



Hampton Park
BAPTIST CHURCH

Contained in this Booklet:

Alcohol and the Bible

A Pastoral Statement on Alcohol

Alcohol and the Bible

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to explore Scripture's use of the words "wine" and "strong drink" in the Old and New Testaments (based on English Translations). Below are listed broad categories of the way in which Scripture uses these two terms. The categories are not inspired, and some examples within the categories below could be debated. However, the purpose is to be accurate and fair to the broad way in which Scripture speaks of the two terms. Each occurrence of the terms "wine" (228 occurrences) and "strong drink" (19 occurrences) is listed in book order below. The goal of this document is to give the reader a full picture of the way God in Scripture communicates regarding this topic. Categories:

- Use accepted as normal part of culture.
- Wine considered a blessing from God (and its loss as a curse)
- Wine is seen as valuable (gifts, offerings, comparisons)
- Abuse (warnings, examples, leader qualifications, false accusations)
- Symbolic (the wine of his wrath, etc.)
- Abstinence (vows, deference)

References to WINE (228)

Abuse (examples of) GENESIS 9:21

He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent.

Abuse (examples of) GENESIS 9:24

When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him,

Use is accepted as normal GENESIS 14:18

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)

Abuse (examples of) GENESIS 19:32

Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father."

Abuse (examples of) GENESIS 19:33

So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father. He did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

Abuse (examples of) GENESIS 19:34

The next day, the firstborn said to the younger, "Behold, I lay last night with my father. Let us make him drink wine tonight also. Then you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father."

Abuse (examples of) GENESIS 19:35

So 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.

Use is accepted as normal GENESIS 27:25

Then he said, "Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.

Blessing from God GENESIS 27:28

May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine.

Blessing from God GENESIS 27:37

Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?"

Blessing from God GENESIS 49:11

Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes.

Blessing from God GENESIS 49:12

His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.

Offering (use in) EXODUS 29:40

And with the first lamb a tenth measure of fine flour mingled with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a fourth of a hin of wine for a drink offering.

Vows of abstinence LEVITICUS 10:9

“Drink no wine or strong drink, you or your sons with you, when you go into the tent of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations.

Offering (use in) LEVITICUS 23:13

And the grain offering with it shall be two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, a food offering to the Lord with a pleasing aroma, and the drink offering with it shall be of wine, a fourth of a hin.

Vows of abstinence NUMBERS 6:3

he shall separate himself from wine and strong drink. He shall drink no vinegar made from wine or strong drink and shall not drink any juice of grapes or eat grapes, fresh or dried.

Offering (use in) NUMBERS 6:20

and the priest shall wave them for a wave offering before the Lord. They are a holy portion for the priest, together with the breast that is waved and the thigh that is contributed. And after that the Nazirite may drink wine.

Offering (use in) NUMBERS 15:5

and you shall offer with the burnt offering, or for the sacrifice, a quarter of a hin of wine for the drink offering for each lamb.

Offering (use in) NUMBERS 15:7

And for the drink offering you shall offer a third of a hin of wine, a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

Offering (use in) NUMBERS 15:10

And you shall offer for the drink offering half a hin of wine, as a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

Offering (use in) NUMBERS 18:12

All the best of the oil and all the best of the wine and of the grain, the firstfruits of what they give to the Lord, I give to you.

Offering (use in) NUMBERS 28:7

Its drink offering shall be a quarter of a hin for each lamb. In the Holy Place you shall pour out a drink offering of strong drink to the Lord.

Offering (use in) NUMBERS 28:14

Their drink offerings shall be half a hin of wine for a bull, a third of a hin for a ram, and a quarter of a hin for a lamb. This is the burnt offering of each month throughout the months of the year.

Blessing from God DEUTERONOMY 7:13

He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your wine and your oil, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock, in the land that he swore to your fathers to give you.

Blessing from God DEUTERONOMY 11:14

he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil.

Offering (use in) DEUTERONOMY 12:17

You may not eat within your towns the tithe of your grain or of your wine or of your oil, or the firstborn of your herd or of your flock, or any of your vow offerings that you vow, or your freewill offerings or the contribution that you present,

Offering (use in) DEUTERONOMY 14:23

And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.

Offering (use in) DEUTERONOMY 14:26

and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.

Use is accepted as normal DEUTERONOMY 16:13

“You shall keep the Feast of Booths seven days, when you have gathered in the produce from your threshing floor and your winepress.

