

BIBLICAL WINE

- The first time wine is mentioned in the Bible is found in Genesis 9:20-21:

“And Noah began [to be] an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.”

The Hebrew word for wine used here is “yayin” which translates and means “to effervesce, wine (as fermented), intoxication” (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, word #3196).

- The next time wine is mentioned in the Scriptures is found in Genesis 27:28:

“Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine”.

The Hebrew word for wine used here is “tiyroah” which translates and means “expulsion, fresh grape juice (as just squeezed out), new or sweet wine” (Strong’s, word #8492).

- God blesses His people with unfermented pure grape juice or new wine!

“Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee. When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel. For the LORD’S portion [is] his people; Jacob [is] the lot of his inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, **he kept him as the apple of his eye.** As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: [So] the LORD alone did lead him, and [there was] no strange god with him. He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and **he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock...and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.**” Deuteronomy 32:7-14.

- God warns His people not to drink fermented spoiled grape juice or old strong wine.

“**Do not drink wine nor strong drink**...that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean.” Leviticus 10:9-10.

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.” Proverbs 20:1.

“Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps.” Deuteronomy 32:33.

“Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.” Proverbs 23:29-32.

– Those who drink fermented wine will not be saved!

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, **nor drunkards...shall inherit the kingdom of God.**” 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

– God’s blessing is upon those who drink new sweet wine!

“The new wine is found in the cluster...Destroy it not; for **a blessing is in it.**” Isaiah 65:8.

– God’s woe is upon those who drink old strong wine!

“Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!” Isaiah 5:11.

– Since we know that the word “wine” in the Bible represents either unfermented grape juice or fermented grape juice, then which type of wine is being referred to in the following verses?

“And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull. And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received [it] not.” Mark 15:22-23.

The wine mentioned here would be fermented wine which was used to help to dull the pain of those being crucified, but it also would dull the mental faculties.

“And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his (John the Baptist’s) birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.” Luke 1:14-16.

The wine mentioned here would be fermented wine which John the Baptist was not to ever drink. In fact, if John would have drunk fermented wine then he would not be filled with the Holy Ghost, or used of God to bring many to the Lord.

“And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine....And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare [it]. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew,) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: [but] thou hast **kept the good wine until now**.” John 2:1-3, 6-10.

The wine mentioned here would be new unfermented wine, which having come directly from God was indeed good! So God provides good wine, whereas fermented wine would be bad wine.

“Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach’s sake and thine often infirmities.” 1 Timothy 5:23.

Now fermented wine or alcohol is not beneficial to the stomach and other infirmities. But pure unfermented grape juice is indeed beneficial. The practice of using unfermented grape juice or wine for medicinal purposes in Paul’s day is well documented. Aristotle (384-322 B.C.), Athenaeus (200 A.D.), and Pliny (24-79 A.D.; who was a contemporary of Paul’s), each advised the use of sweet grape juice to alleviate stomach disorders.

Both Paul and Peter taught abstinence from alcohol. This is evident from their frequent use of the word “sober” (see 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8; 1 Timothy 3:2, 11; Titus 2:2; 1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8).

Now the Greek word used for “sober” in these verses is “nepho” or “nephaios”, which translates and means “to abstain from wine” and “abstinent in respect to wine.” By that definition, which is also attested in the writings of Josephus and Philo, Paul admonished in 1 Timothy 3:2 that a bishop must be abstinent in respect to wine. In verse 3 he declared that a bishop must be “me paroinon”, which literally means “not around wine.” Having so strongly thus instructed Timothy to abstain from alcohol and not even to be around it, Paul certainly would not have advised him in the same book to take some alcohol for his stomach’s sake. This then proves that the type of wine Paul was recommending was unfermented grape juice.

“And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive [his] mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.” Revelation 14:8-11.

Now there are 2 wines mentioned here. The first wine mentioned would be fermented wine because alcohol is the drink of choice to those who commit fornication what harlots. Whereas the second wine mentioned would be pure grape juice because it is connected with God: so His enemies will drink of the pure wrath of God. But we also can see that the “wine” used here can be a symbol for doctrine. New unfermented wine can refer to true doctrine, whereas old fermented wine refers to false doctrine.

“And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was [taken] out of the new agreeth not with the old. And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. **No man also having drunk old [wine] straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.**” Luke 5:36-39.

Now there are also 2 types of wine mentioned here in symbol. The new unfermented wine - God’s truth - must find a place in a new bottle - or a newly converted heart in order for them to live. But those who are already drunk on old fermented wine - Satan’s false doctrine - have no desire for the truth when it is first offered. But perhaps when the truth is offered again, then they just might be interested.

“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the [same] night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake [it], and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also [he took] the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink [it], in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

“And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide [it] among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.... This cup [is] the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.” Luke 22:17-18, 22.

The wine in the cup referred to here would be new unfermented wine - the blood of the grape - the fruit of the vine, which is the only proper symbol of the untainted pure blood of our Lord. And this also shows us that in heaven the wine that everyone - including Jesus - will drink of will only be unfermented grape juice! This shows us that if you want to be in heaven, then the only wine you will be drinking will be unfermented grape juice, and nothing that will make you drunk!

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord [is]. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Ephesians 5:15-18.

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 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**.” Galatians 5:19-21.

“And that, knowing the time, that now [it is] high time to awake out of sleep: for now [is] our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; **not in rioting and drunkenness**, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to [fulfil] the lusts [thereof]. Romans 13:11-14.