of the royal priesthood who were forbidden to drink alcohol. Any person who chooses not to drink alcohol automatically falls under the category of being very peculiar in today’s society.

CHURCH MEMBERS

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess: but be filled with the Spirit making melody in your heart to the Lord.”

[Eph 5:18,19] Whenever alcohol is involved it tends to excess. There is only one melody the Lord wants to hear, and it is not one of drunken singers.

“It is good neither to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.” [Ro 14:21]

Remember this counsel during social meetings. Your drinking could be a very selfish thing if it leads another into a lifetime of woe. **“A bishop then must be blameless, sober, of good behavior not given to wine.”** [1Tim 3: 2,3,8, Tit 1:7] **“The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness not given to much wine.”** Lest we think the aged women should be allowed to drink in moderation, the Amplified Bible has a better translation: **“not slaves to drink”** [Tit 2:3]

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly in this present world.”

[Tit 2:11,12] **“That the aged men be sober ... the aged women likewise that they may teach the young women to be sober ... young men likewise exhort to be sober-minded.”**

[Tit 2:2-6] That Paul would have to exhort young and old, male and female to be sober shows what a problem alcohol had been amongst God’s people. **“Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness.”** [Rom 13:13]



“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

[1 Pet 1:13] New Covenant believers have the power of Christ to overcome Old Covenant ways of living. **“Be sober because your adversary**

the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” [1 Pet 5:8] The many pitfalls of not being sober are very clear in Scripture. Alcohol was, is, and will always be, the ultimate tool of Satan to destroy men’s lives for eternity. **“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober.”** [1 Pet 4: 7] No man can stand in the last days unless he stands alcohol-free, with clarity of mind to be able to withstand the final onslaughts of Satan.

What kind of company does the drunkard keep? **“But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard.”** [1 Cor 5:11] **“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”** [1 Cor 6:9-10] Non-believers won’t be practicing traits in heaven such as **“witchcraft, hatred, wrath, heresies, murders, drunkenness and such like.”** [Gal 5:19-21]

In the midst of the incredible low standards of Old Covenant living we discover an anomaly in Moses’ day which typifies the modern Christian experience: **“I have led you forty years in the wilderness ... neither have ye drunk wine or strong drink: that ye might know that I am the Lord your God.”** [Deut 29:6] Are we not a type of the children of Israel, wandering through this wilderness of worldly sin on our way to the heavenly Promised Land? If we want to be led by God and know Him, we too should be abstainers.

THE WORLD

“For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in excess of wine.” [1 Pet 4:3]

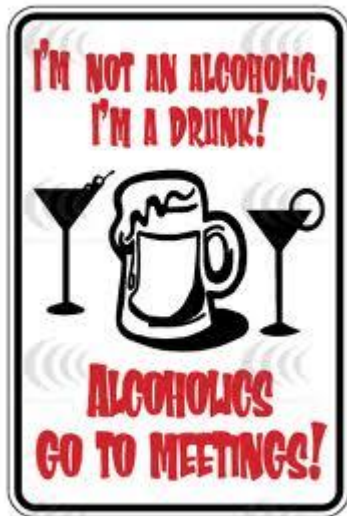
While many Christians defend alcohol use in moderation as being the acceptable norm, let us examine how the non-Christian world has come to view alcohol consumption. Alcohol is a recognized addiction and a sorry temptation.

Society drinks to forget, to empower, to gain confidence, to alter reality. The Christian walks peculiar amidst the drunks while beholding the greatest folly ever known to mankind - the multiplied curses of alcohol.

I am not a drunkard one says, for I practice moderation and temperance with my drinking. I am a social drinker only. Why not attend a meeting of the Alcoholics Anonymous? Every single soul in these meetings was once like you, the social drinker. The AA considers alcoholism to be a disease that afflicts certain people.

However, the Bible links it to sin and calls for overcoming. The AA determines correctly that every alcoholic is formed from his first drink onward and that in the end one drink is too many, and a thousand is not enough. Their motto: *"Nothing is ever so bad that one more day of drinking can't make it worse."*

Members of the AA forever say, "My name is and I AM an alcoholic." Those born-again into the fraternity of Christ triumphantly say, "My name is And I WAS an alcoholic."