Offering (use in) DEUTERONOMY 18:4

The firstfruits of your grain, of your wine and of your oil, and the first fleece of your sheep, you shall give him.

Loss of wine is a curse from God DEUTERONOMY 28:39

You shall plant vineyards and dress them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes, for the worm shall eat them.

Loss of wine is a curse from God DEUTERONOMY 28:51

It shall eat the offspring of your cattle and the fruit of your ground, until you are destroyed; it also shall not leave you grain, wine, or oil, the increase of your herds or the young of your flock, until they have caused you to perish.

No specific category DEUTERONOMY 29:6

You have not eaten bread, and you have not drunk wine or strong drink, that you may know that I am the Lord your God.

Symbolic DEUTERONOMY 32:33

their wine is the poison of serpents and the cruel venom of asps.

Offering (use in) DEUTERONOMY 32:38

who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise up and help you; let them be your protection!

Blessing from God DEUTERONOMY 33:28

So Israel lived in safety, Jacob lived alone, in a land of grain and wine, whose heavens drop down dew.

Use is accepted as normal JOSHUA 9:4

they on their part acted with cunning and went and made ready provisions and took worn-out sacks for their donkeys, and wineskins, worn-out and torn and mended,

Use is accepted as normal JOSHUA 9:13

These wineskins were new when we filled them, and behold, they have burst. And these garments and sandals of ours are worn out from the very long journey.”

Blessing from God JUDGES 9:13

But the vine said to them, ‘Shall I leave my wine that cheers God and men and go hold sway over the trees?’

Vows of abstinence JUDGES 13:4

Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean,

Vows of abstinence JUDGES 13:7

but he said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’”

Vows of abstinence JUDGES 13:14

She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing. All that I commanded her let her observe.”

Use is accepted as normal JUDGES 19:19

We have straw and feed for our donkeys, with bread and wine for me and your female servant and the young man with your servants. There is no lack of anything.”

Use is accepted as normal RUTH 2:14

And at mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over.

False accusations of drunkenness I SAMUEL 1:14

And Eli said to her, “How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.”

False accusations of drunkenness I SAMUEL 1:15

But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord.

Offering (use in) I SAMUEL 1:24

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. And the child was young.

Use is accepted as normal 1 SAMUEL 10:3

Then you shall go on from there farther and come to the oak of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine.

Gift between people 1 SAMUEL 16:20

And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul.

Gift between people 1 SAMUEL 25:18

Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves and two skins of wine and five sheep already prepared and five seahs of parched grain and a hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on donkeys.

Abuse (examples of) 1 SAMUEL 25:37

In the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him, and he became as a stone.

Gift between people 2 SAMUEL 6:19

and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed, each to his house.

No specific category 2 SAMUEL 13:28

Then Absalom commanded his servants, "Mark when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon,' then kill him. Do not fear; have I not commanded you? Be courageous and be valiant."

Gift between people 2 SAMUEL 16:1

When David had passed a little beyond the summit, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of donkeys saddled, bearing two hundred loaves of bread, a hundred bunches of raisins, a hundred of summer fruits, and a skin of wine.

Gift between people 2 SAMUEL 16:2

And the king said to Ziba, "Why have you brought these?" Ziba answered, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride on, the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat, and the wine for those who faint in the wilderness to drink."

Use is accepted as normal 2 KINGS 18:32

until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey, that you may live, and not die. And do not listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you by saying, "The Lord will deliver us."

Offering (use in) 1 CHRONICLES 9:29

Others of them were appointed over the furniture and over all the holy utensils, also over the fine flour, the wine, the oil, the incense, and the spices.

Gift between people 1 CHRONICLES 12:40

And also their relatives, from as far as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, came bringing food on donkeys and on camels and on mules and on oxen, abundant provisions of flour, cakes of figs, clusters of raisins, and wine and oil, oxen and sheep, for there was joy in Israel.

Gift between people 1 CHRONICLES 16:3

and distributed to all Israel, both men and women, to each a loaf of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins.

Use is accepted as normal 1 CHRONICLES 27:27

and over the vineyards was Shimei the Ramathite; and over the produce of the vineyards for the wine cellars was Zabdi the Shiphmite.

Gift between people 2 CHRONICLES 2:10

I will give for your servants, the woodsmen who cut timber, 20,000 cors of crushed wheat, 20,000 cors of barley, 20,000 baths of wine, and 20,000 baths of oil."

