

THIRTY SCRIPTURES ABOUT DRINKING

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1.

Gen 9:20-27 After the flood Noah planted a vineyard, drank of the wine, was drunken and was uncovered within his tent. Ham, a son of Noah, saw his father's nakedness and told his brothers Shem and Japheth, but they took a garment and covered their father walking backwards so they did not see his nakedness. This resulted in a curse put upon Ham. Gen 19:30-38

After God rained fire and brimstone down from heaven to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot and his two daughters, who were the only people to escape, moved into a cave to live. His daughters thought that there were no men left upon earth to be their husbands so they made their father drunk and both lay with him and became pregnant. This is how two races of people, the Moabites and the Ammonites came to be.

Note: These two stories illustrate how drunkenness takes away our awareness and that things may happen when we are drunk which leave lasting results that we did not intend.

2.

Num 6:1-21 Here the Lord set down the requirements for a voluntary service called the Nazarite vow. One who wanted to take the vow must not consume anything produced by the vine; drink wine, grape juice, eat grapes or even raisins. He must also not cut his hair until the vow ended or go near any dead body. Apparently these requirements are symbolic things which draw a person closer to God so that God can give him a special mission. Judges 13 tells us that Samson the strong man was a Nazarite. ISam 1 tells us that the prophet Samuel was a Nazarite. Luke 1 tells us that the prophet John the Baptist was a Nazarite. Acts 18:18 tells us the Apostle Paul was a Nazarite and Jesus also may have been a Nazarite after his death and resurrection since he said at the last supper that he would no longer drink wine until the Kingdom of God shall come.

Note: This shows that those who were closest to God and chosen by him for special missions did not drink wine at all.

3.

Deut 14:26 And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the Lord thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household,

Note: This is part of the instructions God gave to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. He wants us to take the tithe money we have saved all year and really have a feast - including wine - and whatever our soul desires. This shows that God is interested in what WE want, not just in what HE wants. God, therefore, does approve of drinking wine, but other scriptures show that moderation is the rule.

4.

Deut 21:18 If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and [that], when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: Deut 21:19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; Deut 21:20 And they shall say unto the

elders of his city. This our son [is] stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; [he is] a glutton, and a drunkard. Deut 21:21 And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

*Note: Under the Old Covenant God allowed parents to put to death children who grew up to become completely rebellious and uncontrollable as drunkards or gluttons. This might seem very cruel, but consider that if such things are allowed to continue into adulthood and cement themselves into society, everyone suffers. Consider the following statistics: * Drunk driving is the nation's most frequently committed violent crime. (MADD) * In 1990, more than half of the fatal car accidents in this country were related to alcohol, killing 22,083 people. This is the equivalent of a fully loaded 747 crashing three times a week every week... * In 1995, an estimated 17,274 persons died in alcohol-related traffic crashes-an average of one every 32 minutes. (NHTSA, 1996) * In the past decade, four times as many Americans died in drunk driving crashes as were killed in the Vietnam War. (NHTSA, 1995) * Eight young people a day die in alcohol-related crashes. (CSAP, 1996) * Half of all teenage fatalities are alcohol-related. * About two in every five Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives. (NHTSA, 1996) * In 1995, in Montana, 42.3 of the traffic fatalities were alcohol related. STATISTICS - THE CHRONIC DRUNK DRIVER * The cost for each injured survivor of an alcohol-related crash averaged \$67,000, including \$6,000 in health care costs and \$13,000 in lost productivity. (Miller, 1996b) * A drunk driving crash costs innocent victims \$26,000. Comparable crime costs per victim: assault-\$19,000; robbery-\$13,000; motor vehicle theft-\$4,000. SURVEY RESULTS*

5.

2 Sam 11 tells the story of how David committed adultery with Bathsheba the wife of Uriah the Hittite. When she became pregnant he sent for Uriah who was at the battle and tried to get him drunk and go home to lie with his wife so he would think the child was his. But Uriah was an honorable soldier. He would not go home, but slept with the other soldiers. So David plotted to have him sent to the front line of the battle and be deserted so he would be killed. IKi 16:8 In the twenty and sixth year of Asa king of Judah began Elah the son of Baasha to reign over Israel in Tirzah, two years. IKi 16:9 And his servant Zimri, captain of half [his] chariots, conspired against him, as he was in Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza steward of [his] house in Tirzah. IKi 16:10 And Zimri went in and smote him, and killed him, in the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his stead.

Note: These two stories illustrate that your enemies know very well the effect of drinking and that they may use your weakness for it to hurt or take advantage of you.

6.

