

# Alcohol

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## 1. HISTORICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF ALCOHOL.

**The story of Noah's survival brings with it the Bible's first mention of alcohol.**

- Genesis 9:20-21 HCSB Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard. 21 He drank some of the wine, became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent.

**It was used as a beverage from the earliest age.**

- Genesis 9:20-21 HCSB Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard. 21 He drank some of the wine, became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent.
- Genesis 27:25 HCSB Then he said, "Serve me, and let me eat some of my son's game so that I can bless you." Jacob brought it to him, and he ate; he brought him wine, and he drank.

**Several places in the Middle East were particularly known for the production of wine including:**

### **Canaan in general**

- Deuteronomy 33:28 HCSB So Israel dwells securely; Jacob lives untroubled in a land of grain and new wine; even his skies drip with dew.

### **The territories of Judah**

- Genesis 49:8-12 HCSB Judah, your brothers will praise you. Your hand will be on the necks of your enemies; your father's sons will bow down to you. 9 Judah is a young lion--my son, you return from the kill--he crouches; he lies down like a lion and like a lioness--who wants to rouse him? 10 The scepter will not depart from Judah, or the staff from between his feet, until He whose right it is comes and the obedience of the peoples belongs to Him. 11 He ties his donkey to a vine, and the colt of his donkey to the choice vine. He washes his clothes in wine, and his robes in the blood of grapes. 12 His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth are whiter than milk.

### **Lebanon**

- Hosea 14:7 HCSB The people will return and live beneath his shade. They will grow grain and blossom like the vine. His renown will be like the wine of Lebanon.

### **Helbon**

- Ezekiel 27:18 HCSB Damascus was also your trading partner because of your numerous products and your great wealth of every kind, trading in wine from Helbon and white wool.

### **Assyria**

- 2 Kings 18:32 HCSB until I come and take you away to a land like your own land--a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey--so that you may live and not die. But don't listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you, saying: The LORD will deliver us.

- Isaiah 36:17 HCSB until I come and take you away to a land like your land, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards.

## **Moab**

- Isaiah 16:8-10 HCSB For Heshbon's terraced vineyards and the grapevines of Sibmah have withered. The rulers of the nations have trampled its choice vines that reached as far as Jazer and spread to the desert. Their shoots spread out and reached the Dead Sea. 9 So I join with Jazer to weep for the vines of Sibmah; I drench Heshbon and Elealeh with my tears. Triumphant shouts have fallen silent over your summer fruit and your harvest. 10 Joy and rejoicing have been removed from the orchard; no one is singing or shouting for joy in the vineyards. No one tramples grapes in the winepresses. I have put an end to the shouting.
- Jeremiah 48:32-33 HCSB I will weep for you, vine of Sibmah, with more than the weeping for Jazer. Your tendrils have extended to the sea; they have reached to the sea and to Jazer. The destroyer has fallen on your summer fruit and grape harvest. 33 Joy and celebration are taken from the fertile field and from the land of Moab. I have stopped the flow of wine from the winepresses; no one will tread with shouts of joy. The shouting is not a shout of joy.

## **It was an article of extensive commerce.**

- Ezekiel 27:18 HCSB Damascus was also your trading partner because of your numerous products and your great wealth of every kind, trading in wine from Helbon and white wool.

## **The vineyards were big business and the kings had a regular staff in charge of them.**

- 1 Chronicles 27:27 HCSB Shimei the Ramathite was in charge of the vineyards. Zabdi the Shiphmite was in charge of the produce of the vineyards for the wine cellars.

## **Apparently there were many kinds of wine.**

- Nehemiah 5:18 HCSB Each day, one ox, six choice sheep, and some fowl were prepared for me. An abundance of all kinds of wine was provided every 10 days. But I didn't demand the food allotted to the governor, because the burden on the people was so heavy.

## **Wine was made of grape juice.**

- Genesis 9:20-21 HCSB Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard. 21 He drank some of the wine, became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent.
- Genesis 49:11 HCSB He ties his donkey to a vine, and the colt of his donkey to the choice vine. He washes his clothes in wine, and his robes in the blood of grapes.

## **Sometimes it was made of pomegranate juice.**

- Song of Solomon 8:2 HCSB I would lead you, I would take you, to the house of my mother who taught me. I would give you spiced wine to drink from my pomegranate juice.

## **It was generally made by treading the grapes in a press.**

- Isaiah 63:2-3 HCSB Why is Your clothing red, and Your garments like one who treads a winepress? 3 I trampled the winepress alone, and no one from the nations was with Me. I trampled them in My anger and ground them underfoot in My fury; their blood spattered My garments, and all My clothes were stained.

### **The wine was then refined or aged. Obviously aged implies fermentation.**

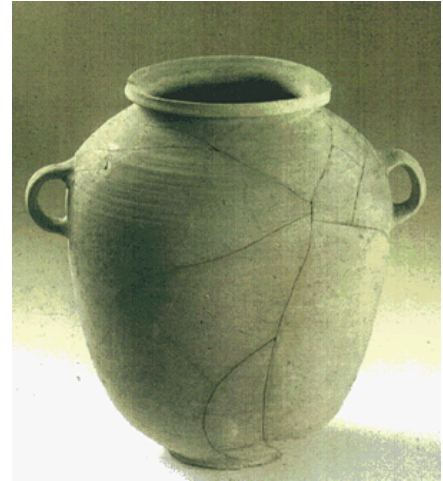
- Isaiah 25:6 HCSB The LORD of Hosts will prepare a feast for all the peoples on this mountain--a feast of aged wine, choice meat, finely aged wine.

### **Our Master considered wine to be improved by age.**

- Luke 5:39 HCSB And no one, after drinking old wine, wants new, because he says, 'The old is better.'

### **Wine was often kept in jars.**

- Jeremiah 32:19 HCSB the One great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are on all the ways of the sons of men in order to give to each person according to his ways and the result of his deeds.
- Jeremiah 48:12 HCSB Therefore look, the days are coming--this is the LORD's declaration--when I will send those to him, who will pour him out. They will empty his containers and smash his jars.



### **It was also kept in skins.**

- 1 Samuel 25:18 HCSB Abigail hurried, taking 200 loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five butchered sheep, a bushel of roasted grain, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys.
- Joshua 9:4, 13 HCSB they acted deceptively. They gathered provisions and took worn-out sacks on their donkeys and old wineskins, cracked and mended... These wineskins were new when we filled them, but look, they are cracked. And these clothes and sandals of ours are worn out from the extremely



long journey."

- Jeremiah 13:12 HCSB "Say this to them: This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Every jar should be filled with wine. Then they will respond to you: Don't we know that every jar should be filled with wine?"
- Matthew 9:17 HCSB And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. But they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved."
- Luke 5:37-38 HCSB And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins, it will spill, and the skins will be ruined. 38 But new wine should be put into fresh wineskins.

