

“Wine, a Blessing or a Curse...”

Deuteronomy 32:31-33; Deuteronomy 33:26-29

31 For their rock *is* not like our Rock, Even our enemies themselves *being* judges. ³² For their vine *is* of the vine of Sodom And of the fields of Gomorrah; Their grapes *are* grapes of gall, Their clusters *are* bitter. ³³ Their wine *is* the poison of serpents, And the cruel venom of cobras. Deuteronomy 32:31-33

**26 “*There is* no one like the God of Jeshurun, *Who* rides the heavens to help you, And in His excellency on the clouds. ²⁷ The eternal God *is your* refuge, And underneath *are* the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, And will say, ‘Destroy!’ ²⁸ Then Israel shall dwell in safety, The fountain of Jacob alone, In a land of grain and new wine; His heavens shall also drop dew. ²⁹ Happy *are* you, O Israel! *Who is* like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, And you shall tread down their high places.”
Deuteronomy 33:26-29**

This coming Sunday, September 29th, we will celebrate the Lord’s Supper! We count it a solemn occasion, and yet the word celebrate indicates it is a joyous occasion as well. Solemn because Christ died! Joyous because He died gaining us eternal life!

Bread = Christ’s Body / Wine = His Blood However, bread is also a staple, while wine is a pleasurable luxury! Christ gives us both. He supplies both our needs and our desires –

11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)

11 “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. John 15:11

Christ died not only to save us from sin and Hell, but to Heaven and a joyous relationship with Himself ...

The history of wine in Scripture starts in Genesis with Noah, drunk and naked in his tent – Genesis 9:21 & :24.

Later, it is brought with bread to Abram by Melchizedek who was both the king of Salem and priest of the God Most High – Genesis 14:18.

It is used by Lot's daughters to fool their father to bed, that they might bare their own father's children – Genesis 19:32-35.

Jacob brings it also to his meal prepared for his father Isaac, as he deceives his father into giving him the blessing – Genesis 27:25.

Plenty of grain and wine and wine are part of that blessing Jacob receives from Isaac – Genesis 27:28

The record of wine in Genesis concludes with Jacob's blessing of Judah, which ultimately points to Christ – **11 Binding his donkey to the vine, and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes. 12 His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk. (Genesis 49:11-12 NKJ)**

These verses are speaking about a super abundance of wine, how?

1. A donkey tied to a vine would not only eat the grapes but usually the entire vine. This verse implies a vine beyond the appetite of a donkey and probably so many such vines that it does not matter if a vine is ate.

2. Washing garments in wine and his clothes in the blood of grapes, repeats the emphasis! Of course these verses also point to Judah's KING of Kings descendent Who would make water into wine and Who would provide a better washing and a better drink – John 2:1-11; **To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (Revelation 1:5 NKJ)**

3. Thirsty people are promised God's Spirit, Who is superior to wine - (John 7:37-39 NKJ)

³⁷ On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit,

whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified. John 7:37-39

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, (Ephesians 5:18 NKJ)

Scripture speaks a lot about wine. Wine is symbolic of Christ's blood in the Lord's Supper. It is spoken of both literally and symbolically throughout Scripture so one sermon could not possibly convey all God would teach us about wine and using wine, but I will try.

I. Dangerous wine –

31 For their rock is not like our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges. 32 For their vine is of the vine of Sodom and of the fields of Gomorrah; their grapes are grapes of gall, Their clusters are bitter. 33 Their wine is the poison of serpents, and the cruel venom of cobras. (Deuteronomy 32:31-33 NKJ)

1. A biblical view of wine includes a definite dark side –

A. It had its role in the first known sin after the flood – Genesis 9:20-29

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. ²³ But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid *it* on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces *were* turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.

²⁴ 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." ²⁶ And he said: "Blessed *be* the LORD, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant. ²⁷ May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant." ²⁸ And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. ²⁹ So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.

