

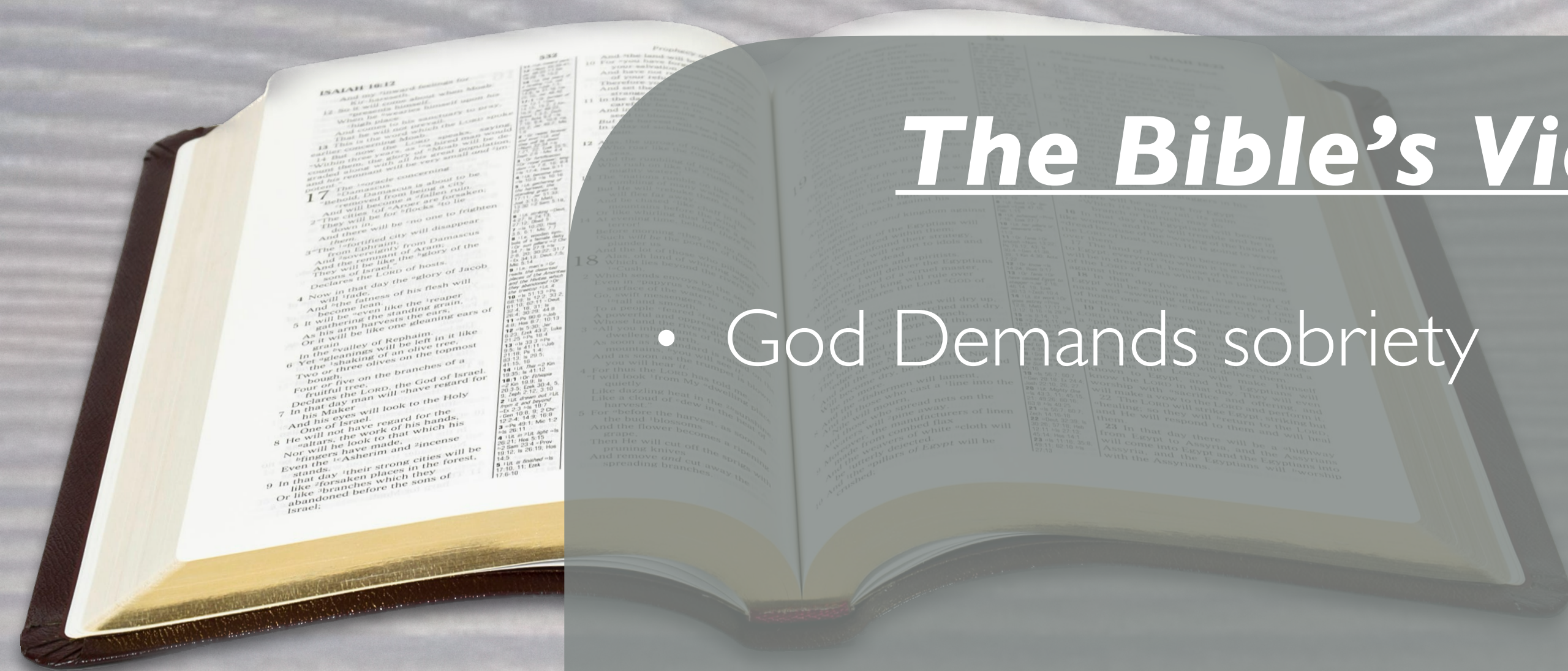
Romans 12:2 “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”



THE BIBLE'S VIEW ON ALCOHOL

The Bible's View on Alcohol

• God Demands sobriety



GOD DEMANDS SOBRIETY

1 Peter 1:13 “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest [your] hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

- Greek word *nēphō*
 - New Englishman’s Greek Concordance: “Abstain from wine; thus, to be sober”
 - Kittel’s Theological Dictionary of the NT: “Completely unaffected by wine”
 - Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: “To abstain from wine”
 - Liddell-Scott: “to be sober, drink no wine.”
 - Vine: “to be free from the influence of intoxicants”