Alcohol has been the biggest curse and tool of Satan since creation. Satan draws you in slowly. The thief says, *"Give me your money or your life."* The liquor seller says, *"Give me your money AND your life."* If the church won't do anything about the use of alcohol, then let the world rebuke you. They know too well the woes of 6000 years of alcohol.

We live in an age where temperance is defined on billboards that decry *"Don't drink and drive."* Noble are deemed to be those who take a cab when drunk, or hire a designated driver

while the balance of the party suffers inebriation. This is known as drinking responsibly.

In the 1920's many Temperance Societies brought much pressure to bear on the American government to ban alcohol. Such was man's unquenchable thirst for spirits that criminal bootleggers ruled and the parties raged. Governments took stock at lost taxes and quickly restored liquor as legal trade, regardless of the social cost. The following quotes were penned prior to Abolition showing what sensible people in the world once thought of booze.

"In Chicago the estimate is, one baker for every four hundred and seventy families, one grocer for every eighty-nine families, and one liquor saloon for every thirty-five families."

"I am so horrified at the consumption of alcohol in this country that sometimes I feel like giving up everything and going forth in a holy crusade, preaching to all men, Beware the enemy of the race." [Dr. Andrew Clarke, physician to Queen Victoria]

"Thanks to our brewers and publicans, and the cooperation of the magistrates who license them, and the consent of the Christian church which permits liquor traffic to continue, we have: 1,000,000 paupers through drink; 100,000 criminals in jail through drink; 60,000 deaths annually through drink; 50,000 lunatics in asylums through drink; and a standing army of confirmed drunks." [English Watchword]

"Nine tenths of the crime of England can be traced to drink." [Alcohol]

"It is estimated that for every missionary who goes to Africa, seventy-five thousand gallons of liquor are sent to that country."

"The tax on brandy forms the most important item in the revenue of Russia."

"Drunkenness is the beginning and ending of life in the great French industrial centers. It is estimated that at Lille, twenty-five out of every one hundred men, and twelve out of every one hundred women, are confirmed drunkards."



“Mr. Labaree, a missionary in Persia, writes: If I had any sentiments favorable to the use of wine when I left America, my observations during the seven years I have resided in this paradise of vineyards have convinced me that the principle of total abstinence is the only safeguard against the great social and religious evils that flow from the practice of wine drinking. There is scarcely a community to be found where the blighting influences of intemperance are not seen in families distressed and ruined, property squandered, character destroyed and lives lost.”

“While it is true that great good has been accomplished by thousands of noble workers in the ranks of the National Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, and other organizations laboring to protect the innocent and uplift the fallen; much remains to be accomplished. The most direct and deadly blow that can be given this monster evil is to PROHIBIT instead of license its existence.”



“Notwithstanding thousands of years of experience and progress, the same dark blot which stained the first pages of history remains to disfigure our modern civilization. Drunkenness, with all its woes, is found everywhere we go. Considering only the financial aspect of this question, what folly it is to tolerate a business that is making paupers by the thousand! The laws of the land legalize the trade of making drunkards, and then at great expense provide institutions for converting them again into sober men! Can our legislators furnish no better solution of the liquor question? Let laws be enacted and rigidly enforced

prohibiting the sale and use of ardent spirits as a beverage. Only men of strict temperance and integrity should be admitted to our legislative halls, or chosen to preside in our courts of justice.”

“The saloon is the mortal enemy of peace and order. This demon has dug more graves and sent more souls unshriven to judgement than all the plagues that have wasted life since the plagues of Egypt, or all the wars since Joshua stood before Jericho.” [J. Mitchell, Federation of Labor]

“Alcohol is poisonous, increasing greatly the liability to fatal termination of diseases, weakening and deranging the intellect, polluting the affections, hardening the heart, and corrupting the morals. Alcohol is a disturber and destroyer of peace thus removing the sure foundation for good government, national prosperity and welfare. It counteracts the efficacy of religious efforts, promoting crime, pauperism, paralyzing industry, corrupting politics and the execution of laws.”

