



PROVIDENCE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
JANUARY - MARCH 2004

The Cup of Blessing

Wine and Beer in the Bible #6

On this mountain Yahweh 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.
 – Isaiah 25:6

Friendly Admonition #4

1 Thessalonians 5:22

“Abstain from all appearance of evil” (KJV)

“Avoid every kind of evil” (NIV)

“Abstain from every form of evil”
 (RSV, NKJV, ESV)



The Prophesied Messianic Feast

On this mountain Yahweh 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.

And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all people. . .
He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord Yahweh will wipe away tears
from all faces. . .

Isaiah 25:6-8

The Prophesied Messianic Feast

Come everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters; and he who has no money,
come and buy and eat!

Come buy wine and milk without money and
without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is
not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me,
and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Isaiah 55:1-2

The Prophesied Messianic Feast

For Yahweh has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for
him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of
Zion,

and they shall be radiant over the goodness of
Yahweh,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and herd;
their life shall be like a watered garden,
and they shall languish no more.

Jeremiah 31:11-12

The Prophesied Messianic Feast

I will betroth you to me in faithfulness.
And you shall know Yahweh.
And in that day I will answer, declares Yahweh,
I will answer the heavens,
and they shall answer the earth,
and the earth shall answer
the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and they shall answer with Jezreel,
and I will sow her for myself in the land.

Hosea 2:20-23

The Prophesied Messianic Feast

Then Yahweh become jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.
Yahweh 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.

Joel 2:18-19

The Prophesied Messianic Feast

“Be glad, O children of Zion,
and rejoice in Yahweh your God. . .
The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
and the vats shall overflow
with wine and oil.”

Joel 2:23-24

The Prophesied Messianic Feast

“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 Yahweh.”
Joel 3:18

The Prophesied Messianic Feast

“Behold the days are coming, declares
Yahweh,
When the plowman shall overtake the
reaper and the treader of grapes
him who sows the seed; and the
mountains shall drip sweet wine,
and the hills shall flow with it.”
Amos 9:13

The Prophesied Messianic Feast

On that day Yahweh their God will save
them, as the flock of his people, for
like the jewels of a crown they shall
shine in his land.
For how great is his goodness, and how
great is his beauty! Grain shall
make the young men flourish, and
new wine the young women.
Zechariah 9:16-17

The Prophetised Messianic Feast

The 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 Yahweh.

Zechariah 10:7

Maybe all this wine & new wine is actually grape juice. . .

They shall eat and not be satisfied;
they shall play the whore,
but not multiply,
because they have forsaken Yahweh
to cherish whoredom, wine,
and new wine,
which take away the understanding.

The Abuse of Wine

“Drink is in itself a good creature of God, and to be received with thankfulness, but the abuse of drink is from Satan; the wine is from God, but the drunkard is from the Devil”

Increase Mather in
Wo to Drunkards (1673)

A History Quiz - The Puritans

Question #1

True or False?



The Puritans loaded more beer than water onto the Mayflower before they cast off for the New World.

A History Quiz - The Puritans

— True —

The Puritans loaded more beer than water onto the Mayflower before they cast off for the New World.

Source: Royce, James E. *Alcohol Problems: A Comprehensive Survey*. New York: Free Press, 1981, 38.

A History Quiz - The Puritans

Question #2

True or False?



While there wasn't any cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, or pumpkin pie to eat at the first Thanksgiving, there was beer, brandy, gin, and wine to drink.

A History Quiz - The Puritans

— True —

While there wasn't any cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, or pumpkin pie to eat at the first Thanksgiving, there was beer, brandy, gin, and wine to drink.

Source: Furnas, J. C. *The Life and Times of the Late Demon Rum*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1965, p. 20.

A History Quiz - The Puritans

Question #3



True or False?

A brewery was one of Harvard College's first construction projects so that a steady supply of beer could be served in the student dining halls.

A History Quiz - The Puritans

— True —

A brewery was one of Harvard College's first construction projects so that a steady supply of beer could be served in the student dining halls.

Harvard College's Mottos (1634 - 1650) ?

Veritas

In Christi Gloriam

Christo et Ecclesiae

A History Quiz - The Puritans

— True —

A brewery was one of Harvard College's first construction projects so that a steady supply of beer could be served in the student dining halls.

Source: Mendelson, Jack H. and Mello, Nancy K. *Alcohol: Use and Abuse in America*. Boston, Massachusetts: Little, Brown & Co., 1985.

A History Quiz - The Puritans

Question #4 True or False?



Tavern owners enjoyed higher social status than did the clergy during part of the Colonial period.

A History Quiz - The Puritans

— True —

Tavern owners enjoyed higher social status than did the clergy during part of the Colonial period.

Source: Grimes, William. *Straight Up or On the Rocks: A Cultural History of American Drink*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993, pp. 44-45.

The Abuse of Wine

- Drunkenness is a dangerous sin expressly condemned in the Hebrew Scriptures (Isa. 28:7; Ps. 78:65; Prov. 20:1; 23:20-21, 29-30, 33).
- As punishment for disobedience God curses cultures with drunkenness (Jer. 13:13-14; Ezek. 23:8, 33; Nah. 1:9-10; Hab. 2:15-16; Lam. 4:21-22).

The Abuse of Wine

- Drunkenness distorts one's perspective of God's world (Prov. 23:29-30; Jer. 25:16; Isa. 28:7; Hos. 4:11).
- Drunkenness destroys one's vocational capacity, especially one's judicial and moral discernment (Prov. 23:20-21; 31:4-5; Isa. 5:22-23).

The Abuse of Wine

- Drunkenness violates the norms of godly social behavior (Isa. 28:7-8; Jer. 25:27; Ps. 107:27; Prov. 20:1; 23:29-30).
- Drunkenness weakens the body (Prov. 23:30, 32; Hos. 7:5).

**One Good Use for
Heightened Inebriation**

Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in distress; let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more

Proverbs 31:6-7

**Abstention the Best
Choice?**

- Total Abstention never commended in Scripture
- Abstention not the final answer to abuse.
- Gluttony and lust are not cured through abstention.

“Do not suppose that abuses are eliminated by destroying the object that is abused. Men can go wrong with wine and women. Shall we prohibit and abolish women? The Sun, moon, and stars have been worshipped. Shall we pluck them out of the sky?”

Martin Luther
