

# God's Word on WINE and alcohol



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Philip Shields

[www.LightontheRock.org](http://www.LightontheRock.org)

**All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.**

**KEY WORDS:** wine, grapes, vine, vineyard, drunk, Cana, Principle of First Mention.

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**Summary:** What was Jesus' first miracle? WHY was that the first one? What did the wine at Cana point to? Why did Jesus/Yeshua have to make so MUCH wine in that miracle (120-180 gallons)? What can we learn by "The PRINCIPLE OF FIRST MENTION" concerning wine? What is consumed for Passover – grape juice or wine? Does GOD enjoy wine? Did he require an offering of wine? Whether you feel believers can or shouldn't drink wine or alcohol, you'll discover spiritual insights connected to drinking wine that you may not have realized before as we study this together.

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**Of all the miracles Jesus/Yeshua could have chosen to do as his FIRST miracle, why did he pick the one he DID: turning water into wine, lots of it – 150 gallons of it – as his FIRST miracle? And find WHY did he make SO MUCH wine. Could God enjoy a glass of wine? You might be surprised. Did God ever require an offering of WINE?**

**Let's see what God's word says about believers drinking wine and alcohol.**

Whatever your belief right now is, I believe you'll discover insights on this subject. And it will help you *discuss* this subject of wine and alcohol with others, with all the scriptures you'd want from multiple perspectives.

**Hello everyone, I'm Philip Shields, founder and host of Light on the Rock.**

Thanks for coming. Be sure to let others know about us and our website. Our goal is a closer walk with God, closer relationship to our Father and to our Savior – with all our heart, soul and mind. And we focus also on loving one another – the 2 great commandments. Today I'm talking about the use of wine and alcohol – and there's MUCH the Bible says about it.

**Why bother with this subject?** Because for one thing, Jesus said one of the first things he'll do with his resurrected brothers and sisters in his kingdom is to **drink a glass of wine with all of us again. I'll want to participate in that without judging my Savior for drinking! Luke 22:17-18.**

*(Reminder: I do recommend you listen to the audio as well as read the notes, as you'll get the most this way. NOT everything makes it into the notes.)*

I'll also show why and how we know what Jesus will drink won't be grape juice, but real wine. He participated apparently in 3 of the traditional 4 cups of Passover, but not the 4<sup>th</sup> one. I'll explain why.... It's part of his good news, his gospel.

I also need to cover this because some few have a TOO strict understanding on this, which can make them judgmental and condemning of a brother/sister in Christ who enjoys a glass of wine or other drink occasionally. Let's learn what the Bible says about it and live according to that.

*Or, some are feeling SO free about drinking that in some congregations, booze is prominent in all activities and rumors of real problem drinking, abound. That must not be! We should not be presenting problems from wine.*

Paul tells us to have nothing to do with **those who claim to be our brothers** in Christ but who PRACTICE a life of sin, *including drunkenness*. Paul's referring to our brethren, not people of the world. We can't control what people of the world do. But if I'm told of a brother or sister in Christ who is correctly reported to be a drunkard with several eye witnesses, he/she should be put out of the church. **(Be sure to check out the audio.** I'll have more in there than these notes; especially when it comes to stories and examples).

**1 Corinthians 5:9-11 NLT**

"When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin. 10 **But I wasn't talking about unbelievers** who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. 11 I meant that you are not to associate with **anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges** in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or **is a drunkard**, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people."

I hope I have your attention. We have to cover it.

**If you think nobody should ever drink wine – definitely study this sermon and the scriptures on it.**

If you think you understand all about it – hear this sermon because there will be ideas and thoughts you may not have thought about lately or realized.

**If you're struggling with alcoholism** or tend to get drunk – definitely hear this.

**If you're a preaching minister – definitely hear this.** There are clear instructions about ministers who are ministering before God and the role of alcohol or wine.

**My Dad was a Pentecostal missionary/evangelist** in the Philippines where I grew up in La Union, in San Fernando on the South China Sea. There I also learned to speak Ilocano and a bit of Tagalog, the national language.