[American Prohibition Year Book, 1912, p.26,27]



Before Prohibition in the United States in 1920 (making the selling and serving of liquor illegal), the per capita usage in a year was rampant. In 1919 an amazing 22.6 gallons of spirits per person was being consumed. Alcohol purchases surpassed those of iron and steel industry, printing and publishing, lumber, cotton, automobiles, flour, boots and shoes, public education, sugar, furniture, church mission work, soft drinks, and patent medicines. During the Prohibition period, alcohol consumption dropped to 2.8 gallons in 1920, 3.1 in 1921, and

2.0 in 1922. Immediately after Prohibition ended, the consumption shot right back up and if anything is higher today. Prohibition's days are over. What is the Christian to do? The world looks to the church for guidance.



The liquor interest is a power in the world. It has on its side the combined strength of money, habit and appetite. Men whose money has been made in liquor traffic are members of churches in good and regular standing. They give liberally to the popular charities. But above the tribunal of the church is the tribunal of God. The money of the liquor dealer is stained with blood and a curse rests upon it. The world and the church may have approval for the man who has gained wealth by degrading the human soul, but the William Shakespeare writes, **“O that men should put an enemy in their mouths to steal away their brains!”**

“The liquor traffic is the most degrading and ruinous of all human pursuits.”

[United States President William McKinley]

*Look not upon the wine
That sparkles in its flow,
For death is slumbering there,
Beneath its ruddy glow.
No happiness it bringeth,
At last it only stingeth;
It biteth, and it wringeth,
The heart with bitter woe.
Lift up the tempted soul
Now fallen in despair,
Direct his thoughts above,
To God who heareth prayer.
His arm in mighty power
Can bid the demon cower,
And in temptation's hour
Will prepare an escape.*

F.E. Belden

LIQUOR SELLERS



“Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity.” [Hab 2:12]

Many, who would hesitate to place liquor to a neighbor's lips, will engage in the raising of hops, grains, and grapes destined to the distillery. In the light of the law of God, Christians cannot conscientiously engage in the manufacture of spirits for the marketplace. The business of manufacturing and selling alcohol is robbery. Every dollar they add to their gain has brought a curse to the spender. It's through the greed of gain and lust of appetite that the grains and fruits given for our sustenance are converted into poisons that bring misery and ruin. The liquor seller deals out to his victims product which corrupts and destroys mind, body and soul. Like the mystic Babylon of the Apocalypse, he is dealing in slaves. Fathers, husbands, brothers, the stay and hope of the nation, are steadily passing into the liquor dealer's haunts, to be sent back wrecked and ruined. In many a household, little children, even in the helplessness of babyhood, are in daily peril through the neglect and vileness of drunken mothers. Even among the heathen, men of intelligence protest against alcohol as a deadly poison. The ungoverned passions of the savage, stimulated by drink, drag him down to degradation previously unknown, proving the destruction of whole tribes.

Behind the liquor seller stands the mighty destroyer and every art which hell can devise is employed to draw human beings under his power. To license the liquor traffic is to foster it. It cannot exist nor thrive without the patronage of each rising generation, a large

number of whom it must necessarily ruin body, soul and spirit. For the state to receive money from such a source is highly reprehensible. Make no mistake about it, Satan's snare purposes the youth to enter enchanted ground. Prestige, confidence, adulthood and the chance of relaxed morals are presented in glowing charms throughout the media. Friends are enlisted as the devil's enticers, cleverly deployed to increase alcohol's dependency ranks. Governments who once shunned alcoholic beverages for the well being of their citizenry now encourage its widespread use, counting upon liquor continuance to solidify the tax base. Liquor manufacturers sponsor the most charitable organizations and sporting events, rising to prominence as society's most outstanding citizens.

TEMPERANCE

“The fruit of the Spirit is temperance ... Add to your faith temperance ... Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.” [Gal 5:22,23; 2 Pet 1:5-7; 1 Cor 9:25]

All intoxicating drinks are deceptive. They seem to promote happiness, but cause the greatest unhappiness and misery. To intemperance may be attributed much of the world's sorrow. Temperance Societies, once a harbinger against alcohol's ruin of society, are a distant memory. To find an abstainer, one looks to the Christian church for hope. Even the conservative Amish drink brandy, and the Hutterites are busy making wine. Many Christians see nothing wrong with drinking in moderation.