B. It had its role in a great sin after the fiery judgment of Sodom – Genesis 19:32-35

³² Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father.” ³³ So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

³⁴ It happened on the next day that the firstborn said to the younger, “Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go in *and* lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father.” ³⁵ Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. Genesis 19:32-35

C. It was forbidden to priests when they go into the tabernacle of meeting, by death – Leviticus 10:9; not for kings either, Solomon says wine is for those who are dying - Proverbs 31:4 -7

⁸ Then the LORD 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. Leviticus 10:9

⁴ *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. ⁶ 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. Proverbs 31:4-7

D. Belshazzar was drinking it on the day of his condemnation – Daniel 5:1-4; :23

⁵ Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in the presence of the thousand. ² While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple which *had been* in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. ³ Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God which *had been* in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives,

and his concubines drank from them. ⁴ They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone. Daniel 5:1-4

Belshazzar was sobered quickly –

In the same hour the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king's countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other. Daniel 5:5-6

²³ And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who *holds* your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.

²⁴ Then the fingers of the hand were sent from Him, and this writing was written.

²⁵ “And this is the inscription that was written:

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN

²⁶ This *is* the interpretation of *each* word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; ²⁷ TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; ²⁸ PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.” ²⁹ Then Belshazzar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel with purple and *put* a chain of gold around his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

³⁰ That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. Daniel 5:23-30

E. God's wrath is symbolically compared to wine – **8 For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, And the wine is red; It is fully mixed, and He pours it out; Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth Drain and drink down. (Psalm 75:8 NKJ)**

"If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 "he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. (Revelation 14:9-10 NKJ)

2. What makes wine so dangerous?

A. Not having a rock like our Rock, Our ROCK is Christ / God –

4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:4 NKJ)

Their rock is a rock or wood, meaning lifeless, powerless idols –

4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone. Daniel 5:4

B. Drinking (wine) if you do not have a Rock (Christ) to stand on, MEANS SINKING, falling – **24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." (Matthew 7:24-27 NKJ)**

C. It means slipping away – **Their foot shall slip in due time; For the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things to come hasten upon them.' (Deuteronomy 32:35 NKJ)**

D. Their vine is the vine of Sodom –

³² For their vine *is* of the vine of Sodom And of the fields of Gomorrah; Their grapes *are* grapes of gall, Their clusters *are* bitter.

What is the vine of Sodom – no rules, no Ruler, no “sayings of” Christ Matthew 7 being done, just FUN, just pleasure, just ease, constant leisure!

E. This wine is poison – Deuteronomy 32:33; Proverbs 20:1; Isaiah 5:11-12; :22; 28:7

³³ Their wine *is* the poison of serpents, And the cruel venom of cobras. Deuteronomy 32:31-33

20 Wine *is* a mocker, Strong drink *is* a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise. Proverbs 20:1 *A brawler means it will not you out!*

¹¹ Woe to those who rise early in the morning, *That* they may follow intoxicating drink; Who continue until night, *till* wine inflames them!

¹² The harp and the strings, The tambourine and flute, And wine are in their feasts; But they do not regard the work of the LORD, Nor consider the operation of His hands. Isaiah 5:11-12

²² Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink, Isaiah 5:22

⁷ But they also have erred through wine, And through intoxicating drink are out of the way; The priest and the prophet have erred through intoxicating drink, They are swallowed up by wine, They are out of the way through intoxicating drink; They err in vision, they stumble *in* judgment. ⁸ For all tables are full of vomit *and* filth; No place *is* clean. ⁹“Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those *just* weaned from milk? Those *just* drawn from the breasts? Isaiah 28:7-9

F. Wine is symbolic of worldly sin, godless, unruly luxurious living and fornication – **2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! 3 "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury." (Revelation 18:2-3 NKJ)**

G. This wine also represents the stupor that comes due to the judgment of sin - Isaiah 29:9-10

⁹ Pause and wonder! Blind yourselves and be blind! They are drunk, but not with wine; They stagger, but not with intoxicating drink. ¹⁰ For the LORD has poured out on you The spirit of deep sleep, And has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, *namely*, the seers. Isaiah 29:9-10

II. Delightful wine

– 26 "There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, Who rides the heavens to help you, And in His excellency on the clouds. 27 The eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, And will say, 'Destroy!' 28 Then Israel shall dwell in safety, The fountain of Jacob alone, In a land of grain and new wine; His heavens shall also drop dew. 29 Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, And you shall tread down their high places." (Deuteronomy 33:26-29 NKJ)

1. This is wine (Deuteronomy 33:28) in its proper place, hardly noticed in verses praising God!

2. Jesus made water into wine at the wedding in Cana – John 2:1-11. It is meant for special occasions, celebrations – Love is better than wine – Song of Solomon 4:10

2 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." 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*."