### **The consequence of putting new (and obviously still fermenting) wine in old skins was that the old skins which could no longer stretch to accommodate the gasses would burst.**

- Mark 2:22 HCSB And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost as well as the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."

### **It was the custom to present wine to travelers.**

- Genesis 14:18 HCSB Then Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine; he was a priest to God Most High.

#### **It was often spiced to increase its strength.**

- Proverbs 9:2-5 HCSB She has prepared her meat; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table. 3 She has sent out her servants; she calls out from the highest points of the city: 4 "Whoever is inexperienced, enter here!" To the one who lacks sense, she says, 5 "Come, eat my bread, and drink the wine I have mixed.
- Song of Solomon 8:2 HCSB I would lead you, I would take you, to the house of my mother who taught me. I would give you spiced wine to drink from my pomegranate juice.

#### **It was used at all feasts and entertainments.**

- Esther 1:7 HCSB Beverages were served in an array of gold goblets, each with a different design. Royal wine flowed freely, according to the king's bounty
- Esther 5:6 HCSB While drinking the wine, the king asked Esther, "Whatever you ask will be given to you. Whatever you want, even to half the kingdom, will be done."
- Esther 5:12 HCSB "What's more," Haman added, "Queen Esther invited no one but me to join the king at the banquet she had prepared. I am invited again tomorrow to join her with the king.
- Daniel 5:1-4 HCSB King Belshazzar held a great feast for 1,000 of his nobles and drank wine in their presence. 2 Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar gave orders to bring in the gold and silver vessels that his predecessor Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, wives, and concubines could drink from them. 3 So they brought in the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, wives, and concubines drank from them. 4 They drank the wine and praised their gods made of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.
- John 2:3 HCSB When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother told Him, "They don't have any wine."

#### **It was used for drink offerings in the worship of God**

- Exodus 29:40 HCSB With the first lamb offer two quarts of fine flour mixed with one quart of crushed olive oil, and a drink offering of one quart of wine.
- Numbers 15:4-10 HCSB the one presenting his offering to the LORD must also present a grain offering of two quarts of fine flour mixed with a quart of oil. 5 Prepare a quart of wine as a drink offering with the burnt offering or sacrifice of each lamb. 6 "If you prepare a grain offering with a ram, it must be four quarts of fine flour mixed with a third of a gallon of oil. 7 Also present a third of a gallon of wine for a drink offering as a pleasing aroma to the LORD. 8 "If you prepare a young bull as a burnt offering or as a sacrifice, to fulfill a vow, or as a fellowship offering to the LORD, 9 a grain offering of six quarts of fine flour mixed with two quarts of oil must be presented with the bull. 10 Also present two quarts of wine as a drink offering. It is a fire offering of pleasing aroma to the LORD.

#### **It had a sacramental use in the New Testament as well.**

- Matthew 26:27-29 HCSB Then He took a cup, and after giving thanks, He gave it to them and said, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood that establishes the covenant; it is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 But I tell you, from this

moment I will not drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it in a new way in My Father's kingdom with you."

- Mark 14:23-25 HCSB Then He took a cup, and after giving thanks, He gave it to them, and so they all drank from it. 24 He said to them, "This is My blood that establishes the covenant; it is shed for many. 25 I assure you: I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it in a new way in the kingdom of God."
- Luke 22:20 HCSB In the same way He also took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant established by My blood; it is shed for you."
- John 6:53-56 HCSB So Jesus said to them, "I assure you: Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves. 54 Anyone who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day, 55 because My flesh is real food and My blood is real drink. 56 The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood lives in Me, and I in him."

#### **Wine was also used for drink offerings in idolatrous worship.**

- Deuteronomy 32:37-38 HCSB He will say: "Where are their gods, the 'rock' they found refuge in? 38 Who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offerings? Let them rise up and help you; let it be a shelter for you."

#### **Wine was used medicinally.**

- Luke 10:34 HCSB He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.
- 1 Timothy 5:23 HCSB Don't continue drinking only water, but use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.
- Proverbs 31:6-7 HCSB Give beer to one who is dying, and wine to one whose life is bitter. 7 Let him drink so that he can forget his poverty and remember his trouble no more.

#### **The first fruits (the first wine produced each year) were to be offered to God.**

- Deuteronomy 18:4 HCSB You are to give him the firstfruits of your grain, new wine, and oil, and the first sheared wool of your flock.
- 2 Chronicles 31:5 HCSB When the word spread, the Israelites gave liberally of the best of the grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field, and they brought an abundant tenth of everything.

#### **Wine, along with corn and oil denoted all temporal blessings.**

- Genesis 27:28 HCSB May God give to you--from the dew of the sky and from the richness of the land--an abundance of grain and new wine.
- Genesis 27:37 HCSB But Isaac answered Esau: "Look, I have made him a master over you, have given him all of his relatives as his servants, and have sustained him with grain and new wine. What then can I do for you, my son?"
- Psalms 4:7 HCSB You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and new wine abound.
- Hosea 2:8 HCSB She does not recognize that it is I who gave her the grain, the new wine, and the oil. I lavished silver and gold on her, which they used for Baal.
- Joel 2:19 HCSB The LORD answered His people: Look, I am about to send you grain, new wine, and olive oil. You will be satiated with them, and I will no longer make you a disgrace among the nations.

#### **The Jews drank to excess at times.**

- Isaiah 5:11 HCSB Woe to those who rise early in the morning in pursuit of beer, who linger into the evening, inflamed by wine.

### **In times of scarcity, the wine was mixed with water.**

- Isaiah 1:22 HCSB Your silver has become dross, your beer is diluted with water.

### **Sometimes it was mixed with milk as a beverage.**

- Song of Solomon 5:1 HCSB I have come to my garden--my sister, my bride. I gather my myrrh with my spices. I eat my honeycomb with my honey. I drink my wine with my milk. Eat, friends! Drink, be intoxicated with love!

### **Wine was used to cheer God and man.**

- Judges 9:13 HCSB But the grapevine said to them, "Should I stop giving my wine that cheers both God and man, and rule over trees?"
- Zechariah 9:17 HCSB How lovely and beautiful they will be! Grain will make the young men flourish, and new wine, the young women.
- Zechariah 10:7 HCSB Ephraim will be like a warrior, and their hearts will be glad as if with wine. Their children will see it and be glad; their hearts will rejoice in the LORD.