**With my dad, there certainly never was any allowance or tolerance for having or drinking ANY alcohol.** He taught that it was of the Devil. So we never had any wine or beer in the house, ever. And for that matter, women all had to have long hair. We couldn't play cards unless it was something like a child's card game. We couldn't go to **movies**. Any movies. Even any kind of dancing – unless it was folk dancing, which I

learned to dance in the Philippines -- like the Tinikling dance with 2 bamboo poles. Hey – Filipinos – tell others about this.

**So in my childhood I was raised believing any alcoholic drink – wine, beer, strong drinks like whiskey – were all the Devil's brew** and those who did drink were going to hell fire. But as I got older and learned the WHOLE Bible on this subject, I found the scriptures teach us something different. Yes, alcohol can be “the Devil's brew” if misused. But there were also positive scriptures. Much like a lot of things – when not used in moderation or at the right time and right way, some things can cause problems. Food. We can become gluttons and over eat and consume foods that hurt our bodies. Sex. Outside of marriage it can be very bad, but used as God intended, “The marriage bed is undefiled”. So any sex outside of marriage is sinful (Fornication, adultery) but within marriage can be fantastic.

**It's the same with food, marital love, teaching your teenager to drive a car, or drinking wine. The key words will be caution, moderation** and right time and right place. Hundreds of teens have been killed as they drive a car, but we teach them anyway. The vast majority do fine.

You'll soon see that scripture does teach us several things with alcohol: It's permitted, even by the actions of our Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) but we're also given several strict warnings about not ABUSING alcohol – just as we can drive a car but not abuse it. We can eat and have sex, but in control.

The Bible has much to say about drunkenness – even as it speaks of the delight of wine in moderation. We must not just pick the verses that support our belief – but use all the scriptures on the subject and preach the whole counsel of God. This teaching today will present the “whole counsel of God” on this.

**What each of us believe on a subject should be what the Bible says** on that subject **when ALL the scriptures** of that subject are put together. What we believe, teach and practice should not be based on our personal preferences and assumptions, but just on what the Bible says.

**I'm not going to tell you TO drink wine, OK?** That's an individual matter from scripture. If you have not ever been drinking alcohol, I'm not asking you to start drinking. I'm not. It's your right to abstain. But I will also **ask you not to judge or condemn** any others who have a glass of wine occasionally if they choose to do so from scripture.

For those of you in Africa or other poverty-stricken places – **who can barely afford to provide food** on your table, or if you can't even afford any electricity, or any appliances, and you have no car or even a bike because you can't afford it -- my advice, don't even start buying any wine. *Most of you can't afford it.* Please put your money into providing for your family or even helping others. Truly, most of you in Africa, from what YOU tell me, can't afford wine and alcohol, so put your family first.

I hope those of you against drinking in any way see that I will not be liberal with this subject. I'll be fair. **We are to live by EVERY word of God – not just the ones we pick that we like.**

**Certainly I should also say from the start:**

- If you are an alcohol abuser or are alcoholic – you should not ever drink wine or alcohol. Ever. Abusers often drink too much. Alcoholics can't stop – and drink until they are drunk.
- If you are alcoholic – you should have NO alcohol of any kind in the house. And quit hiding it. You should join AA (Alcoholics Anonymous). Learn and apply their successful **10-step program** to recovery. Not all AA chapters are alike, so if you don't like the one nearest you, find another. But DO get some help.
- If you *are* drinking wine, it's nobody else's business I guess, but neither should you then give the impression that you are against any alcohol or wine – if you do drink wine, even privately. Don't be a hypocrite about it.