In IKi 20 Ben-Hadad, the King of Syria and 32 other kings with him beseiged Samaria which is north of Jerusalem. Because he was successful he boasted to Ahab the King of Israel that he was going to come and take his wives, children, gold and all that he had. The king of Syria was drinking himself drunk and all the other kings with him to celebrate their forthcoming victory. God sent a prophet to King Ahab and told him that Ben-Hadad would fail. Ahab was able to defeat the great Syrian Army with only 232 men.

Note: This story illustrates that drunkards are often boastful about what they will do, but they usually cannot accomplish their goals and ambitions because of their intoxication. If you have goals and ambitions, stay sober and you will have a better chance of reaching them.

7.

Prov 20:1 Wine [is] a mocker, strong drink [is] raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. Prov 23:20 Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: Prov 23:21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness (laziness) shall clothe [a man] with rags.

Note: The purpose of the book of Proverbs, as it says in the first chapter, is to teach wisdom to the young. A wise man will listen to its advice.

8.

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Some of the effects of being too involved in alcohol are shown here. The beginning of drinking is social pleasure, but the end of going past the line of moderation is trouble and even death.

9.

Prov 31:4 [It is] not for kings, O Lemuel, [it is] not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Prov 31:5 Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. Prov 31:6 Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. Prov 31:7 Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

Note: Advice to a young king, Lemuel, given to him by his mother.

10.

Ecc 9:7 Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.

Ecc 9:8 Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment. Ecc 9:9 Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

Note: God shows here that he wants us to be happy and healthy in every good thing that he has given us to enjoy including wine.

11.

Ecc 10:17 Blessed [art] thou, O land, when thy king [is] the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!

Note: Here is the principle of moderation for eating and drinking. Eat and drink enough to provide your self with strength, but not so much that you become drunk.

12.

Isa 5:11 Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, [that] they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, [till] wine inflame them! Isa 5:13 Therefore my people are gone into captivity because they have no knowledge: and their honorable men are famished and their multitude dried up with thirst. Isa 5:22 Woe unto [them that are] mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Isa 5:24 Therefore as the fire devours the stubble; and the flame consumes the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust, because they have cast away the law of the Lord of Hosts and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Note: God here pronounces woes on drunkards

13.

Isa 28:7 But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble [in] judgment.

Note: Drinking causes people in positions of responsibility to lack vision (perception, preparedness) and good judgment. Isa 61:8 says that judgment is one of the things God loves the most.

14.

Jer 13:13 Then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will fill all the inhabitants of this land, even the kings that sit upon David's throne, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, with drunkenness.

Note: Although they do not realize it, it is a punishment sent from God for people to be filled with drunkenness.

15.

Jer 25:15 For thus saith the Lord God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.

Jer 25:16 And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them.

Jer 25:17 Then took I the cup at the Lord's hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the Lord had sent me:

Jer 25:26 And all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another, and all the kingdoms of the world, which [are] upon the face of the earth: and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them.

Jer 25:27 Therefore thou shalt say unto them. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Drink ye, and be drunken, and spue, and fall, and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you.

Jer 25:28 And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup at thine hand to drink, then shalt thou say unto them. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Ye shall certainly drink.

Note: Here again, drunkenness is symbolic of the punishment God will pour upon all nations in the last days.

16.

Jer 35:2 Go unto the house of the Rechabites, and speak unto them, and bring them into the house of the Lord, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink.

Jer 35:5 And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pots full of wine, and cups, and I said unto them, Drink ye wine.

Jer 35:6 But they said. We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying. Ye shall drink no wine, [neither ye], nor your sons for ever:

Jer 35:8 Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our father in all that he hath charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, nor our daughters;

Jer 35:14 The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, that he commanded his sons not to drink wine, are performed; for unto this day they drink none, but obey their father's commandment: notwithstanding I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye hearkened not unto me.

Note: God praised and blessed the family of the Rechabites for obeying their father who commanded them not to drink wine. But God sent many prophets to the Children of Israel telling them to keep his commandments, but they would not obey their father - God.

17.

Dan 1:12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse (mixed vegetables) to eat, and water to drink. Dan 1:16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

Note: When the Children of Israel were taken to Babylon as captives, some of the young were taken to the palace of King Nebuchadnezzar. Among these was Daniel. One thing Daniel did which demonstrated his faithfulness to God was to ask the King's steward that he be allowed to eat only mixed vegetables and water, not the rich meat and wine that the King ordered served. God blessed Daniel with a special gift of interpreting dreams. Daniel later interpreted the King's dream and the King made him a president over the Kingdom.

18.

Mt 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Mt 24:45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

Mt 24:46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Mt 24:47 Verily I say unto you. That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

Mt 24:48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart. My lord delayeth his coming;

Mat 24:49 And shall begin to smite [his] fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

Mt 24:50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

Mt 24:51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Note: If we think that the Lord is delaying his coming and so begin to slack off in our Christian living and do things like eat and drink with the drunken, he will come unexpectedly and deal with us as hypocrites.