### **Wine is used to figuratively speak of...**

- **Religious leaders** Isaiah 28:7-8 HCSB These also stagger because of wine and stumble under the influence of beer: priest and prophet stagger because of beer, they are confused by wine. They stumble because of beer, they are muddled in their visions, they stumble in their judgments. 8 Indeed, all their tables are covered with vomit; there is no place without a stench.
- **Babylon** Jeremiah 51:7-9 HCSB Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD's hand making the whole earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore, the nations go mad. 8 Suddenly Babylon fell and was shattered. Wail for her; get balm for her wound--perhaps she can be healed. 9 We tried to heal Babylon, but she could not be healed. Abandon her! Let each of us go to his own land, for her judgment extends to the sky and reaches as far as the clouds.
- **Jerusalem** Isaiah 5:14, 22 HCSB Therefore Sheol enlarges its throat and opens wide its enormous jaws, and down go Zion's dignitaries, her masses, her crowds, and those who carouse in her!... Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, who are fearless at mixing beer
- **Sorrow** Lamentations 3:15 HCSB He filled me with bitterness, sated me with wormwood.
- **God's wrath** Isaiah 63:2-3 HCSB Why is Your clothing red, and Your garments like one who treads a winepress? 3 I trampled the winepress alone, and no one from the nations was with Me. I trampled them in My anger and ground them underfoot in My fury; their blood spattered My garments, and all My clothes were stained.
- Jeremiah 25:15-17 , 27-28 HCSB This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take this cup of the wine of wrath from My hand and make all the nations I am sending you to drink from it. 16 They will drink, stagger, and go out of their minds because of the sword I am sending among them." 17 So I took the cup from the LORD's hand and made all the nations drink from it, everyone the LORD sent me to... Then you are to say to them: This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: Drink, get drunk, and vomit. Fall down and never get up again, as a result of the sword I am sending among you. 28 If they refuse to take the cup from you and drink, you are to say to them: This is what the LORD of Hosts says: You must drink!

- **Terror** Ezekiel 23:32-34 HCSB This is what the Lord GOD says: You will drink your sister's cup, which is deep and wide. You will be an object of ridicule and scorn, for it holds so much. 33 You will be filled with drunkenness and grief, with a cup of devastation and desolation, the cup of your sister Samaria. 34 You will drink it and drain it; then you will gnaw its broken pieces, and tear your breasts. For I have spoken. This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.
- **God's Judgment** Habakkuk 2:15-16 HCSB Woe to him who gives his neighbors drink, pouring out your wrath and even making them drunk, in order to look at their nakedness! 16 You will be filled with disgrace instead of glory. You also--drink, and expose your uncircumcision! The cup in the LORD's right hand will come around to you, and utter disgrace will cover your glory.

## **2. EVIDENCE FOR THE ALLOWANCE OF PARTAKING.**

### **Wine was given in abundance to the Jews when they were obedient.**

- Hosea 2:22 HCSB The earth will respond to the grain, the new wine, and the oil, and they will respond to Jezreel.
- Joel 2:19 HCSB The LORD answered His people: Look, I am about to send you grain, new wine, and olive oil. You will be satiated with them, and I will no longer make you a disgrace among the nations... The threshing floors will be full of grain, and the vats will overflow with new wine and olive oil.
- Zechariah 9:17 HCSB How lovely and beautiful they will be! Grain will make the young men flourish, and new wine, the young women.

### **Wine gladdens the heart.**

- Psalms 104:15 HCSB wine that makes man's heart glad--making his face shine with oil--and bread that sustains man's heart.

### **Wine strengthens.**

- 2 Samuel 16:2 HCSB The king said to Ziba, "Why do you have these?" Ziba answered, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride, the bread and summer fruit are for the young men to eat, and the wine is for those who become exhausted to drink in the desert."

### **In the following examples, the word wine (Strong's #3196) is in every case alcoholized, fermented wine. The word beer is Strong's #7194.**

#### **Melchizedec gave alcoholized wine to Abraham.**

- Genesis 14:8 HCSB Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out and lined up for battle in the Valley of Siddim

#### **Hannah used alcoholized wine as an offering when she brought Samuel to Eli**

- 1 Samuel 1:24 HCSB When she had weaned him, she took him with her to Shiloh, as well as a three-year-old bull, two and one-half gallons of flour, and a jar of wine. Though the boy was still young, she took him to the LORD's house at Shiloh.

#### **Jesse sent David to Saul with a gift of alcoholized wine.**

- 1 Samuel 16:20 HCSB So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and one young goat and sent them by his son David to Saul.

#### **Abigail gave a gift of alcoholized wine to David who accepted it and blessed her.**

- 1 Samuel 25:18 HCSB Abigail hurried, taking 200 loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five butchered sheep, a bushel of roasted grain, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys.

### **The priests were to abstain only while on duty.**

- Ezekiel 44:21 HCSB No priest may drink wine before he enters the inner court.
- Leviticus 10:9 HCSB "You and your sons are not to drink wine or beer when you enter the tent of meeting, or else you will die; this is a permanent statute throughout your generations.

### **A man under the Nazarite vow was only to abstain during the term of his vow.**

- Numbers 6:3-4, 20 HCSB he is to abstain from wine and beer. He must not drink vinegar made from wine or from beer. He must not drink any grape juice or eat fresh grapes or raisins. 4 He is not to eat anything produced by the grapevine, from seeds to skin, during his vow... The priest is to wave them as a presentation offering before the LORD. It is a holy portion for the priest, in addition to the breast of the presentation offering and the thigh of the contribution. After that, the Nazirite may drink wine.

### **Joseph (often used as a type of Christ and one of the few figures in the Bible that are not assigned any specific blame) and his brothers drank and became tipsy. (Genesis 43:34)**

- Genesis 43:34 HCSB Portions were served to them from Joseph's table, and Benjamin's portion was five times larger than any of theirs. They drank, and they got drunk with Joseph.

### **Nehemiah received and distributed all sorts of wine.**

- Nehemiah 5:18 HCSB Each day, one ox, six choice sheep, and some fowl were prepared for me. An abundance of all kinds of wine was provided every 10 days. But I didn't demand the food allotted to the governor, because the burden on the people was so heavy.

### **Esther served alcoholic wine.**

- Esther 5:7 HCSB Esther answered, "This is my petition and my request:

### **Wine makes people mirthful.**

- Esther 1:10 HCSB On the seventh day, when the king was feeling good from the wine, Ahasuerus commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who personally served him,
- Ecclesiastes 10:19 HCSB A feast is prepared for laughter, and wine makes life happy, and money is the answer for everything.

### **Wisdom, generally typified as Christ, uses alcoholized wine to symbolize her gifts.**

- Proverbs 9:5 HCSB "Come, eat my bread, and drink the wine I have mixed.
- Isaiah 55:1 HCSB "Come, everyone who is thirsty, come to the waters; and you without money, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost!

### **Solomon promotes drinking alcoholized wine.**

- Ecclesiastes 9:7 HCSB Go, eat your bread with pleasure, and drink your wine with a cheerful heart, for God has already accepted your works.