**We should not condemn someone who does drink wine – and is not drunk.**

**We all DO have to be very careful with wine and ALL alcohol – though I hope none of us will judge others. It's a known fact that some people can handle more than others.** Generally bigger/heavier people don't get the effects as fast as smaller people. Alcohol can dehydrate you – ***so do drink water and rehydrate if you're drinking.***

**If someone is drinking more than just a little wine or hard liquor :**

- We can end up impairing our judgment and we can do stupid things (Story on the audio of a man in Western Canada who robbed a food store with a water pistol, while drunk. )
- Enough alcohol can greatly lower our inhibitions and exercising caution. It can lead to sex sins, uncouth behavior. Having too much wine can make you embarrassingly loud in conversation, or parties.
- **Overdrinking hurts your reaction time** – that's why drinking and driving is a terrible idea. Here we have a "designated driver" if we know someone will be drinking before going home. Legal limit for driving is one drink per hour, max, in USA. A lot of people have DIED because of drunk drivers or death caused by other connections to being drunk.

**I knew a very good brain surgeon who had to be suspended because of alcohol and people were not getting the right surgery.**

- Overdrinking can lead to actions we deeply regret, actions that are shameful and disgusting.
- Can lead many to drowsiness and outright falling asleep even in a crowd or at a table or while DRIVING!

So you see, I'm trying to show all sides of this topic. So if you don't particularly want or need wine, maybe just do stay away from it.

**Jesus' FIRST MIRACLE**

**The First Miracle of Jesus Christ (Yeshua our Messiah) was to turn 6 big waterpots full of water into at LEAST 120-180 gallons of the best wine at a wedding party.** Let's say 150 gallons. Can I say it again: AFTER they had almost used up all their wine, Yeshua produced **150 more GALLONS** of wine as his first miracle. AFTER the provided wine for the wedding was already all consumed. Yes, your Savior, the Son of God did that.

There were many miracles Jesus did – raising the dead. Healing the sick. Calming the stormy waters and winds. Multiplying the food – the bread and fish. He walked on water – and Peter did too.

**You'll see how Jesus tied the miraculous wine**

- **to HIS mission** – and wine pictured his blood, and I think he was also conveying the abundance of his GRACE.
- Where sin abounds, God's favor and grace SUPER-ABOUNDS. Notice also that the waterpots were used for PURIFICATION, so the tie-in to God's abundant, overflowing Grace and Favor is right there, pictured by the wine.
- This was his FIRST miracle (John 2:11) – so sometimes we hear fables that Jesus had performed miracles as a child. John 2 :11 calls this the BEGINNING of his signs and miracles.

**Romans 5:20b** says "Where sin multiplied, grace/favor multiplied all the more." The 150 gallons of red wine that Jesus produced was a picture of the abundance of His and Father's gracious love and favor for us.

**Remember at Passover Yeshua said about the cup they were to drink, Luke 22:20 –"this cup [of wine] is the new covenant in my blood".** Also **1 Cor. 11:25**. And he said in **John 6:54-56** that whoever ate his flesh and drank his blood has everlasting life and abides in him.

So Jesus was clearly thinking **about his mission to die for all** who will accept him. Passover came just a few days after this wedding feast miracle (John 2:13).

**John 2:1-11**

"On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 And when they ran out of wine, **the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."**

Weddings could last a week back then. If the wedding couple were poor, you could see how this could happen, but it was very embarrassing to run out of food or wine. So Mary tells Jesus of the problem.

4 Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? **My hour has not yet come."**

5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

Oh that we would have this attitude: whatever we hear from Jesus, let's do it!

**6 Now there were set there SIX waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.**

These were **six – the number of mankind** – six stone pots that held water used for washing one's hands before eating – as in **Matthew 15:1-2**. This was for PURIFICATION. We have all sinned. We're all defiled. We all need to be purified. Jesus' first miracle was focused on his purpose in coming to earth: to justify mankind by his spilled blood.

7 Jesus said to them, "**FILL the waterpots with water.**" **And they filled them up to the brim.** 8 And He said to them, "Draw some out NOW, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it.

FILL them all up to the brim. There's more than enough. And to produce WINE, it takes a while, but this time he made what represented HIM and his mission – instantly. We can be purified instantly when we drink of Jesus' blood.

**John 6:54-57**

"Whoever eats My flesh **and drinks My blood HAS eternal life**, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and **drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.** 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me."

