

What the Bible Teaches about Drinking Alcohol

An Overview of References

Introduction:

1. The Bible condemns the consumption of intoxicating beverages in very clear terms.
2. Yet, strangely, many attempt to use the Scriptures to condone and justify drinking alcohol.
3. Even stranger is the attempt by Christians to claim that drinking is simply a matter of opinion (so long as one does not “get drunk”).
4. What does the Bible actually teach about drinking alcohol?

I. Old Testament References

- A. Genesis 9:20-26
 1. This is the first reference to drinking and drunkenness.
 2. As a result, Noah failed as the head of his family.
- B. Genesis 19:30-38
 1. Notice that Lot’s daughters “made” him drink wine.
 2. His impaired judgment aided his failure as a father.
- C. Leviticus 10:8-11
 1. Drinking would hinder the priests from performing their duties.
 2. All Christians are priests (cf. 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6)!
- D. 1 Samuel 25:36-38
- E. 1 Kings 16:8-10
- F. Esther 1
 1. Even when drinking was not compelled, trouble ensued (vs. 7-8).
 2. Drinking still destroys homes!
- G. Proverbs 4:17; 20:1; 23:29-35
- H. Ecclesiastes 2:3; 12:8
- I. Isaiah 5:11-12, 22-23; 28:7-8
- J. Jeremiah 35
- K. Daniel 5
- L. Habakkuk 2:15

II. New Testament References

- A. Matthew 24:48-51
- B. Luke 21:34
- C. Romans 13:13-14
- D. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- E. Galatians 5:19-21
- F. 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8

Conclusion: Ephesians 5:15-21