**Solomon's lover repeatedly compared her love for him (typifying the Christian's love for Christ) to alcoholized wine.**

- Song of Solomon 1:2 HCSB Oh, that he would kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is more delightful than wine.
- Song of Solomon 1:4 HCSB Take me with you--let us hurry. Oh, that the king would bring me to his chambers. We will rejoice and be glad for you; we will praise your love more than wine. It is only right that they adore you.
- Song of Solomon 4:10 HCSB How delightful your love is, my sister, my bride. Your love is much better than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume than any balsam.
- Song of Solomon 5:1 HCSB I have come to my garden--my sister, my bride. I gather my myrrh with my spices. I eat my honeycomb with my honey. I drink my wine with my milk. Eat, friends! Drink, be intoxicated with love!
- Song of Solomon 7:9 HCSB Your mouth is like fine wine--flowing smoothly for my love gliding past my lips and teeth!
- Song of Solomon 8:2 HCSB I would lead you, I would take you, to the house of my mother who taught me. I would give you spiced wine to drink from my pomegranate juice.

**Alcoholized wine and even extremely strong distilled liquor was used for the drink offerings.**

- Numbers 28:7 HCSB The drink offering is to be a quart with each lamb. Pour out the offering of beer (7941) to the LORD in the sanctuary area.
- Deuteronomy 14:26 HCSB You may spend the money on anything you want: cattle, sheep, wine (3196), beer (7941), or anything you desire. You are to feast there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice with your family.

**Job's family drank alcoholized wine.**

- Job 1:13 HCSB One day when Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house,

**David, the man after God's own heart, praised alcoholized wine and says God gave it.**

- Psalms 104:14-15 HCSB He causes grass to grow for the livestock and provides crops for man to cultivate, producing food from the earth, 15 wine that makes man's heart glad--making his face shine with oil--and bread that sustains man's heart.

**When Solomon speaks against wine in Proverbs 20:1 and 21:7, he describes drunkenness or excess.**

- Proverbs 20:1 HCSB Wine is a mocker, beer is a brawler, and whoever staggers because of them is not wise.
- Proverbs 21:17 HCSB The one who loves pleasure will become a poor man; whoever loves wine and oil will not get rich.

**Isaiah describes the taking away of alcoholized wine as a punishment.**

- Isaiah 24:9, 11 HCSB They no longer sing and drink wine; beer is bitter to those who drink it... In the streets they cry for wine. All joy grows dark; earth's rejoicing goes into exile.

**Isaiah describes Israel in the day of her blessing as a vineyard of red wine.**

- Isaiah 27:2-6 HCSB On that day sing about a desirable vineyard: 3 I, the LORD, watch over it; I water it regularly. I guard it night and day so that no one disturbs it. 4 I am not angry, but if it produces thorns and briars for Me, I will fight against it, trample it, and burn it to the ground. 5 Or let it take hold of My strength; let it make peace with Me--make peace with Me. 6 In days to come, Jacob will take root. Israel will blossom and bloom and fill the whole world with fruit.

**Jeremiah also described the lack of alcoholized wine as part of Israel's punishment.**

- Lamentations 2:12 HCSB They cry out to their mothers: Where is the grain and wine? as they faint like the wounded in the streets of the city, as their lives fade away in the arms of their mothers.

**Amos describes the lack of alcoholized wine as a punishment.**

- Amos 5:11 HCSB Therefore, because you trample on the poor and exact a grain tax from him, you will never live in the houses of cut stone you have built; you will never drink the wine from the lush vineyards you have planted.

**Again, Amos includes drinking alcoholized wine as a blessing.**

- Amos 9:14 HCSB I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel. They will rebuild and occupy ruined cities, plant vineyards and drink their wine, make gardens and eat their produce.

**Micah includes the lack of alcoholized wine as a punishment.**

- Micah 6:15 HCSB You will sow but not reap; you will press olives but not anoint yourself with oil; and you will tread grapes but not drink the wine.

**Zephaniah includes the lack of alcoholized wine as a punishment.**

- Zephaniah 1:13 HCSB Their wealth will become plunder and their houses a ruin. They will build houses but never live in them, plant vineyards but never drink their wine.

**Christ compared the relationship his disciples had with him to alcoholized wine.**

**Obviously these three passages are rendered meaningless if one believes Jesus was referring to simple grape juice or must.**

- Matthew 9:17 HCSB And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. But they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved."

**Note:** Cp. Mark 2:22; Luke 5:37

**Christ compared the relationship his disciples had to well aged wine and the life of the Pharisees and scribes had to raw new wine, saying old wine is better than new. Who ages grape juice?**

- Luke 5:39 HCSB And no one, after drinking old wine, wants new, because he says, "The old is better."

**Christ used wine to illustrate the blood he shed for us.**

- Matthew 26:27-29 HCSB Then He took a cup, and after giving thanks, He gave it to them and said, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood that establishes the covenant; it is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 But I tell you, from this moment I will not drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it in a new way in My Father's kingdom with you."

- Mark 14:23-25 HCSB Then He took a cup, and after giving thanks, He gave it to them, and so they all drank from it. 24 He said to them, "This is My blood that establishes the covenant; it is shed for many. 25 I assure you: I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it in a new way in the kingdom of God."
- Luke 22:20 HCSB In the same way He also took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant established by My blood; it is shed for you."
- John 6:53-56 HCSB So Jesus said to them, "I assure you: Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves. 54 Anyone who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day, 55 because My flesh is real food and My blood is real drink. 56 The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood lives in Me, and I in him."

**Christ was characterized by the Pharisees as a “wine bibber” (3631). In what way is this an insult if Christ limited Himself to grape juice?**

- Luke 7:33-34 HCSB For John the Baptist did not come eating bread or drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon!' 34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'

**Alcoholized wine is used to relieve suffering and externally as well as internally for medicinal purposes.**

- Mark 15:23 HCSB They tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it.
- Luke 10:34 HCSB He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.
- 1 Timothy 5:23 HCSB Don't continue drinking only water, but use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.
- Proverbs 31:6 HCSB Give beer to one who is dying, and wine to one whose life is bitter.

**Christ warned against drunkenness, not drinking.**

- Luke 21:34 HCSB "Be on your guard, so that your minds are not dulled from carousing, drunkenness, and worries of life, or that day will come on you unexpectedly"

**The wine Christ transformed from water was alcoholized. How would the chief servant's comments make any sense if what they were drinking was merely grape juice?**

- John 2:10 HCSB and told him, "Everybody sets out the fine wine first, then, after people have drunk freely, the inferior. But you have kept the fine wine until now."
- John 4:46 HCSB Then He went again to Cana of Galilee, where He had turned the water into wine. There was a certain royal official whose son was ill at Capernaum.

**Paul taught total abstinence from alcohol (just as he did abstinence from meat) only if it offended a weaker brother.**

- Romans 14:2, 21 HCSB One person believes he may eat anything, but one who is weak eats only vegetables... It is a noble thing not to eat meat, or drink wine, or do anything that makes your brother stumble.