“One of the subtlest effects of this many-sided drug is to produce a craving for itself, while weakening the will that could resist that craving.” [Dr. Williams, Alcohol, p.48, 1930's]

“All unnatural excitants are harmful, and they cultivate the desire for liquor. The food is often such as to excite a desire for stimulating drinks. Luxurious dishes are placed on the table - spiced foods, rich gravies, cakes and pastries. This highly seasoned food irritates the stomach, and causes a craving for still stronger stimulants. Tobacco weakens the brain and paralyzes its fine sensibilities. Its use excites a thirst for strong

drink, and in very many cases lays the foundation for the liquor habit.”
[Ministry Of Healing]

How can the user of alcoholic beverages give to God an undivided heart? It is impossible. Neither can he love his neighbor as himself, for this darling indulgence engrosses all his affections. The one, who voluntarily places his lips to the draught debases himself below the level of a brute beast, a sad commentary on the man who was made in the image of God. Moderate drinking is the school in which men are receiving an education for the drunkard's career. Satan keeps the mind in a fever of unrest, and the poor victim, imagining himself perfectly secure, goes on and on, until every barrier is broken down, every principle sacrificed. The strongest resolutions are undermined, and eternal interests are too weak to keep the debased appetite under the control of reason. Some are never really drunk, but are always under the influence of intoxicants. They are not really delirious, but as truly imbalanced, as the nobler powers of the mind are perverted. So gradually does Satan lead away from the strongholds of temperance, so insidiously do wine and cider exert their influence upon the taste that the highway to drunkenness is entered upon unsuspectingly. It is a hard matter to overcome and chain a full-grown lion.



The saintly Daniel purposed in his heart not to drink the King's portion of wine, [Dan 1:5,8,16] The children sing, “*Dare to be like Daniel.*” Oh, if men would stand up and follow the temperance example set forth by their Lord and his noble men. The world is addicted to pain killers on all sides, with alcohol being chief. However, the true Christian walks in the footsteps of Jesus and believes in His promise, “*My grace is sufficient for thee.*” [2 Cor 12:9]

HELP THE TEMPTED



“No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.” [Lk 5:39] In dealing with the victims of alcohol, we must remember we are not dealing with sane men, but with those who are now under the power of a demon. Think not of the repulsive, forbidding appearance, but of the precious life that Christ died to redeem. As the drunkard awakens to a sense of his degradation, do all in your power to show that you are his friend. Speak no word of censure, let no act or look express reproach or aversion. Very likely the poor soul curses himself. Help him to rise. Speak words that will encourage faith. Open the Bible before the tempted, struggling one, and over and over again read to him the promises of God. These promises will be to him as the leaves of the tree of life. You must hold fast to those who you are trying to help, else victory will never be yours. They will be continually tempted to do evil. Again and again they will be almost overcome by the craving for strong drink; again and again they may fall; but do not, because of this, cease your efforts. The last words of King David to Solomon, then a young man and soon to receive the crown of Israel, were **“Be strong and show thyself a man.”** [1 Ki 2:2] God calls for the self-indulgent to arise and in the strength of Christ, win back the God-given manhood that has been sacrificed through sinful intemperance. Feeling the terrible power of temptation, many a man cries in despair, “I cannot resist evil.” Tell him that he can, that he must resist. His promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. The knowledge of his broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens his confidence in his own sincerity and causes him to feel that God cannot accept him or work with his efforts. But he need not despair. Those who put their trust in Christ are not to be held in

bondage to the lower nature, they are to rule every appetite and passion. The Savior took upon Himself the infirmities of humanity and lived a sinless life that men might have no fear that because of the weakness of human nature they could not overcome. Christ came to make us **“partakers of the divine nature”** and His life declares that humanity, combined with divinity, does not commit sin. Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on the merits of the Savior.