**This is why I hope you'll hear my sermon "Constant contact" again** – and include in your prayers, conversing with Jesus as well as our Father, many times a day, every day. I also have a teaching on praying also to Jesus, as well as our Father of course. Ask Christ to come BE your life (**Col 3:3-4**) and live inside you by his spirit. To help you abide in him and he in you! This miracle in Cana pictures ALL of that. His mission. His Good news. His Gospel.

**There are people who believe Jesus never spoke of himself, but in the gospel according to John**, we find Jesus speaking of himself and his mission – constantly, almost every chapter. The miracle of John 2 was all about HIM and his mission to purify us and give us eternal life as we believe in him. Let's continue in John 2, verse 9 now.

9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom.

10 And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and **when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!**"

**God has – even for us – saved his BEST for last.** His best is the gift of his SON, pictured by the best wine served when everything else, all other options, had run out. Now back to John 2, verse 11.

11 **This beginning of signs** Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him."

Anyway, so clearly our Savior **CANNOT** be against drinking red wine! Scripture is very clearly against drunkenness but not against controlled moderate drinking.

Remember, even Yeshua/**Jesus was called a “winebibber” or “drunkard”**. Can you imagine that? Why would they call him that? Because in his own words, he came eating and drinking. He would have never been accused so openly of that if he never ever took a sip of wine. He clearly enjoyed good food and some wine and *maybe even more than one glass, to be accused of being a drunkard! I wonder if some of us might have been among those accusing Christ of drunkenness based on what we currently believe?*

**Luke 7:33-34 NASB, quoting Yeshua/Jesus himself:**

“For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine; and you say, 'He has a demon!' 34 **The Son of Man has come eating and drinking;** and you say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man, **and a drunkard**, a *friend* of tax-gatherers and sinners!’”

The Son of God, Jesus Christ, drank wine and apparently enjoyed it. *We must not be “more righteous” than the Son of God.*

It's OK to have a party with a glass of wine or beer if you can handle it and are not an alcoholic. I'm sure Jesus must have enjoyed his liquor too to get these accusations. Don't be one accusing HIM of overdrinking, OK?

If you know drinking wine is offensive to some who may be present where wine is consumed, then don't drink. Don't cause offense and don't preach at their lack of knowledge (though I do want teachers and elders to correctly understand about wine).

But neither do I want to ever urge someone who thinks drinking wine is a sin – to drink. Let them learn it on their own some time, but best not to eat or drink anything that causes offense to someone you KNOW is against wine or eating meat (1 Cor. 8:13).

**Seventh-Day Adventists** come to mind: *they officially don't smoke (nor I), don't drink alcohol or coffee, don't eat any unclean meat, and I believe they recommend a vegetarian diet.* How many adhere to that, I don't know.

**Romans 14:21-23 NIV**

**“It is better NOT to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.**

*22 So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. 23 But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.”*

**Romans 14:16-17**

**“Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”**

We should never drink at all where we are close to the point of drunkenness. Of course we don't – but yes, it's fine scripturally to enjoy wine and alcohol to the point where you **feel merry**. That's more than a sip of wine!

**The Drink Offering to God**

**GOD Himself apparently enjoys wine.** There was even something called a “Drink Offering” that included some wine that was offered to ....TO GOD! How are you going to explain that if you are 100% against wine or beer or alcohol? **GOD Himself asked for WINE as an offering!** NOTE: “One third of a hin” = 1.3 liters, or 1/3 of a gallon.

**Numbers 15:7**

“and **as a drink offering** you shall offer **one-third of a hin of WINE as a sweet aroma** to YHVH”.

The Living GOD also blessed Israel during his feasts with wine as well (Deut 14:26 for example).

**Judges 9:13**

But the vine said to them,  
'Should I cease **my new WINE, which cheers both God and men,**  
And go to sway over trees?'