**Paul taught the Ephesians that it was becoming drunk that is wrong.**

- Ephesians 5:18 HCSB And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions, but be filled with the Spirit:

- Romans 13:13 HCSB Let us walk with decency, as in the daylight: not in carousing and drunkenness; not in sexual impurity and promiscuity; not in quarreling and jealousy.

#### **Paul recommended the use of wine to Timothy for medicinal purposes**

- 1 Timothy 5:23 HCSB Don't continue drinking only water, but use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

#### **The ministerial qualifications include not being “given” to wine (3943 a tippler, staying near wine or 4337 to hold the mind, apply oneself to, adhere to)**

- 1 Timothy 3:3, 8 HCSB not addicted to wine, not a bully but gentle, not quarrelsome, not greedy-- Deacons, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not hypocritical, not drinking a lot of wine, not greedy for money
- Titus 1:7 HCSB For an overseer, as God's manager, must be blameless, not arrogant, not quick tempered, not addicted to wine, not a bully, not greedy for money,

#### **The older women are particularly admonished to not be slaves to drink.**

- Titus 2:3 HCSB In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not addicted to much wine. They are to teach what is good,

#### **It is the excess of any desire that we are to turn away from.**

- 1 Peter 4:3-4 HCSB For there has already been enough time spent in doing the will of the pagans: carrying on in unrestrained behavior, evil desires, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and lawless idolatry. 4 In regard to this, they are surprised that you don't plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation--and they slander you.

#### **Alcoholized wine is used figuratively of the joy of wisdom.**

- Proverbs 9:2, 5 HCSB She has prepared her meat; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table... "Come, eat my bread, and drink the wine I have mixed.

#### **Alcoholized wine is used figuratively of the joys of religion.**

- Proverbs 9:2, 5 HCSB She has prepared her meat; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table... "Come, eat my bread, and drink the wine I have mixed.
- Isaiah 25:6 HCSB The LORD of Hosts will prepare a feast for all the peoples on this mountain--a feast of aged wine, choice meat, finely aged wine.
- Isaiah 55:1 HCSB "Come, everyone who is thirsty, come to the waters; and you without money, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost!

### **3. EVIDENCE FOR CAUTION IN PARTAKING OF ALCOHOL.**

#### **Alcoholized wine is used figuratively of the divine judgments**

- Psalms 60:3 HCSB You have made Your people suffer hardship; You have given us a wine to drink that made us stagger.
- Psalms 75:8 HCSB For there is a cup in the LORD's hand, full of wine blended with spices, and He pours from it. All the wicked of the earth will drink, draining it to the dregs.
- Jeremiah 51:7 HCSB Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD's hand making the whole earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore, the nations go mad.
- Jeremiah 13:12-14 HCSB "Say this to them: This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Every jar should be filled with wine. Then they will respond to you: Don't we

know that every jar should be filled with wine? 13 And you will say to them, This is what the LORD says: I am about to fill all who live in this land--the kings who reign for David on his throne, the priests, the prophets and all the residents of Jerusalem--with drunkenness. 14 I will smash them against each other, fathers and sons alike"--the LORD's declaration. "I will allow no mercy, pity, or compassion to keep Me from destroying them."

- Jeremiah 25:15-18 HCSB This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take this cup of the wine of wrath from My hand and make all the nations I am sending you to drink from it. 16 They will drink, stagger, and go out of their minds because of the sword I am sending among them." 17 So I took the cup from the LORD's hand and made all the nations drink from it, everyone the LORD sent me to. 18 These included: Jerusalem and the other cities of Judah, its kings and its officials, to make them a desolate ruin, an object of scorn and cursing--as it is today;

### **Solomon uses wine to illustrate violence and rapine.**

- Proverbs 4:17 HCSB They eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.

### **Solomon gives rules of behavior in the presence of the king and also includes restricting your consumption of royal dainties and in each instance describes excess.**

- Proverbs 23:20 HCSB Don't associate with those who drink too much wine, or with those who gorge themselves on meat.
- Isaiah 5:22 HCSB Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, who are fearless at mixing beer,

### **Proverbs 23:29-35 Describes in detail the characteristics of extreme inebriation bordering on toxicosis.**

- Proverbs 23:29-35 HCSB Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has conflicts? Who has complaints? Who has wounds for no reason? Who has red eyes? 30 Those who linger over wine, those who go looking for mixed wine. 31 Don't gaze at wine when it is red, when it gleams in the cup and goes down smoothly. 32 In the end it bites like a snake and stings like a viper. 33 Your eyes will see strange things, and you will say absurd things. 34 You'll be like someone sleeping out at sea or lying down on the top of a ship's mast. 35 "They struck me, but I feel no pain! They beat me, but I didn't know it! When will I wake up? I'll look for another drink."

### **The Rechabites never drank.**

- Jeremiah 35:5-6 HCSB I set jars filled with wine and some cups before the sons of the house of the Rechabites and said to them, "Drink wine!" 6 But they replied, "We do not drink wine, for Jonadab, son of our ancestor Rechab, commanded: 'You and your sons must never drink wine.'

### **Alcoholized wine is used figuratively of abominations.**

- Revelation 14:18 HCSB Yet another angel, who had authority over fire, came from the altar, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Use your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from earth's vineyard, because its grapes have ripened."
- Revelation 16:19 HCSB The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the Great was remembered in God's presence; He gave her the cup filled with the wine of His fierce anger.

- Revelation 17:2 HCSB The kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with her, and those who live on the earth became drunk on the wine of her sexual immorality."
- Revelation 18:3 HCSB For all the nations have drunk the wine of her sexual immorality, which brings wrath. The kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown wealthy from her excessive luxury.

### **Drinking to excess infuriates the temper.**

- Proverbs 20:1 HCSB Wine is a mocker, beer is a brawler, and whoever staggers because of them is not wise.

### **Drinking to excess impairs the judgment and memory.**

- 1 Samuel 25:37 HCSB In the morning when Nabal sobered up, his wife told him about these events. Then he had a seizure and became paralyzed.
- Hosea 4:11 HCSB Promiscuity, wine, and new wine take away one's understanding.
- Proverbs 31:4-5 HCSB It is not for kings, Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine or for rulers to desire beer. 5 Otherwise, they will drink, forget what is decreed, and pervert justice for all the oppressed.
- Isaiah 28:7 HCSB These also stagger because of wine and stumble under the influence of beer: priest and prophet stagger because of beer, they are confused by wine. They stumble because of beer, they are muddled in their visions, they stumble in their judgments.
- Proverbs 23:31-35 HCSB Don't gaze at wine when it is red, when it gleams in the cup and goes down smoothly. 32 In the end it bites like a snake and stings like a viper. 33 Your eyes will see strange things, and you will say absurd things. 34 You'll be like someone sleeping out at sea or lying down on the top of a ship's mast. 35 "They struck me, but I feel no pain! They beat me, but I didn't know it! When will I wake up? I'll look for another drink."