The Bible's View on Alcohol

- God Demands sobriety
- Myths
- Only Drunkenness is condemned

ONLY DRUNKENNESS IS CONDEMNED

Galatians 5:21 “envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

ONLY DRUNKENNESS IS CONDEMNED

Galatians 5:21 “envy, murders, drunkenness (methe), revelries (komos), and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

- Drunkenness is the translation of (methe)
 - Defined as “intoxication; drunkenness”
- Revelries is the translation of (komos)
 - Defined by Thayer’s as i. e. in the Greek writings properly, a nocturnal and riotous procession of half-drunken and frolicsome fellows who after supper parade through the streets with torches and music in honor of Bacchus or some other deity, and sing and play before the houses of their male and female friends; hence, used generally, of feasts and drinking-parties that are protracted till late at night and indulge in revelry

ONLY DRUNKENNESS IS CONDEMNED

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

- Methyskō is the greek word for “...do not be drunk...”
 - Thayer’s defines this as to intoxicate, make drunk; to get drunk, become intoxicated
 - Vines defines this as to become intoxicated or to grow drunk
 - In other words, to begin the process of intoxication
- Asōtia is the greek word for Dissipation
 - Means an abandoned, dissolute, life; profligacy, prodigality

ONLY DRUNKENNESS IS CONDEMNED

I Peter 4:3 “For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:”

ONLY DRUNKENNESS IS CONDEMNED

I Peter 4:3 “For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine (oinophlygia), revellings (komos), banquetings (potos), and abominable idolatries:”

- Oinophlygia is the greek word for “...excess of wine...”
 - Compound word of "wine" (oinos) and "bubble up" (phluo)
 - Refers to someone who is overflowing in wine, drunk, or drunkard. It's “drunkenness” or “excess of wine” or “overflow of wine”
- Komos is the greek word for “...revelings...”
 - Used to describe festivals, feast days or revelings where heavy drinking was a focus with others, possibly for pagan gods (although pagan worship wasn't inherit in this word) with drinking
- Potos is the greek word for “...banquetings...”
 - Means a drinking or carousing

The Bible's View on Alcohol

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 - Wine in the Bible is only alcoholic

WINE IN THE BIBLE IS ALWAYS ALCOHOLIC

- Blessings in Psalm 104:14-15 vs a Cursing in Habakkuk 2:15
- Gathered wine and summer fruits Jeremiah 40:12 vs Is a mocker Proverbs 20:1
- Alcoholic wine is not found on a vine, grapes with precious juice is found on the vine
- Spiritual blessing in Isaiah 55:1 vs Divine wrath in Psalm 60:3

WINE IN THE BIBLE IS ALWAYS ALCOHOLIC

Bible condemns the consumption of fermented wine, alcohol

1. Genesis 9:20-27 - Noah became drunk; the result was immorality and family trouble.
2. Genesis 19:30-38 - Lot was so drunk he did not know what he was doing; this led to immorality
3. Leviticus 10:9-11 - God commanded priests not to drink so that they could tell the difference between the holy and the unholy.
4. Numbers 6:3 - The Nazarites were told to eat or drink nothing from the grapevine.
5. Deuteronomy 21:20 - A drunken son was stubborn and rebellious.
6. Deuteronomy 29:5-6 - God gave no grape juice to Israel nor did they have intoxicating drinks in the wilderness.
7. Deuteronomy 32:33 - Intoxicating wine is like the poison of serpents, the cruel venom of asps.
8. Judges 13:4, 7, 14 - Samson was to be a Nazarite for life. His mother was told not to drink wine or strong drinks.
9. 1 Samuel 1:14-15 - Accused, Hannah said she drank no wine.
10. 1 Samuel 25:32-38 - Nabal died after a drunken spree.