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

**¹ Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; ...
Psalm 127:1**

Now, unless the LORD builds the house, marriage could result in pain, frustration ... Yet, a beautiful wedding, and more than that, a God-glorifying marriage is a joyous thing, the relationship and not wine is the source of joy! So much is that the case in our relationship with Christ -

**¹⁰ How fair is your love, My sister, my spouse! How much better than wine is your love, And the scent of your perfumes Than all spices!
Song of Solomon 4:10**

If we have a right relationship with Christ, wine or any other pleasure is just a SIDE, Christ is the MAIN COURSE!

3. Jesus ordained the use of wine as part of our Lord’s Supper – (Matthew 26:26-29 NKJ)

²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”

²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.” Matthew 26:26-29

A. It is symbolic of His shed blood – Matthew 26:28

B. He will not drink it again until we are all with Him in Heaven – Matthew 26:29
Yet, He commands us to drink it ...

4. It was created by God for our happiness – **15 And wine that makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make his face shine, And bread which strengthens man's heart. (Psalm 104:15 NKJ)**

5. It was to be brought to God by Israel with their offerings – Numbers 15:5, 7, 10. In certain proportions, a sweet smelling savor, part of our fellowship with God – Revelation 3:20b

⁵ and one-fourth of a hin of wine as a drink offering you shall prepare with the burnt offering or the sacrifice, for each lamb. ⁶ Or for a ram you shall prepare as a grain offering two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with one-third of a hin of oil; ⁷ and as a drink offering you shall offer one-third of a hin of wine as a sweet aroma to the LORD. ⁸ And when you prepare a young bull as a burnt offering, or as a sacrifice to fulfill a vow, or as a peace offering to the LORD, ⁹ then shall be offered with the young bull a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with half a hin of oil; ¹⁰ and you shall bring as the drink offering half a hin of wine as an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.
Numbers 15:5-10

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20

6. It was to be enjoyed by the priests and their families - Numbers 18:12

¹² “All the best of the oil, all the best of the new wine and the grain, their firstfruits which they offer to the LORD, I have given them to you. Numbers 18:12

7. It was to be enjoyed before the LORD – Deuteronomy 14:23 & 26

²³ And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. ²⁴ But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry *the tithe*, or if the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, when the LORD your God has blessed you, ²⁵ then you shall exchange *it* for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses. ²⁶ And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household. ²⁷ You shall not forsake the Levite who *is* within your gates, for he has no part nor inheritance with you.

8. It was a reward for faith and obedience to God's commands, a reward of wisdom – Proverbs 3:1-10; Proverbs 9:1-5

3 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; ² For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you. ³ Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, ⁴ And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man. ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. ⁸ It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. ⁹ Honor the LORD 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.

9 Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars; ² She has slaughtered her meat, She has mixed her wine, She has also furnished her table. ³ She has sent out her maidens, She cries out from the highest places of the city, ⁴ “Whoever *is* simple, let him turn in here!” As for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, ⁵ “Come, eat of my bread And drink of the wine I have mixed. Proverbs 9:1-5

9. Yet, it is a reward only for those who serve God faithfully - - Jeremiah 13:12-16
Here are some who wrongly THINK they are blessed with wine, yet it turns out to be a dreadful curse -

¹² “Therefore you shall speak to them this word: ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel: “Every bottle shall be filled with wine.” ’ “And they will say to you, ‘Do we not certainly know that every bottle will be filled with wine?’ ¹³ “Then you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will fill all the inhabitants of this land—even the kings who sit on David’s throne, the priests, the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem—with drunkenness! ¹⁴ And I will dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together,” says the LORD. “I will not pity nor spare nor have mercy, but will destroy them.” ’ ” ¹⁵ Hear and give ear: Do not be proud, For the LORD has spoken.

**¹⁶ Give glory to the LORD your God Before He causes darkness,
And before your feet stumble On the dark mountains, And while
you are looking for light, He turns it into the shadow of death *And*
makes *it* dense darkness. Jeremiah 13:12-16**

10. It is to be understood as one of many blessings, the best being our relationship to God Himself – Deuteronomy 7:13; 14:23 & 26; 33:26-29

**¹³ And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also
bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and
your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the
offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers
to give you. ¹⁴ You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not
be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock.
Deuteronomy 7:13-14**

Other verses above ...

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