### **Excessive drinking leads to sorrow and contention.**

- Proverbs 23:29-30 HCSB Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has conflicts? Who has complaints? Who has wounds for no reason? Who has red eyes? 30 Those who linger over wine, those who go looking for mixed wine.

### **Drinking to excess leads to remorse.**

- Proverbs 23:31-32 HCSB Don't gaze at wine when it is red, when it gleams in the cup and goes down smoothly. 32 In the end it bites like a snake and stings like a viper.

### **"Drunkenness" is forbidden to the Christian.**

- Ephesians 5:18 HCSB And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions, but be filled with the Spirit:

### **We are cautioned against drunkenness.**

- Luke 21:34 HCSB "Be on your guard, so that your minds are not dulled from carousing, drunkenness, and worries of life, or that day will come on you unexpectedly

### **Drunkenness is a work of the flesh.**

- Galatians 5:19-21 HCSB Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and

anything similar, about which I tell you in advance--as I told you before--that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

### **Drunkenness is debasing.**

- Isaiah 28:7-8 HCSB These also stagger because of wine and stumble under the influence of beer: priest and prophet stagger because of beer, they are confused by wine. They stumble because of beer, they are muddled in their visions, they stumble in their judgments. 8 Indeed, all their tables are covered with vomit; there is no place without a stench.

### **Drunkenness will inflame your passions and lead you to spiritual blindness.**

- Isaiah 5:11-12 HCSB Woe to those who rise early in the morning in pursuit of beer, who linger into the evening, inflamed by wine. 12 At their feasts they have lyre, harp, tambourine, flute, and wine. They do not perceive the LORD's actions, and they do not see the work of His hands.

### **Drunkenness broke down Noah's morals.**

- Genesis 9:20-23 HCSB Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard. 21 He drank some of the wine, became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent. 22 Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside. 23 Then Shem and Japheth took a cloak and placed it over both their shoulders, and walking backwards, they covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father naked.

### **Drunkenness broke down Lot's morals.**

- Genesis 19:30-36 HCSB Lot departed from Zoar and lived in the mountains along with his two daughters, because he was afraid to live in Zoar. Instead, he and his two daughters lived in a cave. 31 Then the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man in the land to sleep with us as is the custom of all the land. 32 Come, let's get our father to drink wine so that we can sleep with him and preserve our father's line." 33 So they got their father to drink wine that night, and the firstborn came and slept with her father; he did not know when she lay down or when she got up. 34 The next day the firstborn said to the younger, "Look, I slept with my father last night. Let's get him to drink wine again tonight so you can go sleep with him and we can preserve our father's line." 35 That night they again got their father to drink wine, and the younger went and slept with him; he did not know when she lay down or when she got up. 36 So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father.

### **Drunkenness is directly related to promiscuity.**

- Hosea 4:11-12 HCSB Promiscuity, wine, and new wine take away one's understanding. 12 My people consult their wooden idols, and their divining rods inform them. For a spirit of promiscuity leads them astray; they act promiscuously in disobedience to their God.

### **Drunkenness overcharges the heart and dulls the mind, allowing terrible things to "sneak up" on you.**

- Luke 21:34 HCSB "Be on your guard, so that your minds are not dulled from carousing, drunkenness, and worries of life, or that day will come on you unexpectedly

### **Drunkenness leads to error.**

- Isaiah 28:7 HCSB These also stagger because of wine and stumble under the influence of beer: priest and prophet stagger because of beer, they are confused by wine. They stumble because of beer, they are muddled in their visions, they stumble in their judgments.

### **Drunkenness leads to poverty.**

- Proverbs 21:17 HCSB The one who loves pleasure will become a poor man; whoever loves wine and oil will not get rich.
- Proverbs 23:20-21 HCSB Don't associate with those who drink too much wine, or with those who gorge themselves on meat. 21 For the drunkard and the glutton will become poor, and gogginess will clothe them in rags.

### **Drunkenness leads to contempt of God's work.**

- Isaiah 5:12 HCSB At their feasts they have lyre, harp, tambourine, flute, and wine. They do not perceive the LORD's actions, and they do not see the work of His hands.

### **Drunkenness leads to scorning authority.**

- Hosea 7:5-7 HCSB On the day of our king, the princes are sick with the heat of wine--there is a conspiracy with traitors. 6 For they--their hearts like an oven--draw him into their oven. Their anger smolders all night; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire. 7 All of them are as hot as an oven, and they consume their rulers. All their kings fall; not one of them calls on Me.

### **Drunkenness leads to sexual impurity, promiscuity, quarreling and jealousy.**

- Romans 13:13 HCSB Let us walk with decency, as in the daylight: not in carousing and drunkenness; not in sexual impurity and promiscuity; not in quarreling and jealousy.

### **Addiction is a characteristic of the wicked and a sign of coming destruction.**

- Daniel 5:1-6 HCSB King Belshazzar held a great feast for 1,000 of his nobles and drank wine in their presence. 2 Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar gave orders to bring in the gold and silver vessels that his predecessor Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, wives, and concubines could drink from them. 3 So they brought in the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, wives, and concubines drank from them. 4 They drank the wine and praised their gods made of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone. 5 At that moment the fingers of a man's hand appeared and began writing on the plaster of the king's palace wall next to the lampstand. As the king watched the hand that was writing, 6 his face turned pale, and his thoughts so terrified him that his hip joints shook and his knees knocked together.

### **False teachers are often addicted to alcohol.**

- Isaiah 56:10-12 HCSB Israel's watchmen are blind, all of them, they know nothing; all of them are mute dogs, they cannot bark; they dream, lie down, and love to sleep. 11 These dogs have fierce appetites; they never have enough. And they are shepherds who have no discernment; all of them turn to their own way, every last one for his own gain. 12 "Come, let me get some wine, let's guzzle some beer; and tomorrow will be like today, only far better!"

### **It is foolish to yield to addiction.**

- Proverbs 20:1 HCSB Wine is a mocker, beer is a brawler, and whoever staggers because of them is not wise.

### **The Ransomed should be cautious that in dealing with those given to alcoholism they don't fall into the sin themselves.**

- Isaiah 5:11-12 HCSB Woe to those who rise early in the morning in pursuit of beer, who linger into the evening, inflamed by wine. 12 At their feasts they have lyre, harp, tambourine, flute, and wine. They do not perceive the LORD's actions, and they do not see the work of His hands.
- Isaiah 28:1-3 HCSB Woe to the majestic crown of Ephraim's drunkards, and to the fading flower of its beautiful splendor, which is on the summit above the rich valley. Woe to those overcome with wine. 2 Look, the Lord has a strong and mighty one--like a devastating hail storm, like a storm with strong flooding waters. He will bring it across the land with His hand. 3 The majestic crown of Ephraim's drunkards will be trampled underfoot.