ALCOHOL & HEALTH



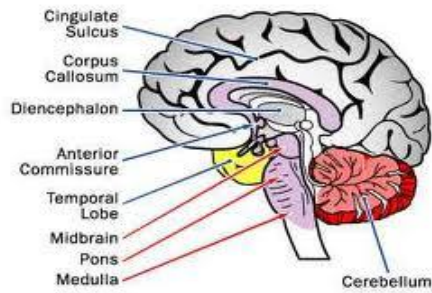
“Beloved, I wish above all things that mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” [3 John 2]

Of all men in the world, physicians should lead strictly temperate lives. The welfare of society demands this of them, for their influence is constantly telling for or against the improvement of society. Alcoholic beverages cause much more physical disease throughout the world than any other drug, whether legal or illegal. It is a curse on humanity. [World Health Organization, 1994] ***“If thou wilt diligently harken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.”*** [Ex 15:26] Alcohol is not a disease coming upon unsuspecting, unfortunate souls. It is a sin. Harken unto God and say goodbye to Satan’s beverage of choice. Drink in the Water of Life freely so that you never thirst again.

In this health section, any non-referenced quotes in regards to health and alcohol use are taken from the highly respected ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FOODS. [2005 edition]

BRAIN

Major Internal Parts of the Human Brain



“Alcohol tends to destroy the higher forms of cells, those directly concerned with the vital processes, particularly the delicate brain cells, and to replace them with useless and harmful connective tissue, or what is commonly known as scar tissue.” [American Prohibition Year Book, 1912] Alcohol slows the rhythm of the brain waves retarding the intellectual processes. When alcohol is present in the body, the brain tissue does not use as much oxygen as normally. Reliable statistics demonstrate that the total abstainer has an advantage of at least 21% over the moderate drinker.

Under its influence people are persuaded easily to do things completely contrary to their established ideals. Alcohol alters the functions of the brain, thus qualifies as a drug. The reason a person feels elated under the influence of alcohol is that the intellectual functions of his brain are suppressed. With the usual inhibitions removed, he says and does things that he would ordinarily refrain from. A vicious cycle is established whereby the inadequate or frustrated person drinks more and more in order to keep himself from demonstrating his supposed personal shortcomings. The use of liquor as a release from unpleasant reality is more of a temptation to an unsuccessful person than it is to one who feels happy in his accomplishments. Alcohol anesthetizes the conscience and stupefies the intellect. In larger doses it acts as an anesthetic but its margin of safety is lower than conventional anesthetics.

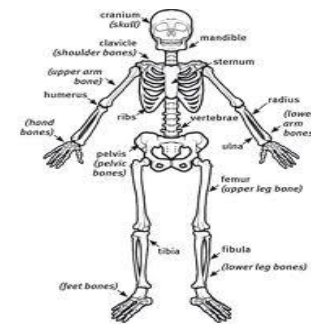
Alcohol gives a sense of power and ability but it diminishes both physical and mental capacity. Alcohol seemingly brings a sense of energy, but actually reduces it, since the calories released from alcohol as it metabolizes in the body cannot be used to produce muscular work. Alcohol offers a false security of health but in

reality it ruins it. Alcohol cannot nourish for it is not a nutrient. With increasing concentrations of alcohol in one's body tissues, the early stage of exhilaration gives way to a stage of depression of the vital functions. Delirium tremens are a complication in which a person may become confused and disorientated sometimes resulting in hallucinations. This drunkard may become very nervous and emotionally disturbed. Sometimes their muscles tremble excessively. This also explains the withdrawing alcoholic seeing grotesque things such as pink elephants.

[You & Your Health, v3, p. 243]

One glass of wine is enough to dangerously reduce one's ability to drive an automobile. At least one half of the fatalities in highway accidents are traceable to someone's use of alcohol. [You and Your Health, v1, p. 204, 420]

BONES



All alcoholic beverages increase uric acid levels in the blood. Beer has the greatest impact for those suffering from gout.

Women who drink one glass of wine per day are at 2.3 time greater risk of hip fracture and also osteoporosis. Alcohol alters the function of the cells that generate bone tissue causing them to form less bone tissue than that which is destroyed.

