

# DOCTRINE OF WINE

August 5, 1984

## I. Vocabulary.

- A. The most common Hebrew noun is יַיִן, yayin, while the common Greek noun is οἶνος, oinos.
- B. The noun תִּירוֹשׁ, tirosh, is used of the wine of the most recent vintage and is usually translated "new wine" in the New American Standard (33 of 38X).
- C. The Hebrew noun מִמְסַךְ, mimsak, means "mixed wine", Prov.23:30; Isa.65:11.
- D. The Hebrew noun עֲסִיס, asis, like the Greek noun γλεύκος, gleukos, means "sweet wine", which was alcoholic, Isa.49:26; Joel.1:5; 3:18; Amos.9:13; Act.2:13.
- E. The most intriguing passage is Isa.25:6, where , שְׂמָרִים, shemarim, (from שָׁמַר, shamar: to keep, guard), translated "aged wine", is used with the pual participle of זָקַק, zeqaq: to make pure; when used of gold or silver it is translated "refined"; when used of wine it means "decanted", the participle being used as a noun in Ps.75:8 and Jer.48:11 for the sediment, also called "dregs" or "lees".

## II. The first mention of wine in Scripture is that of Noah's vineyard, Gen.9:20,21.

- A. Noah, a mature believer, overindulged and became drunk (first record of this sin).
- B. The Scripture, however, does not support the contention that wine production is evil, cp. Deut.14:23,26.

## III. The first miracle Jesus performed was turning water into wine to manifest His divine nature, Jn.2:1-11; 4:48.

- A. As God, He honored the institution of marriage by His presence and by His generous gift of good wine (approximately 150 gallons).
- B. While the potential for abuse was there, He still created the best wine last.
- C. Wine is a detail of life provided by God for the enjoyment of mankind, Judg.9:13; Ps.104:15, a bona fide stimulant when not used to excess.

## IV. In Israel, an abundance of new wine was an indication of divine blessing in the land, Deut.7:13; 11:14; 32:14; 33:28.

- A. Israel was to tithe the new wine, Deut.12:17; 14:23; 18:4.
- B. Under the cycles of discipline, God cursed the vine, Deut.28:39,51; Judg.6:11 speaks of an empty wine vat.
- C. David had extensive wine cellars, 1Chr.27:27.
- D. Application of doctrine assured the individual of prosperity with wine, Prov.3:10; cp. 9:2,5.

## V. Wine and the Day of the Lord.

- A. America is a major importer of wine, Rev.18:13.
- B. Wine (and alcohol) will be scarce, Rev.6:6, and will not sustain, Isa.24:7,9.
- C. Metaphorically, the nations are viewed as grapes of wrath placed in God's wine press, Rev.19:15; cp. 14:17-20; Gen.49:11; Isa.63:2,3; Joel.3:13).
- D. God will bless Israel with abundant wine production in the Millennium, Joel.2:19,22,24; 3:18; Amos.9:13,14; Zech.9:17; cp. Isa.27:16.
- E. The Lord Himself will provide a continuous banquet of choice red meat and good, aged red wine for all who worship at Zion, Isa.25:6.

## VI. Wine is mentioned in connection with:

- A. Bible Doctrine, which brings happiness, Lk.5:37-39; Isa.55:1.
- B. Category 2 love, SOS.1:2,4; 4:10; 7:9.
- C. Positional truth, Jn.15.
- D. Happiness, Zech.10:7.

E. Judgment, Lam.1:15; Joel.3:13.

F. False doctrine, Jer.51:7; cp. Rev.18:3; Deut.32:32,33.

VII. The godliness code and wine.

A. The godliness code forbids drunkenness, Eph.5:18; cp. Rom.13:13; 1Cor.5:11; 6:10; 1Pet.4:3.

B. It forbids the believer to violate the law of love, Rom.14:21.

C. It warns church leaders to avoid excess, 1Tim.3:3,8.

D. Wine is part of the pastor's code in moderation, 1Tim.5:23.

VIII. STA (sinful trend of Adam) activity associated with the abuse of wine.

A. Basic drunkenness, Gen.9:21.

B. Alcoholism, Prov.23:29-35.

C. Gluttony, Prov.23:20,21.

D. Fornication, Gen.19:32-38.

E. Violence, Prov.20:1.

F. Dissipation (wasting time), Isa.5:11-12; cp. vs.10. Poverty existed due to the pursuit of pleasure. Ten acres yielding ten gallons of wine is a bust!

G. Degeneracy, idolatry and emotional revolt of the soul, Dan.5:24,22,23.

IX. Some specific cases.

A. Nazarites were forbidden to drink wine or consume any product associated with the vine, Num.6:14,20; Judg.13:4,7,14; Amos.2:12; Lk.1:15.

B. Kings were advised to abstain from wine when ruling, Prov.31:4,5.

C. Priests were not to drink before service, Lev.10:9,11.

X. Biblical guidelines.

A. Each believer should recognize that there is a time and a place for everything, Eccl.3:1.

B. Recognize that wine is a detail of life and that you are not to pursue it.

C. There are inherent dangers associated with drinking, so you should do so only when all Biblical and moral obligations are safeguarded (consider the law of love, time, place, associates, etc).

D. Some should never drink due to physical and niche considerations.

E. Do not violate the laws of divine establishment.

F. While alcohol in moderation is a bona fide stimulant, in excess it reduces one's inhibitions. Those with strong norms and standards and who consistently stay under the filling of the Holy Spirit are less likely to abuse it.

Ps.104:14,15 *"He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the labor of man, So that he may bring forth food from the earth, And wine which makes man's heart glad, So that he may make his face glisten with oil, And food which sustains man's heart."*

Reviewed: February 6, 1990

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