



PROVIDENCE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
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## The Cup of Blessing

### Wine and Beer in the Bible

*The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will depart from the faith . . . They forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything God created is good and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.*

- 1 Timothy 4:1-4

## Friendly Admonition #3

Proverbs 18:17

The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.



## Two Kinds of "Wine"?

What's the Logic Behind It?

- ⊙ Cannot believe that God would approve of or commend a substance so risky.
- ⊙ Whenever it is mentioned with approval the "wine" of the Bible must be grape juice.
- ⊙ Whenever its power to inebriate is in view "wine" refers to an alcoholic beverage.
- ⊙ The word may be the same, but they cannot refer to the same drink.

## YOU DECIDE

1 Samuel  
1:14-15

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

Deut.  
14:26

... 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 Yahweh your God and rejoice, you and your household.

See also 1 Sam. 1:24

## Wine & Beer in the Bible

- The wine and beer referred to in the Bible are fermented with an alcoholic content and the power to inebriate.
- The Bible never refers to unfermented grape juice as "wine."
- "Strong drink" (שִׁכָּר) is any alcoholic drink not made from grapes (usually "beer").

## Quick Summary

1. "Wine" and "Strong drink" in the Bible are fermented, alcoholic beverages with (for better or worse) the power to inebriate.
2. There are not "two kinds" of wine in the Scripture.
3. Because of its alcoholic content, wine can be abused (Gen. 19).
4. Wine brings rest and is a fitting drink to celebrate the conclusion of one's work (Gen. 9; Lev. 10; Num. 6; Deut. 14).

## Quick Summary

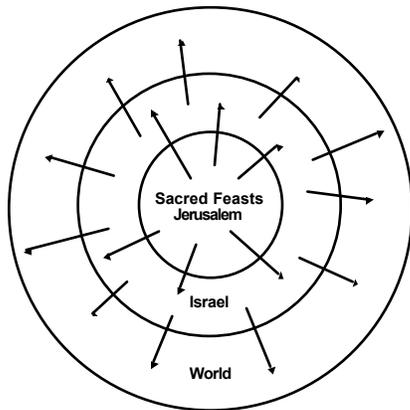
5. Bread and wine are royal fare (Gen. 14, 40).
6. God's blessing on Israel included the abundance of grain and wine (Deut. 7, 11, 28).
7. Wine is offered as "food for Yahweh" on the altar (Ex. 29; Lev. 23; Num. 15, 28).
8. This means that every family had to offer wine as a necessary part of the sacrificial system. There was no escaping complicity in the alcohol business in Israel.

### Quick Summary

9. Wine and strong drink are commended by God to those who are learning to “fear” him and “rejoice before” him (Deut. 14). The community is to be “happy” when they have an abundance of grain and wine (Deut. 33).
10. When Israel was gathered for her most sacred religious festivals she feasted on bread and wine in Yahweh’s presence.

### Quick Summary

11. In this way she was ritually trained in the appropriate way to enjoy the good gifts that God provided for his people. *How* she ate and drank in God’s special presence would affect the way she lived in the world.
12. From Israel’s ritual meals develops the promise of the Messianic Feast.



### The Prophesied Messianic Feast

- The coming joys portrayed in terms of abundance of food and wine
- Bread and wine is royal fare
- Fulfills prophetic intent of communal feasts of Hebrew festival calendar
- Also contrasts with the rest and joy denied the Hebrew priests in the Tabernacle and Temple
- The Wedding at Cana
- The Lord’s Supper as foretaste