WINE IN THE BIBLE IS ALWAYS ALCOHOLIC

11. II Samuel 11:13 - By getting Uriah drunk, David hoped to cover his sin.
12. II Samuel 13:28-29 - Amnon was drunk when he was killed.
13. I Kings 16:8-10 - The king was drinking himself into drunkenness when he was assassinated
14. I Kings 20:12-21 - Ben-Hadad and 32 other kings were drinking when they were attacked and defeated by the Israelites.
15. Esther 1:5-12 - The king gave each one all the drink he wanted. The king was intoxicated when he commanded the queen to come.
16. Psalm 75:8 - The Lord's anger is pictured as mixed wine poured out and drunk by the wicked.
17. Proverbs 4:17 - Alcoholic drink is called the wine of violence.
18. Proverbs 20:1 - Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging.
19. Proverbs 23:19-20 - A wise person will not be among the drinkers of alcoholic beverages.
20. Proverbs 23:21 - Drunkenness causes poverty.

WINE IN THE BIBLE IS ALWAYS ALCOHOLIC

21. Proverbs 23:29-30 - Drinking causes woe, sorrow, fighting, babbling, wounds without cause, and red eyes.
22. Proverbs 23:31 - God instructs not to look at intoxicating drinks.
23. Proverbs 23:32 - Alcoholic drinks bite like a serpent, sting like an adder.
24. Proverbs 23:33 - Alcohol causes the drinker to have strange and adulterous thoughts, produces willfulness, and prevents reformation.
25. Proverbs 23:34 - Alcohol makes the drinker unstable
26. Proverbs 23:35 - Alcohol makes the drinker insensitive to pain so he does not perceive it as a warning. Alcohol is habit-forming.
27. Proverbs 31:4-5 - Kings, princes, and others who rule and judge must not drink alcohol. Alcohol perverts good judgment.
28. Proverbs 31:6-7 - Strong drink could be given to those about to perish or those in pain. Better anesthetics are available today.
29. Ecclesiastes 2:3 - The king tried everything, including intoxicating drink, to see if it satisfied. It did not.
30. Ecclesiastes 10:17 - A land is blessed when its leaders do not drink.

WINE IN THE BIBLE IS ALWAYS ALCOHOLIC

31. Isaiah 5:11-12 - Woe to those who get up early to drink and stay up late at night to get drunk.
32. Isaiah 5:22 - Woe to "champion" drinkers and "experts" at mixing drinks.
33. Isaiah 19:14 - Drunken men stagger in their vomit.
34. Isaiah 22:12-13 - The Israelites choose to drink; their future looks hopeless to them.
35. Isaiah 24:9 - Drinkers cannot escape the consequences when God judges.
36. Isaiah 28:1 - God pronounces woe on the drunkards of Ephraim.
37. Isaiah 28:3 - Proud drunkards shall be trodden down.
38. Isaiah 28:7 - Priests and prophets stagger and reel from beer and wine, err in vision, and stumble in judgment.
39. Isaiah 28:8 - Drinkers' tables are covered with vomit and filth.
40. Isaiah 56:9-12 - Drinkers seek their own gain and expect tomorrow to be just like today.

WINE IN THE BIBLE IS ALWAYS ALCOHOLIC

41. [Jeremiah 35:2-14](#) - The Rechabites drank no grape juice or intoxicating wine and were blessed.
42. [Ezekiel 44:21](#) - Again God instructed the priests not to drink wine.
43. [Daniel 1:5-17](#) - Daniel refused the king's intoxicating wine and was blessed for it along with his abstaining friends.
44. [Daniel 5:1](#) - Belshazzar, ruler of Babylon; led his people in drinking.
45. [Daniel 5:2-3](#) - The king, along with his nobles, wives, and concubines, drank from the goblets which had been taken from God's temple.
46. [Daniel 5:4](#) - Drinking wine was combined with praising false gods.
47. [Daniel 5:23](#) - God sent word to Belshazzar that punishment would be swift for the evil he had committed.
48. [Hosea 4:11](#) - Intoxicating wine takes away intelligence.
49. [Hosea 7:5](#) - God reproves princes for drinking.
50. [Joel 1:5](#) - Drunkards awake to see God's judgment.

