

I. Old Testament Examples of Wine and Prohibitions for Alcohol Ingestion

1. First occurrence with Noah's nakedness ([Gen. 9:20-25](#)).
 - a. Alcohol can take a decent man and make him indecent ([Gen. 6:9](#)).
2. Second occurrence with Melchizedek ([Gen. 14:18-20](#)).
 - a. The Hebrew term *yayin* (H3196 noun) often translated as "wine" is a generic word.
 - b. In this context, we must determine if a priest of God would be bringing alcohol to Abram in order to bless him.
 - c. Wine is connected with blessings in the Old Testament ([Ps. 104:15](#); cf. [Hos. 2:8](#)).
 - d. Alcohol consumption is **not** a blessing in fact it is used in the Bible to describe **wrath** and **cursing** ([Jer. 25:15-29](#)).
3. Third occurrence with Lot and his two daughters resulting in incest ([Gen. 19:30-38](#)).
 - a. Alcohol can take a decent man and make him indecent ([2 Pt. 2:7-8](#)).
 - b. When did the process start of Lot's intoxication? The first drink!
 - c. Moab and Ammon were enemies of Israel (cf. [Num. 22-25](#); [Jdg. 10:7-9](#)).
4. Priests were prohibited from drinking alcohol ([Lev. 10:9-11](#)).
 - a. Based upon this instruction it seems that Nadab and Abihu were under the influence of alcohol when they offered strange fire before the LORD ([Lev. 10:1-2](#)).
5. Direct prohibitions for alcohol ingestion.
 - a. Pentateuch ([Lev. 10:9-11](#)).
 - b. Proverbs ([Pr. 20:1](#), [23:20-21](#), [29-35](#)).
 - c. Prophets ([Isa. 5:11-12](#), [22-23](#), [28:7-8](#); [Ezek. 44:21](#); [Hab. 2:15](#)).

II. Selected New Testament Usage of Wine

1. New wine and new bottles ([Mt. 9:14-17](#); cf. [Mk. 2:18-22](#); [Lk. 5:33-39](#)).
 - a. Jesus was familiar with the process of fermentation as were the people.
 - b. This shows that new wine (fresh grape juice) was not intoxicating but could become intoxicating through fermentation.
 - c. Fermentation will produce gas (carbon dioxide) as the yeast eats sugar thus would burst the wine bottles or skins given enough time **regardless** of their age.
 - d. In order to preserve the new wine, it must be placed into a clean bottle or skin (absent of any yeast or fermenting agent) and sealed to prevent air ingress which can bring with it yeast.
 - e. This also shows the Greek term *oinos* (G3631 noun) translated as "wine" like the Hebrew term *yayin* is generic.
 - f. **Context** will determine the type of wine under consideration.

2. The first miracle of Jesus ([Jn. 2:1-11](#)).
 - a. Remember, Jesus did miracles to produce belief in Him ([Jn. 20:30-31](#)).
 - b. firkins (*metretes* G3355 noun) equivalent to ~10 gallons ([Jn. 2:6](#)).
 - c. Whatever wine was present before had already been consumed ([Jn. 2:3](#)).
 - d. The governor of the feast acknowledged the quality of the wine, which was good ([Jn. 2:9-10](#)).
 - e. Nature already makes wine slowly; Jesus showed His power over nature with this miracle instantly and without the aid of the grape vine.
 - f. This miracle began the manifestation of His glory and induced belief ([Jn. 2:11](#)).

III. Alcohol and the Christian

1. The Christian is to abstain from the ingestion of alcohol ([Eph. 5:18](#)).
2. be...drunk (*methysko* G3182 verb, present tense, passive voice, imperative mood)
“signifies ‘to make drunk, or to grow drunk’ (an inceptive verb, marking the process or the state expressed in No. 1 [*methuo* TAT]), ‘to become intoxicated,’ [Luke 12:45](#); [Eph. 5:18](#); [1 Thess. 5:7a](#)” (Vine vol. 2 p. 180).
 - a. In [Ephesians 5:18](#), *methysko* is negated with the adverb *me* (G3361) translated as “not” indicating we are not to even **begin** the process that leads to drunkenness i.e., drinking intoxicating beverages.
3. There is also a logical contrastive in [Ephesians 5:18](#), *alla* (G235) rendered as “but” that necessitates abstinence from intoxicating beverages.
 - a. be filled (*pleroo* G4137 verb, present tense, passive voice, imperative mood)
“denotes (1) ‘to make full, to fill to the full’; in the passive voice, ‘to be filled, made full’; it is used...(2) of persons...(c) of believers: with the Spirit, [Eph. 5:18](#)...” (Vine vol. 2 p. 236).
 - b. The Holy Spirit has guarded this text against misunderstanding though some are dishonest with the text.
 - c. The sense of [Ephesians 5:18](#) is do not fill yourself with wine (alcoholic) which leads to a wasted life but instead be filled with the Spirit’s teachings (cf. [Col. 3:16](#)).
 - d. It is both a prohibition against the ingestion of alcohol as well as a commandment to read, study, and meditate on the Word of God!