Gift between people 2 CHRONICLES 2:15

Now therefore the wheat and barley, oil and wine, of which my lord has spoken, let him send to his servants.

Use is accepted as normal 2 CHRONICLES 11:11

He made the fortresses strong, and put commanders in them, and stores of food, oil, and wine.

Offering (use in) 2 CHRONICLES 31:5

As soon as the command was spread abroad, the people of Israel gave in abundance the firstfruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field. And they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything.

Blessing from God 2 CHRONICLES 32:28

storehouses also for the yield of grain, wine, and oil; and stalls for all kinds of cattle, and sheepfolds.

Offering (use in) EZRA 6:9

And whatever is needed—bulls, rams, or sheep for burnt offerings to the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, or oil, as the priests at Jerusalem require—let that be given to them day by day without fail,

Use is accepted as normal EZRA 7:22

up to 100 talents of silver, 100 cors of wheat, 100 baths of wine, 100 baths of oil, and salt without prescribing how much.

Use is accepted as normal NEHEMIAH 2:1

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence.

Use is accepted as normal NEHEMIAH 5:11

Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the percentage of money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them.”

Use is accepted as normal NEHEMIAH 5:15

The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God.

Use is accepted as normal NEHEMIAH 5:18

Now what was prepared at my expense for each day was one ox and six choice sheep and birds, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Yet for all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people.

Offering (use in) NEHEMIAH 10:37

and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor.

Offering (use in) NEHEMIAH 10:39

For the people of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the chambers, where the vessels of the sanctuary are, as well as the priests who minister, and the gatekeepers and the singers. We will not neglect the house of our God.”

Offering (use in) NEHEMIAH 13:5

prepared for Tobiah a large chamber where they had previously put the grain offering, the frankincense, the vessels, and the tithes of grain, wine, and oil, which were given by commandment to the Levites, singers, and gatekeepers, and the contributions for the priests.

Offering (use in) NEHEMIAH 13:12

Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain, wine, and oil into the storehouses.

Offering (use in) NEHEMIAH 13:15

In those days I saw in Judah people treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in heaps of grain and loading them on donkeys, and also wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them on the day when they sold food.

Use is accepted as normal ESTHER 1:7

Drinks were served in golden vessels, vessels of different kinds, and the royal wine was lavished according to the bounty of the king.

Use is accepted as normal ESTHER 1:8

And drinking was according to this edict: “There is no compulsion.” For the king had given orders to all the staff of his palace to do as each man desired.

Use is accepted as normal ESTHER 1:10

On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha and Abagtha, Zethar and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus,

Use is accepted as normal ESTHER 5:6

And as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king said to Esther, “What is your wish? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.”

Use is accepted as normal ESTHER 7:2

And on the second day, as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king again said to Esther, “What is your wish, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.”

Use is accepted as normal ESTHER 7:7

And the king arose in his wrath from the wine-drinking and went into the palace garden, but Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that harm was determined against him by the king.

Use is accepted as normal ESTHER 7:8

And the king returned from the palace garden to the place where they were drinking wine, as Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was. And the king said, “Will he even assault the queen in my presence, in my own house?” As the word left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman’s face.

Use is accepted as normal JOB 1:13

Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house,

Use is accepted as normal JOB 1:18

While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house,

Symbolic JOB 32:19

Behold, my belly is like wine that has no vent; like new wineskins ready to burst.

Blessing from God PSALMS 4:7

You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

Symbolic PSALMS 60:3

You have made your people see hard things; you have given us wine to drink that made us stagger.

Symbolic PSALMS 75:8

For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.

Symbolic PSALMS 78:65

Then the Lord awoke as from sleep, like a strong man shouting because of wine.

Blessing from God PSALMS 104:15

and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man’s heart.

Blessing from God PROVERBS 3:10

then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Symbolic PROVERBS 4:17

For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.

Use is accepted as normal PROVERBS 9:2

She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table.

Use is accepted as normal PROVERBS 9:5

“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

Warnings against abuse PROVERBS 20:1

Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

Warnings against abuse PROVERBS 21:17

Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

Warnings against abuse PROVERBS 23:20

Be not among drunkards or among gluttonous eaters of meat,

Warnings against abuse PROVERBS 23:30

Those who tarry long over wine; those who go to try mixed wine.