WINE IN THE BIBLE IS ALWAYS ALCOHOLIC

51. Joel 3:3 - The enemy is judged for selling girls for wine.
52. Amos 2:8 - Unrighteous acts of Israel included the drinking of wine which had been taken for the payment of fines.
53. Amos 2:12 - Israel is condemned for forcing Nazarites to drink wine.
54. Micah 2:11 - Israelites are eager to follow false teachers who prophesy plenty of intoxicating drinks.
55. Nahum 1:10 - The drunkards of Nineveh will be destroyed by God.
56. Habakkuk 2:5 - A man is betrayed by wine.
57. Habakkuk 2:15 - Woe to him that gives his neighbor drink to lower his inhibitions.
58. Habakkuk 2:16 - Drinking leads to shame.
59. Matthew 24:48-51 - A drinking servant is unprepared for his Lord's return.
60. Luke 1:15 - John the Baptist drank neither grape juice nor wine.

WINE IN THE BIBLE IS ALWAYS ALCOHOLIC

61. Luke 12:45 - Christ warned against drunkenness.
62. Luke 21:34 - Drunkenness will cause a person not to be ready for the Lord's return.
63. Romans 13:13 - Do not walk in drunkenness or immorality.
64. Romans 14:21 - Do not do anything that will hurt your testimony as a believer.
65. I Corinthians 5:10-11 - If a Christian brother is a drinker, do not associate with him.
66. I Corinthians 6:10 - Drunkards will not inherit the kingdom of God
67. I Corinthians 15:34 - Be sober-minded and stop sinning.
68. Galatians 5:21 - Acts of the sinful nature, such as drunkenness, will prohibit a person from inheriting the kingdom of God.
69. Ephesians 5:18 - In contrast to being drunk with wine, the believer is to be filled with the Spirit.
70. I Thessalonians 5:6-8 - Christians are to be alert and self-controlled, belonging to the day. Drunkards belong to the night and darkness.

WINE IN THE BIBLE IS ALWAYS ALCOHOLIC

71. 1 Timothy 3:2-3 - Bishops (elders) are to be temperate, sober, and not near any wine.
72. 1 Timothy 3:8 - Deacons are to be worthy of respect and not drinkers.
73. 1 Timothy 3:11 - Deacons' wives are to be temperate and sober.
74. Titus 1:7-8 - An overseer is to be disciplined.
75. Titus 2:2-3 - The older men and older women of the church are to be temperate and not addicted to wine.
76. 1 Peter 4:3-4 - The past life of drunkenness and carousing has no place in the Christian's life.

WINE IN THE BIBLE IS ALWAYS ALCOHOLIC

Wine is a generic word (meaning fermented or unfermented) not only in the OT and NT, but in our secular world as well.

1. Aristotle ... new wine "it is wine in name, but not in effect..." (4th century B.C.)
2. Callixenus ... they "were trampling on the grapes, and the new-wine (gleukos) ran out over the whole road ..." (300 B.C.)
3. Papias ... "Each grape shall yield five and twenty measures of wine (oinos) .." (90 A.D.)
4. Babylonian paraphrase on [Genesis 27:25](#) speaks of "wine reserved in its grapes."
5. The Gemara speaks of "wine preserved in its grapes."
6. Suidas ... "GLEUKUS ... the droppings of the grapes before being trodden .." (950 A.D.)
7. Sir Thomas Herbert speaks of wine gotten from wounding the Toddy Tree and catching the juice (1638 A.D.)
8. John Parkinson under the heading "Vines" says: "The juyce or liquor pressed out of the ripe grape is called VINUM, wine ..." (1640 A.D.)
9. Henry Southwell speaking of martyrs said that they were "like grapes when pressed, they yield luxuriant wine" (1660 A.D.)
10. Thomas Blount speaks of must as new-wine, or, "that which is first pressed out of the grape." (1670 A.D.)