19.

Lk 7:31 And the Lord said, Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? and to what are they like?

Lk 7:32 They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying. We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept.

Lk 7:33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say. He hath a devil.

Lk 7:34 The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say. Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!

Lk 7:35 But wisdom is justified of all her children.

Note: The people apparently were complaining that no matter how they tried to communicate with God, either rejoicing or mourning. God did not seem to hear. Jesus was telling them that God sent great prophets like John the Baptist, (a Nazarite who did not drink wine) to teach them, but instead of listening to him they said he had a devil. God sent his own son (who did drink wine) to teach them and they did not listen to him either but called him a winebibber. So no matter how God tried to communicate with them, they did not listen. The people criticized Jesus because they saw how he fraternized freely with people who were considered the lowest, publicans, harlots, drunks etc. He did this because he was interested in giving them repentance and eternal life, not because he was a sinner.

20.

Lk 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and [so] that day come upon you unawares.

Lk 21:35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

Lk 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Note: God warns Christians here that they should be ready for Christ's coming by living Christian lives as they should because if they slack off and begin offending each other and eating and drinking with the drunken, Christ will come unexpectedly and they will not be in God's kingdom.

21.

John 2:1-11 When Jesus began his ministry he was invited to a wedding. His mother told him that they had run out of wine. So he performed his first miracle and turned water into wine enough for all the guests. The governor of the feast called the bridegroom and praised him thinking that he was the one who had provided such excellent wine.

Note: As we see here Jesus does not object to drinking at feasts. We need to use good judgment about when we drink, how much we drink, and with whom we drink.

22.

Rom 13:13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

Note: Exhortation to Christians to avoid evil things and practice good things

23.

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

Note: There are many things that God does not forbid such as eating meat and drinking wine, but we must be careful that we do not offend our fellow Christian in anything we allow ourselves to do so that we endanger his entering into God's kingdom by damaging his conscience. We must remember that Jesus died for that other person, so we should do everything we can to help him enter into God's kingdom. If that means giving up something that we are allowed to do so we do not offend them, then we should do that and God is pleased with our care for our brother. For example, Grandma Helen's conscience bothers her if I wear shorts so around her I do not wear any.

24.

1 Cor 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

Note: In the physical world your brothers and sisters are those who were begotten and bom of your parents. In the spiritual world, your brothers and sisters are those who were begotten by God's holy spirit making them God's children. If we notice that any fellow- Christian (who knows better) is deliberately living a life of sin, we are required to avoid him so that he will repent.

25.

ICor 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Note: When we become God's children, we need to think about everything we do that it is pleasing to God including our eating and drinking.

26.

ICor15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

Note: In the days of the Apostle Paul, Christians were severely persecuted by the Roman Empire and made to fight beasts in open arenas so the crowds could cheer as they watched them being torn to pieces. Paul was saying here that if there is no such thing as a resurrection from the dead then what advantage is there of being a Christian? Why endure such terrible persecution or bother to discipline ourselves and repent of sin and make ourselves worthy of the Kingdom of God? If there is no resurrection, let's just eat and drink and do whatever we please for we are just going to die whatever we do. But thankfully there is a God and he does offer us eternal life. So there is great advantage in being a Christian.

27.

ITim 5:23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

Note: God here tells us that a little wine is good for the stomach and infirmities. It does help aid digestion and is used in some societies regularly with meals. But used to excess, it is a curse.

28.

Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Gal 5:20 idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Gal 5:21 envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Gal 5:23 Meekness, temperance (self control): against such there is no law.

Note: Notice here the difference between the works of the flesh or normal human nature and the fruits of God's holy spirit. As you see, one of the works of the flesh is drunkenness. These are things God will not allow in his kingdom.

29.

Eph 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Note: God gives his holy spirit to those who repent of their sins and are baptized. The Holy Spirit is like a begettal which makes us sons of God. We 'grow' as Christians just like babies do in the womb as we become more and more 'holy' in character like our Father God until we will finally be 'born' as spirit beings into his kingdom at the resurrection when Christ returns. Drunkenness is pictured here as just the opposite of God's holy spirit.

30.

1 Tim 3:1 This is a true saying. If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

ITim 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

ITim 3:3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre (money); but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

ITim 3:4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

ITim 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

Note: These are some of the qualifications of those who wish to minister and pastor a church of God.

CONCLUSION

As we see from these scriptures. God does not forbid using alcohol but he expects us to be responsible in using it. When used in moderation, alcohol is a blessing making us happy and healthy. Used improperly to cause drunkenness, it results in many curses and troubles, the ultimate one being that God will not invite any drunkards into his kingdom to share eternal life with him. He encourages us to choose what is right for our own good. As God told the Children of Israel when he gave them his commandments, "See, I set before you this day life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life so that you and your seed may live."