CANCER

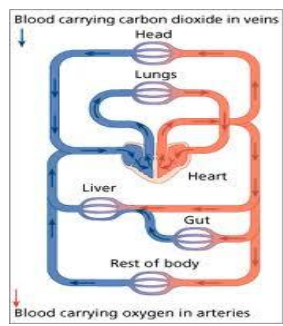
The General Direction of Health in Portugal conducted a study: The greater the wine consumption, the higher the risk of stomach cancer. Less than one glass per day are at 36% higher risk; one bottle per day 4x the risk. Women, who drink alcoholic beverages, even in small amounts, are at higher risk for breast cancer.



Beer drinkers are at an especially high risk of rectal cancer, 73% higher than non-drinkers. Alcohol content contains carcinogenic nitrosamine formed during the fermentation process. Alcohol is a co-carcinogen, meaning that its effect is to amplify the influence of other circumstances that are known to cause cancer. The evidence points clearly to an increase in cancer susceptibility in those tissues that come in contact with the alcohol: the mouth, the pharynx, the larynx, the esophagus, and the stomach.” [You & Your Health, v2, p. 139]

Studies across the board prove that cancer is more frequent among moderate drinkers. There is a best selling cancer recovery book found in the health food stores, or online, entitled *The Grape Cure*. [Johanna Brandt] In this book, only the purest unfermented grape is used.

CIRCULATION



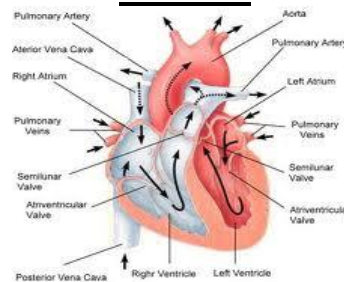
The vessels of the skin dilate under the influence of alcohol. This accounts for a person’s flushed appearance after drinking. It gives him the false impression that he is warm even in cold surroundings. Alcohol gives a warm sensation but in reality it cools the body by increasing the blood flow near the skin, causing a loss of body heat. [You & Your Health, v1, p. 422]

HEADACHES



Red wine and beer are the products most responsible for migraine headaches. Alcohol is a chemical called ethanol. Ethanol may cause headaches by several means. First, it is a direct vasodilator which in some individuals may cause a headache. Second, ethanol is a natural diuretic; this leads to excretion of salt, vitamins and minerals from the body through the kidneys. Excess consumption of ethanol may produce dehydration and chemical imbalances in the body. Except in homemade “moonshine” we consume ethanol in beverages that contain other chemicals. These chemicals are called *congeners* which impart the specific tastes and flavours that make each beverage unique. These congeners also have a variety of effects that can cause headaches, alter other chemicals in the body, and induce the hangover effect if consumed in excess.

HEART



The possible beneficial action of red wine on cardiovascular health has been intentionally exaggerated for commercial reasons, as has been recognized by the World Health Organization [WHO, Nov 1, 1994]. WHO states categorically “Alcohol intake as prevention for heart disease should not be promoted as a public health measure.”

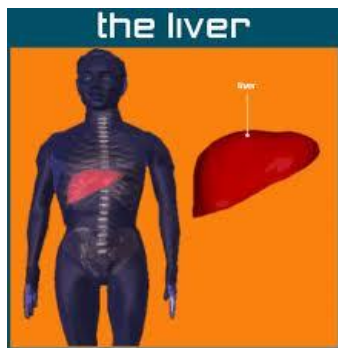
Drinking two glasses of wine per day may reduce myocardial infarction (heart) risk however consumption increases arterial

hypertension pressure, which represents a risk factor to the cardiovascular system. It is a fact that alcohol promotes arteriosclerosis.

Cerebral hemorrhage is more frequent among drinkers.

Beer contains less alcohol by volume, thus beer drinkers often take large volumes of this beverage. As a consequence of excess liquid, and the harmful action of alcohol on the cardiac muscle, heart failure is common among beer drinkers.