WINE IN THE BIBLE IS ALWAYS ALCOHOLIC

11. Edward Phillips says of must, "wine newly pressed from the grapes (1670 A.D.)
12. J. W. Gent speaks of "wine-cinder" and "cherrywine." The juice of the cherry is "gently pressed" and makes "a very pleasant wine" (1676 A.D.)
13. W. Robertson, "Wine; Vinum ... New-Wine; Mustum - New wine that runs out without pressing." (1693 A.D.)
14. Thomas Sprat speaks of vessels into which is put "cote or unfermented wine." (1702 A.D.)
15. J. M. Gesner says: "Once for all it must be observed, that the words VINUM (wine), VITIS (vine), UVAE (grape-clusters), and VINEA (vineyard), as kindred terms are sometimes used synonymously ..." and "The juice of apples, pears, pomegranates, and sorbs, was called VINUM." (1730 A.D.)
16. Miller's Gardener's Dictionary: The first time they lower the great beams upon the grapes, they (the French) call the wine that runs out the WINE of Guotte, because it is the finest and most exquisite in the grape ... The wine strains from the press into a puncheon ... Vin Bourra, as they call it, i.e., a new and sweet white wine that has not worked ... " (1748 A.D.)
17. E. Chambers speaks of, "Sweet wine" which has not yet fermented; wine which is called "Mere-goutte," mother-drop, which is the virgin-wine; Burnt wine is "boiled up with sugar." (1750 A.D.)
18. Samuel Johnson speaks of Must as "New wine" (1773 A.D.)
19. John Parkhurst tells of Ovid applying the Latin "merum" to mean "pure wine as it is pressed out of the grapes."
20. J. F. Schleusner: "OINOS; generally VINUM liquor expressed from grapes whether new or old ... OINOS neos, VINUM novum i.e., must, alias gleukos ... GLEUKOS, properly the liquor which drops from the grape before treading." (1810 A.D.)

WINE IN THE BIBLE IS ALWAYS ALCOHOLIC

21. Gesenius (in the last edition of his lexicon, 1844): "TIROSH, must, of the juice of the grape." (1844 A.D.)
22. James Donegan: "GLEUKOS; new, unfermented wine, must...SIRAION ... a wine prepared by boiling grapes .." (1826 A.D.)
23. Noah Webster: "Must, New wine; wine pressed from the grape but not fermented." (1828 A.D.)
24. S. Lee: "Ahsis; Literally, trodden. New wine; the juice of the grape .." (1830 A.D.)
25. John Avenarius has: "Ahsis - mustum, which is recently expressed juice. German susz: susur wein." (1588A.D.)
26. Dr. Ure: "Juice, when newly expressed, and before it has begun to ferment, is called must, and in common language sweet wine." (1836 A.D.)
27. H. Bullinger speaks of wine running out of the wine-press (1573 A.D.)
28. Bretschneider: "Oinos neos, mustum. Sept. for ahsis and tirosh. 2 ...Gleukos, mustum. That which drops from the grapes before being trodden. [Acts 2:13](#). [Job 32:19](#) where the Hebrew is yayin." (1840A.D.)
29. Baron Liebig: "If a flask be filled with grape juice and made air-tight, and then kept for a few hours in boiling water ... the wine does not now ferment." (1844 A.D.)
30. Encyclopedia Americana (1855): "The juice of the grape, when newly expressed, and before it has begun to ferment, is called must, and, in common language, sweet wine."

WINE IN THE BIBLE IS ALWAYS ALCOHOLIC

Word	Meaning (information and definitions gathered from various sources and Thayer's Lexicon)
yayin/oinos/nvinum	Refers to juice of the grape in any form (sweet/sour or fermented/unfermented) [hebrew/greek/latin]
shekar	Typically refers to any sweet juice derived from any other source besides the grape. Like <i>yayin</i> , it can be applied to both fermented/unfermented.
tirosh	Refers to the ripe fruit of the vine, and to the fresh juice of the grape before fermentation had begun. It is translated both as wine, new wine, etc.

The Bible's View on Alcohol

- God Demands sobriety
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 - Jesus turned the water to wine

JESUS TURNED THE WATER TO WINE

John 2:1-11 "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."

- Habakkuk 2:15 ""Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, Pressing *him to* your bottle, Even to make *him* drunk, That you may look on his nakedness!"