**Ecclesiastes 10:19**

**“A feast is made for laughter, And wine makes merry;**  
But money answers everything.”

*Don't condemn someone who has had enough wine to feel merry! It takes more than a sip of wine to get “merry”. But don't forget all the scriptures also about being very cautious about wine.*

**Psalms 104:15**

**“And wine that makes glad the heart of man,**  
Oil to make his face shine,  
And bread which strengthens man's heart.”

**Ecclesiastes 9:7**

“Go, eat your bread with joy,  
**And drink your WINE with a merry heart;**  
**For God has already accepted your works”.**

**WHAT ABOUT PASSOVER**

**And clearly at Passover, they drank red wine, not grape juice.** The **Mishna** says there were FOUR CUPS of wine to be consumed, and so the Mishna instructed Jews to dilute the Paschal wine with water. Jesus asked his disciples to take a sip from HIS cup. But it was clearly wine.

**Grapes are harvested in the fall.** There was no way to keep grape juice fresh unless it was fermented into wine. So at Passover in the spring, the “fruit of the vine” would be wine,



not grape juice. *They could not have been drinking grape juice in the spring, at Passover, in other words as grape juice wouldn't last that long without going rancid and awful.*

*If you follow scripture, you might want to consider **serving tiny vials of real WINE**, as Jesus did and taught, instead of just grape juice at Passover.*

**I don't think it is a sin however, to serve grape juice if your conscience can't let you drink wine. Alcoholics should definitely drink grape juice at Passover.** And it can be OK - because grape juice is also a "fruit of the vine", which is what they called what they drank at Passover (**Matthew 26:18; Luke 22:18**).

We know in Corinth, the early church at Passover served wine because in Paul's correction of them, he says some of them got drunk at Passover! That can't happen with grape juice! My point is: so they were drinking wine.

**1 Corinthians 11:20-21**

"Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. 21 For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry **and another is drunk.**"

**AGAIN, remember one of the first things Jesus is going to do when He keeps Passover in the Millennium is to drink wine with us.** He may not even wait til Passover to have a glass of wine with us. *Wine is often a way for – yes, even righteous people, even Jesus – to celebrate something!*

**Luke 22:17-18**

"Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; 18 for I say to you, I will not drink of **the fruit of the vine** until the kingdom of God comes.

**WHY four Cups at Passover in the Old Testament?**

Why did Yeshua not take the final cup – which was probably the fourth cup?

**The four cups of wine were tied to God's four promises He gave Israel coming out of Egypt – See Exodus 6:5-7.** The other cups were about God promising to bring them out, remove their bondage, and to redeem them -- and then the fourth cup was *based on the promise, "I will take YOU as MY people, and I will be YOUR God"*.

*But Jesus knew Judah/Israel was not ready to say He was their God yet – so that last cup seemed to have been skipped at His Last Supper Passover.*

**Here's the 4<sup>th</sup> promise pictured by the 4<sup>th</sup> unfinished cup:**

**Exodus 6:7**

**"I will take you as My people, and I will be your God.** Then you shall know that I am YHVH your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."

**But the word for WINE in the Old Testament (yayin) and New Testament (oinos) both—is about wine, not grape juice.**

**Hebrew for wine is “Yayin”.** Used 183 times and 83 of those times CLEARLY is about fermented grape juice, WINE. And MOST of the other places it's still most likely talking about wine and not juice.

**Wine has medicinal value**

**The GREEK word for wine in the New Testament is “oinos”.** And again, most of the places it is used, it clearly is about fermented juice, alcoholic wine – not grape juice. Those of you who reject this: best thing you can do is do an in-depth study YOURSELF into the Greek and Hebrew. **Grape juice is NOT an antiseptic for wounds.** But looks at Luke 10.

**Luke 10:33-34**

“But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 **So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and WINE;** and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.”

Wine can be antiseptic. It has healing properties. Not so with grape juice. Wine can make you drunk, but grape juice can't. So I hope you see that almost everywhere we read of “Wine” – it's fermented, alcohol wine, not grape juice.