Warnings against abuse PROVERBS 23:31

Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly.

Warnings against abuse PROVERBS 31:4

It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to take strong drink,

Use is accepted as normal PROVERBS 31:6

Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress;

Use is accepted as normal ECCLESIASTES 2:3

I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life.

Blessing from God ECCLESIASTES 9:7

Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do.

Blessing from God ECCLESIASTES 10:19

Bread is made for laughter, and wine gladdens life, and money answers everything.

Comparison (x is better than wine) SONG OF SOLOMON 1:2

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine;

Comparison (x is better than wine) SONG OF SOLOMON 1:4

Draw me after you; let us run. The king has brought me into his chambers. We will exult and rejoice in you; we will extol your love more than wine; rightly do they love you.

Comparison (x is better than wine) SONG OF SOLOMON 4:10

How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much better is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your oils than any spice!

Use is accepted as normal SONG OF SOLOMON 5:1

I came to my garden, my sister, my bride, I gathered my myrrh with my spice, I ate my honeycomb with my honey, I drank my wine with my milk. Eat, friends, drink, and be drunk with love!

Comparison (x is better than wine) SONG OF SOLOMON 7:2

Your navel is a rounded bowl that never lacks mixed wine. Your belly is a heap of wheat, encircled with lilies.

Comparison (x is better than wine) SONG OF SOLOMON 7:9

and your mouth like the best wine. It goes down smoothly for my beloved, gliding over lips and teeth.

Use is accepted as normal SONG OF SOLOMON 8:2

I would lead you and bring you into the house of my mother—she who used to teach me. I would give you spiced wine to drink, the juice of my pomegranate.

Loss of wine is a curse from God ISAIAH 1:22

Your silver has become dross, your best wine mixed with water.

Loss of wine is a curse from God ISAIAH 5:10

For ten acres of vineyard shall yield but one bath, and a homer of seed shall yield but an ephah.”

Warnings against abuse ISAIAH 5:11

Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may run after strong drink, who tarry late into the evening as wine inflames them!

Warnings against abuse ISAIAH 5:12

They have lyre and harp, tambourine and flute and wine at their feasts, but they do not regard the deeds of the Lord, or see the work of his hands.

Warnings against abuse ISAIAH 5:22

Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink,

Loss of wine is a curse from God ISAIAH 16:10

And joy and gladness are taken away from the fruitful field, and in the vineyards no songs are sung, no cheers are raised; no treader treads out wine in the presses; I have put an end to the shouting.

No specific category ISAIAH 22:13

and behold, joy and gladness, killing oxen and slaughtering sheep, eating flesh and drinking wine. “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

Loss of wine is a curse from God ISAIAH 24:7

The wine mourns, the vine languishes, all the merry-hearted sigh.

Loss of wine is a curse from God ISAIAH 24:9

No more do they drink wine with singing; strong drink is bitter to those who drink it.

Loss of wine is a curse from God ISAIAH 24:11

There is an outcry in the streets for lack of wine; all joy has grown dark; the gladness of the earth is banished.

Blessing from God ISAIAH 25:6

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

Blessing from God ISAIAH 27:2

In that day, "A pleasant vineyard, sing of it!

Warnings against abuse ISAIAH 28:1

Ah, the proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim, and the fading flower of its glorious beauty, which is on the head of the rich valley of those overcome with wine!

Abuse (examples of) ISAIAH 28:7

These also reel with wine and stagger with strong drink; the priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, they are swallowed by wine, they stagger with strong drink, they reel in vision, they stumble in giving judgment.

Symbolic ISAIAH 29:9

Astonish yourselves and be astonished; blind yourselves and be blind! Be drunk, but not with wine; stagger, but not with strong drink!

Use is accepted as normal ISAIAH 36:17

until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards.

Symbolic ISAIAH 49:26

I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with wine. Then all flesh shall know that I am the Lord your Savior, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."

Symbolic ISAIAH 51:21

Therefore hear this, you who are afflicted, who are drunk, but not with wine:

Blessing from God ISAIAH 55:1

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Abuse (examples of) ISAIAH 56:12

“Come,” they say, “let me get wine; let us fill ourselves with strong drink; and tomorrow will be like this day, great beyond measure.”

Loss of wine is a curse from God ISAIAH 62:8

The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: “I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink your wine for which you have labored;

Symbolic ISAIAH 65:8

Thus says the Lord: “As the new wine is found in the cluster, and they say, ‘Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,’ so I will do for my servants’ sake, and not destroy the mall.