The use of alcohol has an unfavorable influence on any weakened or defective condition of the heart. Alcohol causes damage to the muscle cells of the heart, causing their eventual deterioration.” [You & Your Health, v1, p. 424]



The immediate effect of alcohol on the kidneys is an increase in urine produced. [You & Your Health, v1, p. 422] Alcohol is a true poison for the liver’s cells. Regardless of dose, it is highly destructive to the liver, which it degenerates and destroys. It can also aggravate jaundice. The most publicized bodily damage from the continued use of alcohol is cirrhosis of the liver. The liver becomes shrunken and nodular and progressively ceases to function. This includes bleeding from the esophagus, accumulation of fluid in the abdomen, involvement of the spleen causing alterations in the blood cells, and lapse of consciousness. [You and Your Health, v1, p.424]

MEDICATIONS

Alcohol compounds the effects of certain other drugs that may be present in the body. A synergistic or potentiating effect takes place on some sleeping pills, or pain-relieving drugs

causing sudden and otherwise unexplained deaths. [You & Your Health, v1, p. 422]



Mixing alcohol with certain medications can cause nausea and vomiting, headaches, drowsiness, fainting, or loss of coordination. It also can put you at risk for internal bleeding, heart problems, and difficulties in breathing. In addition to these dangers, alcohol can make a medication less effective or even useless, or it may make the medication harmful or toxic to your body. Some medicines that you might never have suspected can react with alcohol, including many medications which can be purchased over-the-counter. Even some herbal remedies can have harmful effects when combined with alcohol.

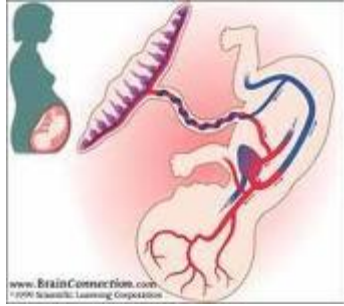
NERVES



Alcohol is toxic to the neurons. Although at times it seems to relieve nervousness, its effect is always harmful to the nervous system in the end.” [You & Your Health, v2, p. 31] Alcohol depresses the nervous system. It is not a stimulant as many people suppose. [YYH, v1, p. 421] Long continued use of alcohol causes peripheral neuritis - an inflammation of the nerves which causes intense suffering. [YYH, v1, p.424]

REPRODUCTION

Alcohol increases sexual desire but diminishes the capacity to perform. Alcohol in larger doses produces sexual impotency.



When an expectant mother uses alcohol, it is shared with the unborn child so that the baby's tissues contain about the same proportion as the mother's tissues. Babies born to alcoholic mothers present a shockingly high incidence of physical and mental handicaps.

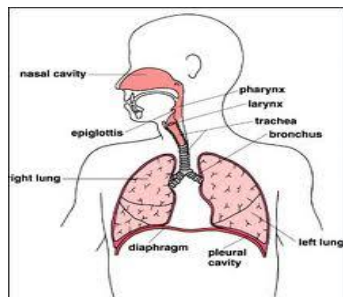
[You & Your Health, v1, p.422]

Pregnant women who drink have a higher incidence of premature births, low birth weight babies and birth defects.

The offspring of alcoholics show impaired vitality of the most deep-seated character, such as deformities, neuroses, which may take the severe forms of chorea, infantile convulsions, epilepsy or idiocy.

[American Prohibition Year Book, 1912]

RESPIRATORY



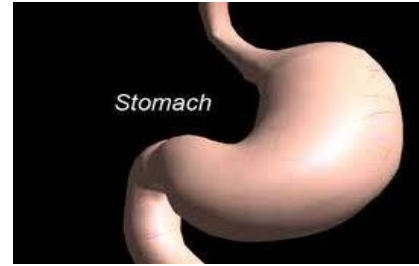
Alcohol depresses the respiratory functions. A quantity of alcohol sufficient to make a person oblivious to his discomforts will interfere with breathing. [You & Your Health v1, p. 421]

People under the influence of alcohol are more susceptible to pneumonia.”

[You & Your Health, v1, p. 422]

When the amount of alcohol in the body fluids becomes dangerously high, the body's vital functions are impaired. When death occurs, it is from paralysis of the breathing mechanism.