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PAUL TOLD TIMOTHY TO DRINK ALCOHOL

I Timothy 5:23 “No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.”

- Fermented or Unfermented?
- Notice the specifics;
 - Mix
 - Little
 - Medicinal

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DEACONS AREN'T TO DRINK MUCH WINE

1 Timothy 3:8 “Likewise deacons [must be] reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,

- Elders (1 Timothy 3:2-3): v2 vigilant (nephalios) - that is to abstain; v3 do not be given to wine (me paroinon)
- Deacons (1 Timothy 3:8) – literal translation is: being addicted to much wine (me oino pollo)
- Deacon Wives (1 Timothy 3:11)—abstain (nephalious)
- Aged men (Titus 2:2)—abstain (nephalious)
- Aged women (Titus 2:3)— being addicted to much wine (me oino pollo)

DEACONS AREN'T TO DRINK MUCH WINE

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- Romans 6:12 - “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body...”
 - Can you sin as long as it doesn't rule/control your body?
- Ecclesiastes 7:17 - “Be not overmuch wicked...”
 - Can we be a little wicked?
- I Peter 4:4 “wherein they think strange that ye run not with them into the same excess of riot,..”
 - Would running with them in some lessor level of riot be acceptable?
- Proverbs 23:22 “Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.”
 - Can we despise our mother when she is young?

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 - The fruit of the vine on the Lord's table was alcoholic

THE FRUIT OF THE VINE ON THE LORD'S TABLE WAS ALCOHOLIC

Truth Magazine “In conclusion: Let's stay with what the Bible says. Either grape juice or fermented wine fulfills, or is encompassed in, the scriptural authority of "fruit of the vine.”

- “Whether the prohibition of the Old Law against leaven included fermented wine or not, it is the **testimony of history that the Jews** did not consider such to be the case.”
- Conversation with a Dallas rabbi
- Mishnah
 - “These also must be removed at Passover: Babylonian porridge, Median beer, Edomite vinegar, and Egyptian barley-beer” (Pesahim, 3.1).”



THE FRUIT OF THE VINE ON THE LORD'S TABLE WAS ALCOHOLIC

Matthew 26:29 “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.

- Fruit of the vine vs generic greek words for wine that have dual meanings

THE FRUIT OF THE VINE ON THE LORD'S TABLE WAS ALCOHOLIC

1 Corinthians 11:21 “For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.”

- Greek word comes from methuo translated as drunken
- And this word can have several meanings
 - It can mean to be drunken/inebriated
 - And it can mean to be filled, plentifully fed

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JESUS WAS A WINEBIBBER

Matthew 11:19 "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children."

- Greek word Pino - has no connection to consuming fermented / alcoholic wine
- Notice the context
 - Matthew 11:18 ""For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.'"

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 - The only sin where moderation is okay

THE ONLY SIN WHERE MODERATION IS OKAY

Romans 12:9 “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”

- Lesson a few months ago on flee, abhor, and resist sin / evil
- There is no sin that has varying degrees based on who you are:
 - E.g.; weight, genetics, your God given gender, parent history, how much food you have eaten, etc. determines how quickly and to what extent the intoxication level impacts you.

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 - They couldn't prevent fermentation

THEY COULDN'T PREVENT FERMENTATION

Proverbs 9:1-5 “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.”

- Boiling the grape juice making a thick syrup
- Filtration through sacco filters
- Sealing – pitch/corking, olive oil, etc
- Adding elements to the juice, such as sulphur would stop fermentation
- Keeping the juice cool – caves, stored in the ground, kept in creeks or rivers under water

Important Note: Preserving techniques were also used by those trying to keep the fermented wine from degrading further and becoming vinegar or sour wine

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1 Thessalonians 5:5-8 “You are all **sons of light** and **sons of the day**. We are **not of the night nor of darkness**. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others [do], but **let us watch** and be **sober**. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are **drunk at night**. 8 But let us who are of the **day be sober**, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and [as] a helmet the hope of salvation.”