### **The Lord will punish those who manipulate other's addictions for the satisfaction of their own desires.**

- Habakkuk 2:15-16 HCSB Woe to him who gives his neighbors drink, pouring out your wrath and even making them drunk, in order to look at their nakedness! 16 You will be filled with disgrace instead of glory. You also--drink, and expose your uncircumcision! The cup in the LORD's right hand will come around to you, and utter disgrace will cover your glory.

### **Alcoholism may be a sign that you have not yet been saved and that you may end up being excluded from heaven.**

- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 HCSB Do you not know that the unjust will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: no sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, 10 thieves, greedy people, drunkards, revilers, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom.
- Galatians 5:19-21 HCSB Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar, about which I tell you in advance--as I told you before--that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

### **When alcoholism seized a person so strongly that they were causing a disruption in society and could not stop themselves, God dictated severe punishment. An addicted son who was rebellious and abusive was stoned to death.**

- Deuteronomy 21:20-21 HCSB They will say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he doesn't obey us. He's a glutton and a drunkard.' 21 Then all the men of his city will stone him to death. You must purge the evil from you, and all Israel will hear and be afraid.

### **God allowed His people to be invaded.**

- Joel 1:5-6 HCSB Wake up, you drunkards, and weep; wail, all you wine drinkers, because of the sweet wine, for it has been taken from your mouth. 6 For a nation has invaded My land, powerful and without number; its teeth are the teeth of a lion, and it has the fangs of a lioness.

### **God allowed his people to be exiled.**

- Amos 6:6-7 HCSB They drink wine by the bowlful and anoint themselves with the finest oils but do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. 7 Therefore, they will now go into exile as the first of the captives, and the feasting of those who sprawl out will come to an end.

### **God will condemn abusive drunks to hell.**

- Matthew 24:48-51 HCSB But if that wicked slave says in his heart, 'My master is delayed,' 49 and starts to beat his fellow slaves, and eats and drinks with drunkards, 50 that slave's master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. 51 He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### **God classifies substance abuse as equally heinous as some very serious sins.**

- Galatians 5:19-21 HCSB Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar, about which I tell you in advance--as I told you before--that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

### **The Ransomed shouldn't associate with people who claim to be followers of Christ but are drunkards. In fact, such people are to be put out of the church.**

- 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 HCSB I wrote to you in a letter not to associate with sexually immoral people-- 10 by no means referring to this world's immoral people, or to the greedy and swindlers, or to idolaters; otherwise you would have to leave the world. 11 But now I am writing you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother who is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a reviler, a drunkard or a swindler. Do not even eat with such a person. 12 For what is it to me to judge outsiders? Do you not judge those who are inside? 13 But God judges outsiders. Put away the evil person from among yourselves.

### **Drinking to the point of drunkenness is dangerous because it leads to reckless actions – sin. These will grieve the Holy Spirit and may result in our relationship with God being broken.**

- Ephesians 5:18 HCSB And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions, but be filled with the Spirit:

### **For instance, the Corinthians partied so hard at their communion services that some got drunk!**

- 1 Corinthians 11:21 HCSB For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others, and one person is hungry while another is drunk!

### **This led to God making them sick. Those who continued stubbornly in their sin He ended up killing!**

- 1 Corinthians 11:29-30 HCSB For whoever eats and drinks without recognizing the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 This is why many are sick and ill among you, and many have fallen asleep.

### **Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.**

- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 HCSB Do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

**You can be saved from drunkenness and set free.**

- 1 Corinthians 6:11 HCSB Some of you were like this; but you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

**Sobriety (in the sense of behavior that is marked by serious thought, moderation and self-control) is commanded.**

- 1 Peter 1:13 HCSB Therefore, get your minds ready for action, being self-disciplined, and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- 1 Peter 5:8 HCSB Be sober! Be on the alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.

**The Gospel was designed to teach sobriety. Therefore we should seek to live in a state of sobriety.**

- Titus 2:12 HCSB instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age,

**The following are examples of drunkenness.**

- **Noah** Genesis 9:21 HCSB He drank some of the wine, became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent.
- **Lot** Genesis 19:33 HCSB So they got their father to drink wine that night, and the firstborn came and slept with her father; he did not know when she lay down or when she got up.
- **Aaron's sons** Leviticus 10:1-2, 8-9 HCSB Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu each took his own firepan, put fire in it, placed incense on it, and presented unauthorized fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them to do. 2 Then flames leaped from the LORD's presence and burned them to death before the LORD... The LORD spoke to Aaron: 9 "You and your sons are not to drink wine or beer when you enter the tent of meeting, or else you will die; this is a permanent statute throughout your generations.
- **Nabal** 1 Samuel 25:36 HCSB Then Abigail went to Nabal, and there he was in his house, feasting like a king. Nabal was in a good mood and very drunk, so she didn't say anything to him until morning light.
- **Uriah** 2 Samuel 11:13 HCSB Then David invited Uriah to eat and drink with him, and David got him drunk. He went out in the evening to lie down on his cot with his master's servants, but he did not go home.
- **Amnon** 2 Samuel 13:28 HCSB Now Absalom commanded his young men, "Watch Amnon until he is in a good mood from the wine. When I order you to strike Amnon, then kill him. Don't be afraid. Am I not the one who has commanded you? Be strong and courageous!"
- **Elah** 1 Kings 16:9 HCSB His servant Zimri, commander of half his chariots, conspired against him while Elah was in Tirzah drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza, who was in charge of the household at Tirzah.
- **Benhadad** 1 Kings 20:16 HCSB They marched out at noon while Ben-hadad and the 32 kings who were helping him were getting drunk in the tents.

- **King Xerxes aka Ahasuerus** Esther 1:10 HCSB On the seventh day, when the king was feeling good from the wine, Ahasuerus commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who personally served him,
- **Kings of Israel** Hosea 7:5 HCSB On the day of our king, the princes are sick with the heat of wine--there is a conspiracy with traitors.
- **Corinthians** 1 Corinthians 11:21 HCSB For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others, and one person is hungry while another is drunk!

**The following were falsely accused of drunkenness:**

- **Hannah** – 1 Samuel 1:12-16 HCSB While she was praying in the LORD's presence, Eli watched her lips. 13 Hannah was speaking to herself, and although her lips were moving, her voice could not be heard. Eli thought she was drunk 14 and scolded her, "How long are you going to be drunk? Get rid of your wine!" 15 "No, my lord," Hannah replied. "I am a woman with a broken heart. I haven't had any wine or beer; I've been pouring out my heart before the LORD. 16 Don't think of me as a wicked woman; I've been praying from the depth of my anguish and resentment."
- **Jesus** – Matthew 11:19 HCSB The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."
- **The apostles** – Acts 2:13-15 HCSB But some sneered and said, "They're full of new wine!" 14 But Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them: "Jewish men and all you residents of Jerusalem, let this be known to you and pay attention to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it's only nine in the morning.