**LEARNING truth and Unlearning error we thought was truth**

I hope already that some of you who moments ago were adamant against drinking any alcohol, are starting to realize you may have been overboard on this a bit. ***One of the hardest things for anyone is to unlearn what you thought was Biblical FACT.*** *So if you were raised to believe all alcohol, wine, mixed drinks are all, always, of the Devil – it could be hard to unlearn that thinking to the truth of scripture.*

***What most important is that we learn what GOD tells us and then be willing to unlearn the wrong, and now to learn and accept something right and correctly from God's word.***

*I was asked by a man in East Africa not to say people could drink wine because it would end up with many of the brethren becoming alcoholics. He said they couldn't tolerate the wine without drinking too much.*

I have more faith in God's spirit in us and in the African brethren than he has. I know, I'm not a Kenyan. And it IS true that some cultures are more susceptible to alcohol abuse than others. The American Indians – as a group – have to be careful with alcohol, or so it seems. *So if you have a hesitation to drink wine, then don't. Don't start.* But if you see the Bible teaches wine is OK in moderation – then don't judge those who do drink moderately and with caution.

**The Principle of “FIRST MENTION”**

The first time a subject or even a particular word is brought up in scripture, there's often a teaching lesson. **When is the first time we read of “wine” in the Bible?** Do you know? What about the first time the word “drunk” is used? Do you know?

**The first time “WINE” is mentioned – is when a righteous man became drunk** and something terrible was done to him by his grandson Canaan, the son of Ham. You'll notice how Canaan figures prominently . Noah had planted a vineyard some years before. It would have taken **3-4 years** before he'd have any edible grapes, so it wasn't immediately after the flood.

**Genesis 9:18-22**

“Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan. 19 These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

20 And **Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard**. 21 Then he **drank of the WINE and was DRUNK**, and became uncovered in his tent. 22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.”

**Canaan** had apparently done *something* very immoral and horrible to Noah. We can only guess as we're not specifically told.

**Genesis 9:24-25**

“So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. 25 Then he said:  
"Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants  
He shall be to his brethren.”

**Ham was not Noah's youngest, but Canaan was the youngest son of Ham (Gen 10:6).**

**Genesis 10:6** (Notice Ham's son, Canaan was Ham's youngest son)

“The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan”

If righteous Noah could get drunk, any of us could also. That's the first usage of “wine” in the scriptures. God seems much more upset however with whatever Canaan did than God was with Noah getting drunk in his own tent.

**The NEXT FEW TIMES ‘WINE’ IS MENTIONED IN SCRIPTURE**

What was the next time “wine” is mentioned? Can you remember? It was very good the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. **The next time is Genesis 14, when Abram and his armed men returned from the slaughter of the kings who had captured Lot** and the people of Sodom (Genesis 14:16-17). Abram was met by **Melchizedek, also mentioned in Hebrews 7:1-3**, priest of the God Most High, who very, very likely was the same as the Word, who became Jesus Christ. He was also king of Salem – so he was a royal priest!

**Genesis 14:18-20**

**“Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out BREAD AND WINE; he was the priest of God Most High.**

19 And he blessed him and said:

"Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.”

So apparently Melchizedek, king and priest of God Most High, bought out bread and WINE in his blessing for Abram. Melchizedek was OK with wine.

Then the next time wine or drinking is brought up -- we get into drunkenness again – when **Lot's 2 daughters** who survived the destruction of Sodom, and worried there were no men left to carry on their father's lineage (**Gen 19:30-32**) and were the only humans left alive, so they made their father get drunk two nights in a row so he could lie with them and produce children through them. Whatever, not a good story in Genesis 19. This event also caused the **conception of Moab and Ammon**, lifelong enemies of the children of Jacob. So there certainly are warnings and stories of wine causing problems if not careful.

**More scriptures on wine in moderation, especially leaders**

Certainly, if you can't drink in moderation, wine can become a huge problem. The Bible often speaks of drinking "a little bit of wine" if you drink wine at all. And qualifications for deacons must be someone who drinks a "*little* wine". It doesn't say this guy must never ever drink ANY wine. **Wine can help you heal**. Here's Paul on Timothy's illness:

**1 Timothy 5:23**

"No longer drink only water, **but use a LITTLE wine** for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities."

So this also shows the therapeutic, healing qualities that a little wine can have. Grape juice certainly does not have any medicinal value.

**Titus 2:3-4**

"the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, **not given to much wine**, teachers of good things — 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,"

***We see that the Bible clearly condemns drunkenness, but not controlled drinking in moderation.***

**Ephesians 5:18**

"**And do not be DRUNK with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,**"

**Proverbs 20:1**

"**Wine** is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler,  
**And whoever is led astray by it is not wise**".

**Isaiah 5:22**

"Woe to men mighty at drinking wine,  
Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink,"

**Proverbs 31:4-5**

"It is not for kings, O Lemuel,  
**It is not for kings to drink wine,**  
**Nor for princes intoxicating drink;**

**5 Lest they drink and forget the law,  
And pervert the justice of all the afflicted."**

Priests' instructions during Millennial temple

**Ezekiel 44:20-21**

"They shall neither shave their heads, nor let their hair grow long, but they shall keep their hair well-trimmed.

**21 No priest shall drink wine when he enters the inner court."**

**Part of the reason for this probably goes all the way back to Aaron's 2 oldest sons – Nadab and Abihu.** Nadab should have become the next high priest after Aaron. Nadab and Abihu were one of the 74 who were blessed with being able **to see "the God of Israel" on Mt Sinai** and ate together with GOD -- read **Exodus 24:9-11**. Maybe having that honor went to their heads. It's likely, in context, that they had been drinking and may have even been drunk when they offered profane fire. God killed them with fire! So then God said this to Aaron to teach his remaining sons:

**Leviticus 10:8-11**

"Then YHVH spoke to Aaron, saying: 9 ***"Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die.*** It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations, 10 that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean, 11 and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which YHVH has spoken to them by the hand of Moses."

*So all us ordained ministers: NO DRINKING whatsoever before or during your sabbath service, or giving sermonettes or sermons. NEVER.*

**Read Numbers 6 – Nazirite vow** included not drinking any wine, touching dead people or animals, not cutting their long hair to show they are in submission to God. Samson had seven locks of hair – probably braided hair (**Judges 16:13**).

Famous lifetime Nazirites were **Samson, Samuel, John the Baptist**.

**BUT GOD CLEARLY IS FINE WITH HAVING WINE IN MODERATION**

**There are more scriptures about wine in moderation. God often described his blessings in ways connected to providing them wine:**

**Proverbs 3:9-10**

**"HONOR YHVH** with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;

10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, **And your vats will overflow with new wine."**

**Proverbs 31:6-7**

***"Give strong drink to him who is perishing,  
And wine to those who are bitter of heart.***

**7 Let him drink and forget his poverty,  
And remember his misery no more"**

In Joel 2, God calls Israel to repentance. He says once they repent, He would bless them.

**Joel 2:18-19**

Then YHVH will be zealous for His land, And pity His people.

19 YHVH will answer and say to His people,

"Behold, ***I will send you grain and new wine*** and oil,

And you will be satisfied by them;

I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations."

**Amos 9:13-14**

"Behold, the days are coming," **says the LORD,**

"When the plowman shall overtake the reaper,

**And the treader of grapes** him who sows seed;

***The mountains shall DRIP with sweet wine,***

**And all the hills shall FLOW with it.**

14 I will bring back the captives of My people Israel;

They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them;

**They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them;**

They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them".

I hope now you see that we must never get drunk, and always be on our guard when there's alcohol around. If you have any weakness for it, don't drink, or at least have someone you trust who will pull you away and warn you that you must stop. But that's consuming quite a bit by then.

Let's be filled with God's spirit – Christ in us – and not with wine or mixed drinks. But to have a glass of wine or two with your meal is fine too, in moderation. To God be the glory.

Closing prayer.