Symbolic ISAIAH 65:11

But you who forsake the Lord, who forget my holy mountain, who set a table for Fortune and fill cups of mixed wine for Destiny,

Symbolic JEREMIAH 13:12

“You shall speak to them this word: ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, “Every jar shall be filled with wine.”’ And they will say to you, ‘Do we not indeed know that every jar will be filled with wine?’

Symbolic JEREMIAH 23:9

Concerning the prophets: My heart is broken within me; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, like a man overcome by wine, because of the Lord and because of his holy words.

Symbolic JEREMIAH 25:15

Thus the Lord, the God of Israel, said to me: “Take from my hand this cup of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it.

Blessing from God JEREMIAH 31:12

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more.

Use is accepted as normal JEREMIAH 35:2

“Go to the house of the Rechabites and speak with them and bring them to the house of the Lord, into one of the chambers; then offer them wine to drink.”

Use is accepted as normal JEREMIAH 35:5

Then I set before the Rechabites pitchers full of wine, and cups, and I said to them, “Drink wine.”

Vows of abstinence JEREMIAH 35:6

But they answered, “We will drink no wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, ‘You shall not drink wine, neither you nor your sons forever.’

Vows of abstinence JEREMIAH 35:8

We have obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, in all that he commanded us, to drink no wine all our days, ourselves, our wives, our sons, or our daughters,

Vows of abstinence JEREMIAH 35:14

The command that Jonadab the son of Rechab gave to his sons, to drink no wine, has been kept, and they drink none to this day, for they have obeyed their father’s command. I have spoken to you persistently, but you have not listened to me.

Use is accepted as normal JEREMIAH 40:10

As for me, I will dwell at Mizpah, to represent you before the Chaldeans who will come to us. But as for you, gather wine and summer fruits and oil, and store them in your vessels, and dwell in your cities that you have taken.”

Use is accepted as normal JEREMIAH 40:12

then all the Judeans returned from all the places to which they had been driven and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah at Mizpah. And they gathered wine and summer fruits in great abundance.

Symbolic JEREMIAH 48:11

“Moab has been at ease from his youth and has settled on his dregs; he has not been emptied from vessel to vessel, nor has he gone into exile; so his taste remains in him, and his scent is not changed.

Loss of wine is a curse from God JEREMIAH 48:33

Gladness and joy have been taken away from the fruitful land of Moab; I have made the wine cease from the winepresses; no one treads them with shouts of joy; the shouting is not the shout of joy.

Symbolic JEREMIAH 51:7

Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord’s hand, making all the earth drunken; the nations drank of her wine; therefore, the nations went mad.

Loss of wine is a curse from God LAMENTATIONS 2:12

They cry to their mothers, “Where is bread and wine?” as they faint like a wounded man in the streets of the city, as their life is poured out on their mothers’ bosom.

Use is accepted as normal EZEKIEL 27:18

Damascus did business with you for your abundant goods, because of your great wealth of every kind; wine of Helbon and wool of Sahar

Vows of abstinence EZEKIEL 44:21

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

Use is accepted as normal DANIEL 1:5

The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king.

Vows of abstinence DANIEL 1:8

But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.

Use is accepted as normal DANIEL 1:16

So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

Use is accepted as normal DANIEL 5:1

King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of the thousand.

Use is accepted as normal DANIEL 5:2

Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them.

Use is accepted as normal DANIEL 5:4

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

Use is accepted as normal DANIEL 5:23

but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in 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, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.

Vows of abstinence DANIEL 10:3

I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks.

Blessing from God HOSEA 2:8

And she did not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the wine, and the oil, and who lavished on her silver and gold, which they used for Baal.

Loss of wine is a curse from God HOSEA 2:9

Therefore I will take back my grain in its time, and my wine in its season, and I will take away my wool and my flax, which were to cover her nakedness.

Blessing from God HOSEA 2:22

and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil, and they shall answer Jezreel,

Abuse (examples of) HOSEA 3:1

And the Lord said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.”

Abuse (examples of) HOSEA 4:11

whoredom, wine, and new wine, which take away the understanding.

Abuse (examples of) HOSEA 7:5

On the day of our king, the princes became sick with the heat of wine; he stretched out his hand with mockers.

Abuse (examples of) HOSEA 7:14

They do not cry to me from the heart, but they wail upon their beds; for grain and wine they gash themselves; they rebel against me.

Loss of wine is a curse from God HOSEA 9:2

Threshing floor and wine vat shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail them.

Offering (use in) HOSEA 9:4

They shall not pour drink offerings of wine to the Lord, and their sacrifices shall not please him. It shall be like mourners' bread to them; all who eat of it shall be defiled; for their bread shall be for their hunger only; it shall not come to the house of the Lord.

Blessing from God HOSEA 14:7

They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

Loss of wine is a curse from God JOEL 1:5

Awake, you drunkards, and weep, and wail, all you drinkers of wine, because of the sweet wine, for it is cut off from your mouth.

Loss of wine is a curse from God JOEL 1:10

The fields are destroyed, the ground mourns, because the grain is destroyed, the wine dries up, the oil languishes.

Blessing from God JOEL 2:19

The Lord answered and said to his people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

Blessing from God JOEL 2:24

"The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

Abuse (examples of) JOEL 3:3

and have cast lots for my people, and have traded a boy for a prostitute, and have sold a girl for wine and have drunk it.

Blessing from God JOEL 3:18

"And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the streambeds of Judah shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the Lord and water the Valley of Shittim.

Vows of abstinence AMOS 2:8

they lay themselves down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge, and in the house of their God they drink the wine of those who have been fined.

Vows of abstinence AMOS 2:12

"But you made the Nazirites drink wine, and commanded the prophets, saying, 'You shall not prophesy.'

Loss of wine is a curse from God AMOS 5:11

Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.

Use is accepted as normal AMOS 6:6

who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

Blessing from God AMOS 9:13

“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.

Blessing from God AMOS 9:14

I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.

Abuse (examples of) MICAH 2:11

If a man should go about and utter wind and lies, saying, “I will preach to you of wine and strong drink,” he would be the preacher for this people!

Loss of wine is a curse from God MICAH 6:15

You shall sow, but not reap; you shall tread olives, but not anoint yourselves with oil; you shall tread grapes, but not drink wine.

Symbolic NAHUM 1:10

For they are like entangled thorns, like drunkards as they drink; they are consumed like stubble fully dried.

Abuse (examples of) HABAKKUK 2:5

“Moreover, wine is a traitor, an arrogant man who is never at rest. His greed is as wide as Sheol; like death he has never enough. He gathers for himself all nations and collects as his own all peoples.”

Symbolic ZEPHANIAH 1:12

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill.'

Loss of wine is a curse from God ZEPHANIAH 1:13

Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."

Loss of wine is a curse from God HAGGAI 1:11

And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors."

Use is accepted as normal HAGGAI 2:12

'If someone carries holy meat in the fold of his garment and touches with his fold bread or stew or wine or oil or any kind of food, does it become holy?'" The priests answered and said, "No."

Use is accepted as normal HAGGAI 2:16

how did you fare? When one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were but ten. When one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were but twenty.

Symbolic ZECHARIAH 9:15

The Lord of hosts will protect them, and they shall devour, and tread down the sling stones, and they shall drink and roar as if drunk with wine, and be full like a bowl, drenched like the corners of the altar.

Blessing from God ZECHARIAH 9:17

For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty! Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.

Symbolic ZECHARIAH 10:7

Then Ephraim shall become like a mighty warrior, and their hearts shall be glad as with wine. Their children shall see it and be glad; their hearts shall rejoice in the Lord.

Symbolic MATTHEW 9:17

ESV: Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

Use is accepted as normal MATTHEW 27:34

they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

Use is accepted as normal MATTHEW 27:48

And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink.

Symbolic MARK 2:22

And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.”

Use is accepted as normal MARK 15:23

And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.

Use is accepted as normal MARK 15:36

And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.”

Vows of abstinence LUKE 1:15

for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.

Symbolic LUKE 5:37

And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed.

Symbolic LUKE 5:38

But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.

Symbolic LUKE 5:39

And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, ‘The old is good.’”

Vows of abstinence LUKE 7:33

For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’

Use is accepted as normal LUKE 10:34

He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

Use is accepted as normal LUKE 23:36

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine

Use is accepted as normal JOHN 2:3

When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.”

Use is accepted as normal JOHN 2:9

When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom

Use is accepted as normal JOHN 2:10

and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.”