**Here are some examples of total abstinence:**

- Leviticus 10:8-10 HCSB The LORD spoke to Aaron: 9 "You and your sons are not to drink wine or beer when you enter the tent of meeting, or else you will die; this is a permanent statute throughout your generations. 10 You must distinguish between the holy and the common, and the clean and the unclean,
- Numbers 6:3-4 HCSB he is to abstain from wine and beer. He must not drink vinegar made from wine or from beer. He must not drink any grape juice or eat fresh grapes or raisins. 4 He is not to eat anything produced by the grapevine, from seeds to skin, during his vow.
- Proverbs 31:4 HCSB It is not for kings, Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine or for rulers to desire beer.
- Judges 13:4 , 13-14 HCSB Now please be careful not to drink wine or other alcoholic beverages, or to eat anything unclean... The Angel of the LORD answered Manoah, "Your wife needs to do everything I told her. 14 She must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine or drink wine or other alcoholic beverages. And she must not eat anything unclean. Your wife must do everything I have commanded her."
- Jeremiah 35:6-8 HCSB But they replied, "We do not drink wine, for Jonadab, son of our ancestor Rechab, commanded: 'You and your sons must never drink wine. 7 You must not build a house or sow seed or plant a vineyard. Those things are not for you. Rather, you must live in tents your whole life, so you may live a long time on the soil where you stay as a resident alien.' 8 We have obeyed the voice of Jonadab, son of our ancestor Rechab, in all he commanded us. So we haven't drunk wine our whole life--we, our wives, our sons, and our daughters... "The words of Jonadab, son of Rechab, have been carried out. He commanded his sons not to drink wine, and they

have not drunk to this very day because they have obeyed their ancestor's command. But I have spoken to you time and time again, and you have not obeyed Me!

- Luke 1:15 HCSB For he will be great in the sight of the Lord and will never drink wine or beer. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in his mother's womb.

#### Here are some instances of total abstinence:

- **Israelites in the wilderness** Deuteronomy 29:6 HCSB you did not eat bread or drink wine or beer--so that you might know that I am the LORD your God.
- **Samson** Numbers 6:3-4 HCSB he is to abstain from wine and beer. He must not drink vinegar made from wine or from beer. He must not drink any grape juice or eat fresh grapes or raisins. 4 He is not to eat anything produced by the grapevine, from seeds to skin, during his vow.
- Judges 13:3-5, 13-16 HCSB The Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "It is true that you are barren and have no children, but you will conceive and give birth to a son. 4 Now please be careful not to drink wine or other alcoholic beverages, or to eat anything unclean; 5 for indeed, you will conceive and give birth to a son. You must never cut his hair, because the boy will be a Nazirite to God from birth, and he will begin to save Israel from the power of the Philistines... The Angel of the LORD answered Manoah, "Your wife needs to do everything I told her. 14 She must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine or drink wine or other alcoholic beverages. And she must not eat anything unclean. Your wife must do everything I have commanded her." 15 "Please stay here," Manoah told Him, "and we will prepare a young goat for You." 16 The Angel of the LORD said to him, "If I stay, I won't eat your food. But if you want to prepare a burnt offering, offer it to the LORD." For Manoah did not know He was the Angel of the LORD.
- **Daniel** – Daniel 1:8 HCSB Daniel determined that he would not defile himself with the king's food or with the wine he drank. So he asked permission from the chief official not to defile himself... "Please test your servants for 10 days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink.
- **Rechabites** – Jeremiah 35:6-14 HCSB But they replied, "We do not drink wine, for Jonadab, son of our ancestor Rechab, commanded: 'You and your sons must never drink wine. 7 You must not build a house or sow seed or plant a vineyard. Those things are not for you. Rather, you must live in tents your whole life, so you may live a long time on the soil where you stay as a resident alien.' 8 We have obeyed the voice of Jonadab, son of our ancestor Rechab, in all he commanded us. So we haven't drunk wine our whole life--we, our wives, our sons, and our daughters. 9 We also have not built houses to live in and do not have vineyard, field, or seed. 10 But we have lived in tents and have obeyed and done as our ancestor Jonadab commanded us. 11 However, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched into the land, we said: Come, let's go into Jerusalem to get away from the Chaldean and Aramean armies. So we have been living in Jerusalem." 12 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: 13 "This is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: Go, say to the men of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem: Will you not accept discipline by listening to My words?"--this is the LORD's declaration. 14 "The words of Jonadab, son of Rechab, have been carried out. He commanded his sons not to drink wine, and they have not drunk to this very day because they have obeyed their ancestor's command. But I have spoken to you time and time again, and you have not obeyed Me!

- **John the Baptist** – Luke 1:15 HCSB For he will be great in the sight of the Lord and will never drink wine or beer. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in his mother's womb.
- Matthew 11:18 HCSB For John did not come eating or drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon!'
- Luke 7:33 HCSB For John the Baptist did not come eating bread or drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon!'

**Here are some references to temperance, self-discipline or moderation:**

- Esther 1:7-8 HCSB Beverages were served in an array of gold goblets, each with a different design. Royal wine flowed freely, according to the king's bounty 8 and no restraint was placed on the drinking. The king had ordered every wine steward in his household to serve as much as each person wanted.
- Proverbs 23:1-3 HCSB When you sit down to dine with a ruler, consider carefully what is before you, 2 and stick a knife in your throat if you have a big appetite; 3 don't desire his choice food, for that food is deceptive.
- Daniel 1:8-16 HCSB Daniel determined that he would not defile himself with the king's food or with the wine he drank. So he asked permission from the chief official not to defile himself... "Please test your servants for 10 days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then examine our appearance and the appearance of the young men who are eating the king's food, and deal with your servants based on what you see." 14 He agreed with them in this matter and tested them for 10 days. 15 At the end of 10 days they looked better and healthier than all the young men who were eating the king's food. 16 So the guard continued to remove their food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables.
- Romans 13:13-14 HCSB Let us walk with decency, as in the daylight: not in carousing and drunkenness; not in sexual impurity and promiscuity; not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no plans to satisfy the fleshly desires.
- 1 Corinthians 9:25-27 HCSB Now everyone who competes exercises self-control in everything. However, they do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one. 26 Therefore I do not run like one who runs aimlessly, or box like one who beats the air. 27 Instead, I discipline my body and bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 HCSB So then, we must not sleep, like the rest, but we must stay awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But since we are of the day, we must be sober and put the armor of faith and love on our chests, and put on a helmet of the hope of salvation.
- Titus 1:7-8 HCSB For an overseer, as God's manager, must be blameless, not arrogant, not quick tempered, not addicted to wine, not a bully, not greedy for money, 8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, righteous, holy, self-controlled,
- Titus 2:2-3, 12 HCSB Older men are to be self-controlled, worthy of respect, sensible, and sound in faith, love, and endurance. 3 In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not addicted to much wine. They are to teach what is good... instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age
- 2 Peter 1:5-6 HCSB For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, 6 knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness.