

The Remnant Of Her Seed

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“Wine is a mocker” Proverbs 20:1

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The word “wine” in the Bible means either grape juice, i.e. unfermented wine, or fermented wine, i.e. an alcoholic drink. Let us look at some Bible verses that mention the word “wine”.

Unfermented wine

“Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all.”

Isaiah 65:8. This passage clearly describes wine as the fresh juice of the grape as it exists in the cluster and therefore it is unfermented. This kind of wine is not a intoxicant or drug, but a blessing from God.

Again we read, “And gladness is taken away, and joy out of the plentiful field; and in the vineyards there shall be no singing, neither shall there be shouting: the treaders shall tread out no wine in their presses; I have made their vintage shouting to cease.” Isaiah 16:10. This passage speaks of wine as something treaded out in the presses, directly from the grape and therefore in a nonalcoholic state. When available in the vineyards, it was a blessing in that it brought joy because it was a refreshing alternative to water.

“Mine eyes do fail with tears, my bowels are troubled, my liver is poured upon the earth, for the destruction of the daughter of my people; because the children and the sucklings swoon in the streets of the city. They say to their mothers, Where is corn and wine? when they swooned as the wounded in the streets of the city, when their soul was poured out into their mothers' bosom.” Lamentations 2:11-12. Again the wine spoken of in this passage is one that can be drunk by children and therefore not an intoxicant.

Fermented wine

“Wine is a mocker. Strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise” Proverbs 20:1, NKJV. Wine in this fermentation form is a depressant that has adverse effects on our mind, our judgement, and our health. And again we read. “Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!.... Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:” Isaiah 5:11,22. These verses clearly refer to a wine that we should have nothing to do with as it invokes woe from the Lord himself.

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor **drunkards**, nor revilers (slanderers), nor extortioners (swindlers), will inherit the kingdom of God” 1 Corinthians 6:9,10, NKJV

These verses clearly shows that **drunkards**, i.e. those that drink fermented wine or intoxicating beverages are listed among those that **will not inherit the kingdom of God**. As we have seen, the Bible can refer to wine as both fermented or unfermented beverages. Therefore we should be careful not to assume the alcoholic content in every context where the term “wine” is employed and attempt to use that as justification for drinking alcohol.

Jesus Christ turns water to wine

Some justify their drinking fermented wine by pointing to the miracle performed by Jesus when He turned water into wine (John 2:1-10). But it was Christ who in the Old Testament gave the warning to Israel, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Proverbs 20:1. And He Himself provided no such beverage.

Satan tempts men to indulgence that will becloud reason and benumb the spiritual perceptions, but Christ teaches us to bring the lower nature into subjection. His whole life was an example of self-denial. In order to break the power of appetite, He suffered in our behalf the severest test that humanity could endure.

It was Christ who directed that John the Baptist should drink neither wine nor strong drink (Luke 1:15). It was He who enjoined similar abstinence upon the wife of Manoah (Judges 13:14). And He pronounced a curse upon the man who should put the bottle to his neighbour's lips. Christ did not contradict His own teaching. The unfermented wine which He provided for the wedding guests was a wholesome and refreshing drink. Its effect was to bring the taste into harmony with a healthful appetite.

Power in Jesus Christ

There is power in the blood of Jesus Christ to enable us feeble, helpless human beings to overcome our natural inclination to sin. The Bible describes our nature like this, “The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be” Romans 8:7

In other words, the reason why we as human beings want to drink alcohol or commit any other sin, is because the “carnal mind, i.e. our natural inclination, our natural corrupt propensities want something that God has forbidden. If we do not allow God through His Holy Spirit, to convert our “carnal mind” into a mind that will be “subject to the law of God”, then no matter how much scripture evidence is produced showing that God does not want us to drink alcohol, we will keep on drinking alcohol and will at last be destroyed with all the wicked in the lake of fire.

Christ says he came into this world to save sinners. It does not matter what sin it is that Satan has fastened upon us, whether it's drunkardness, adultery, pride, etc. If we surrender our lives to Jesus and accept Him as our Saviour and confess our sins and forsake them, the Bible promise is that "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." and that "As many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" 1 John 1:9; John 1:12.

He who declares, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life," also gives the invitation, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Revelation 2:10; Isaiah 55:7. God hates sin, but He loves the sinner. "I will heal their backsliding," He declares; "I will love them freely." Hosea 14:4.

So there is power in Jesus Christ to break away from the bondage of sin and Satan by first cleansing us from all unrighteousness and then imputing His righteousness upon us so that we may overcome sin and forsake it. This will be a daily thing because the Bible says "As thy days, so shall thy strength be" Deuteronomy 33: 25. Every day we are to seek strength from Christ.