Use is accepted as normal JOHN 4:46

So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill.

Use is accepted as normal JOHN 19:29

A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

False accusations of drunkenness ACTS 2:13

But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

Exception (the only verse like this) ROMANS 14:21

It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.

Warnings against abuse EPHESIANS 5:18

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

Pastors (qualifications for) 1 TIMOTHY 3:3

not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

Deacons (qualifications for) 1 TIMOTHY 3:8

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.

Use is accepted as normal 1 TIMOTHY 5:23

(No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.)

Pastors (qualifications for) TITUS 1:7

For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,

Warnings against abuse TITUS 2:3

Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,

Warnings against abuse 1 PETER 4:3

For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.

Symbolic REVELATION 6:6

And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!"

Symbolic REVELATION 14:8

Another angel, a second, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality.”

Symbolic REVELATION 14:10

he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Symbolic REVELATION 16:19

The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath.

Symbolic REVELATION 17:2

with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.”

Symbolic REVELATION 18:3

For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.”

Symbolic REVELATION 18:13

cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls.

References to STRONG DRINK (19)

Vows of abstinence LEVITICUS 10:9

“Drink no wine or strong drink, you or your sons with you, when you go into the tent of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations.

Vows of abstinence NUMBERS 6:3

he shall separate himself from wine and strong drink. He shall drink no vinegar made from wine or strong drink and shall not drink any juice of grapes or eat grapes, fresh or dried.

Offering (use in) DEUTERONOMY 14:26

and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.

No specific category DEUTERONOMY 29:6

You have not eaten bread, and you have not drunk wine or strong drink, that you may know that I am the Lord your God.

Vows of abstinence JUDGES 13:4

Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean,

Vows of abstinence JUDGES 13:7

but he said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’”

Vows of abstinence JUDGES 13:14

She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing. All that I commanded her let her observe.”

False accusations of drunkenness I SAMUEL 1:15

But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord.

Warnings against abuse PROVERBS 20:1

Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

Warnings against abuse PROVERBS 31:4

It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to take strong drink,

Use is accepted as normal PROVERBS 31:6

Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress;

Warnings against abuse ISAIAH 5:11

Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may run after strong drink, who tarry late into the evening as wine inflames them!

Warnings against abuse ISAIAH 5:22

Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink,

Loss of wine is a curse from God ISAIAH 24:9

No more do they drink wine with singing; strong drink is bitter to those who drink it.

Abuse (examples of) ISAIAH 28:7

These also reel with wine and stagger with strong drink; the priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, they are swallowed by wine, they stagger with strong drink, they reel in vision, they stumble in giving judgment.

Symbolic ISAIAH 29:9

Astonish yourselves and be astonished; blind yourselves and be blind! Be drunk, but not with wine; stagger, but not with strong drink!

Abuse (examples of) ISAIAH 56:12

“Come,” they say, “let me get wine; let us fill ourselves with strong drink; and tomorrow will be like this day, great beyond measure.”

Abuse (examples of) MICAH 2:11

If a man should go about and utter wind and lies, saying, "I will preach to you of wine and strong drink," he would be the preacher for this people!

Vows of abstinence LUKE 1:15

for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

Pastoral Statement on Alcohol

1. Scripture clearly condemns drunkenness.

Ephesians 5:17-19; Galatians 5:21; I Corinthians 6:10; Isaiah 5:11; Proverbs 23:20-21; Titus 2:3; Romans 13:13; Isaiah 5:22

2. Scripture speaks specifically to pastors and deacons that they not be given to wine, which is primarily a warning against drunkenness.

I Timothy 3:3, 8; e.g. Proverbs 31:4-5

3. Scripture often speaks of wine as common in life and a blessing from God

Genesis 14:18; Daniel 10:3; I Timothy 5:23; Deuteronomy 14:26; Psalm 4:7; Psalm 104:14-15; Proverbs 3:10; Isaiah 25:6

4. Scripture gives clear warnings concerning wine due to how easily one may fall prey to drunkenness

Proverbs 20:1; Proverbs 23:29-35; Romans 14:21

5. Alcohol abuse leads to personal and social ruin. Our current culture, however, too often portrays the intemperate use of alcohol as a necessary ingredient for social enjoyment.

6. Therefore, we condemn drunkenness, and we strongly encourage our members to pursue sobriety in this area by whatever means necessary including total abstinence.