[You & Your Health, v3, p. 253]



“Use a little wine [oinos – can be either fermented or unfermented] for thy stomach’s sake and thine often infirmities.” [1 Tim 5:23]

Medical studies try to prove that a drink of alcoholic wine every day is beneficial to the heart, arteries and stomach. Thus, a new generation of wine drinkers is spawned. God’s created grape is so powerful, that after being abused through fermentation, saturated with sugar, food coloring and preservatives - a tiny blessing remains in the booze. But truly, if it is help for the stomach, or heart which the drunkard seeks, he should look to the unfermented grape juice with ten-fold healing in its wings. God inspired Paul to write counsel that a man’s infirmities could be healed. Is it the pure grape or the very poor second choice bearing the multiple negative side effects of alcohol? Unfermented grape juice is preferable to non-fermented wine in medicinal properties and healing.

Alcohol affects the digestive organs. It increases the flow of both saliva and gastric juice. It may cause an inflammation of the lining of the stomach and a congestion of blood in this lining tissue. [You & Your Health, v1, p. 422]

The carbonation in beer, together with the irritating effect of alcohol, produces a permanent inflammation of the stomach mucosa. This results in increased gastric juice production, which briefly improves digestion, but results in stomach inflammation. The result of regular consumption of wine or other alcoholic beverages is a permanent inflammation known as chronic gastritis. Indigestion, slow digestion, gastritis, and gastro duodenal ulcer are common among beer drinkers. The Clinic Hospital of Barcelona has confirmed that men who drink wine during their meals experience 70% more heartburn and inflammation of the esophagus. Diarrhea is an unwelcome consequence of the use of alcohol.

WOUNDS



“And [the good Samaritan] went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine.” [Lk 10:34]

Finally, a positive use of alcohol has been found! Because of their ethyl alcohol content, all alcoholic beverages act as disinfectants and antiseptics when they are applied externally to wounds and lesions of the skin - this is alcohol's only medicinal property lacking undesirable side effects. This external medicinal property of alcoholic beverages has been known for thousands of years.

SUMMARY

“Whether ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” [1 Cor 10:31]

Centuries of loving the drink, which led to personal depravity and the break up of chosen Israel, have come to an end. Numerous prophecies couched in wine-talk language were well understood by a backslidden nation. Types of a Savior being set apart and finally separated from His Father were symbolized through abstinence vows. Jesus was clearly portrayed as the True Vine. A gradual reformation evolved amongst God's people who were finally urged to live the sanctified life in the last days without alcohol. The spiritual wine of Babylon is fallen along with those who partake of it. Wine use in the Bible has been a lengthy, painful lesson and has served its purpose well.

Thankfully, God is forming a remnant for these last days. Children of spiritual Israel can march through the desert storms of life requiring no fermented spirits to sustain them. They are heaven bound. Those who will be translated

from off this decaying earth, portrayed as the 144,000, are singing a new song, the song of Moses and the Lamb. It's a song of self-sacrifice and total abstinence from all things harmful. Whatsoever they drink they do so to the glory of God. They follow the Lamb wherever He knowing that Jesus did not create nor sanction alcohol use at the wedding feast. Sobriety is imperative to their clarity of mind and purity of moral standards. They look forward to the day when they will drink the unfermented pure grape juice with their Redeemer at the Great Banquet Feast in heaven. What a glorious day this will be. No more separation, no more sin, no more Satan, and thankfully no more alcohol.

Do you wish to be a member of God's remnant army? The sink can drain your wine cellar into the earth from whence it came. It is not too late - it is never too late while you have breath, to come to God with all your heart and forsake the multiplied curses of the fermented drink. Once you have determined to put alcohol abuse into your rear view mirror there are two methods to achieve success. One is evolutionary in nature by joining valuable clubs like the AA or check into rehab. The other is to take the creation method whereby God spoke and it is done. The end result is liberty of mind, body and soul, happy families and the respect God intended for you from the beginning. A productive life is yearning. Forgiveness is yours from above.

***“The Lord will restore the years
the locust hath eaten.”***

[Joel 2:25]

