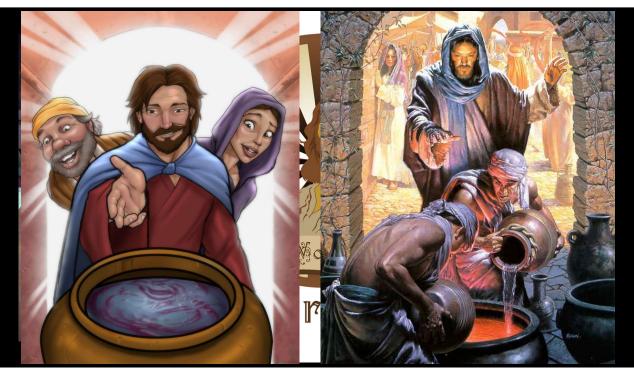
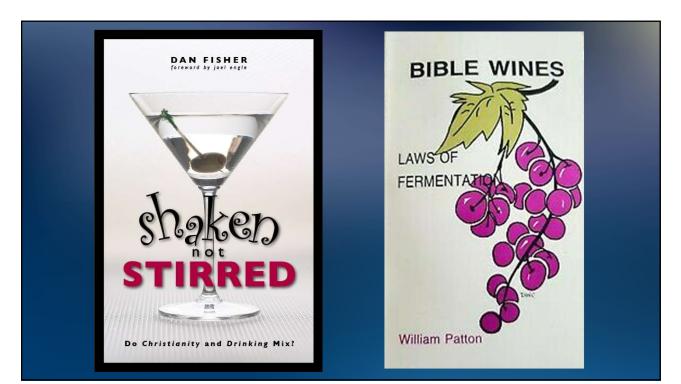
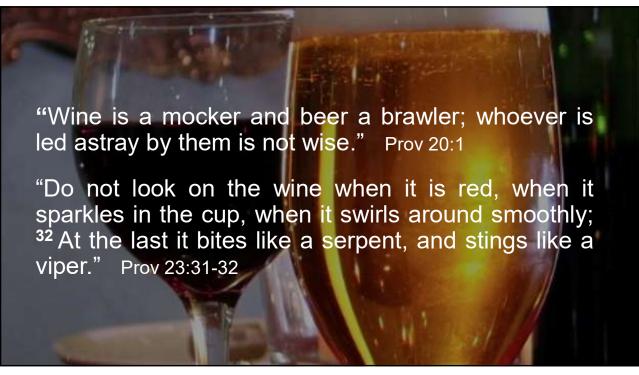


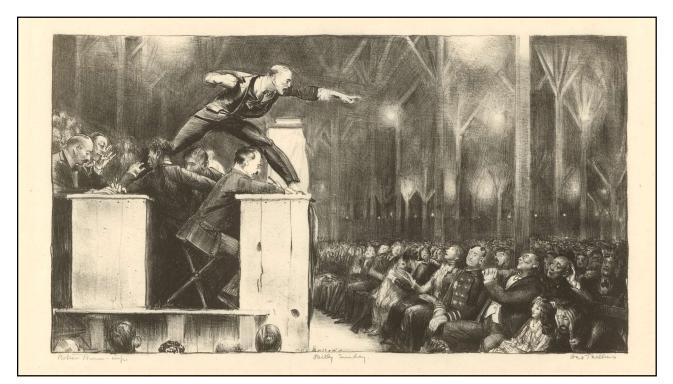
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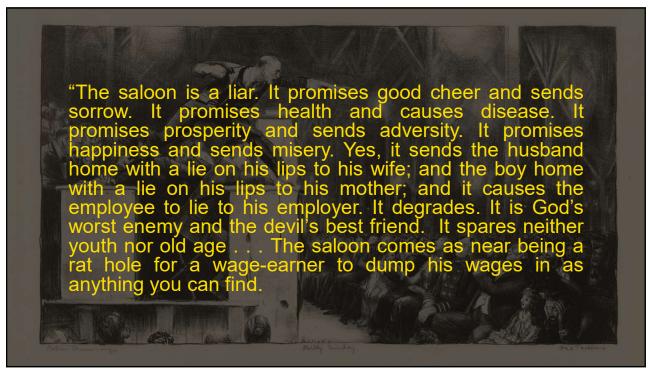




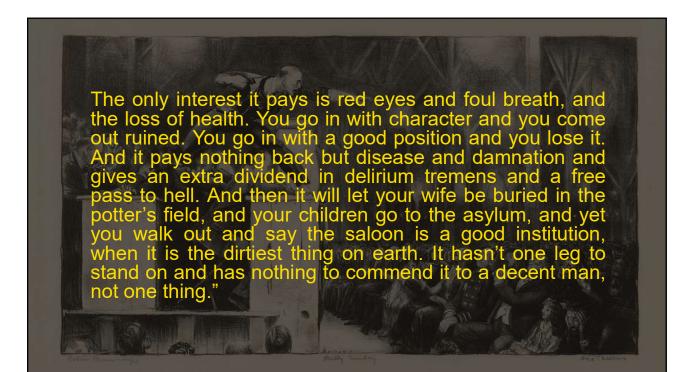


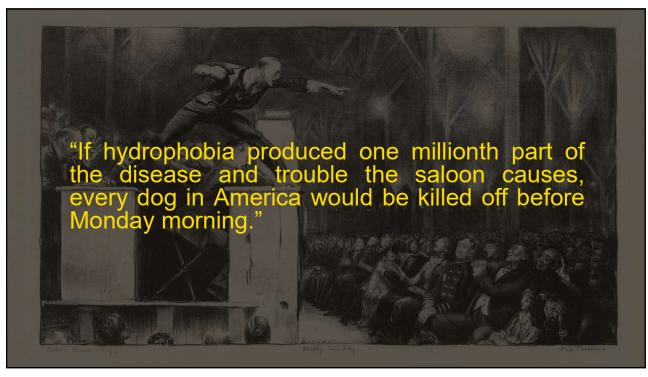












- Alcohol is directly involved in the deaths of some 100,000 Americans per year.
- The number killed by drunk drivers each year is the equivalent to approx. 3 airliners with 300 passengers crashing each month.
- The number killed by alcohol each year is the equivalent to approx. 28 airliners with 300 passengers crashing each month.
- The number killed by alcohol in America each year is approximately the same as the 103,000 killed when the atomic bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- The number killed in the Korean War (approx. 54,000) is only ½ that number. In those three yrs some 300,000 Americans would be killed by alcohol.
- The number killed during the Vietnam War (approx. 58,000) is slightly more than ½ that number. In those 10 yrs, alcohol would kill 1,000,000 Americans.

- Approximately 40% of all admissions to our nation's hospitals each year are alcohol related.
- Approx. 40% of all crimes (violent and non-violent) were committed under the influence of alcohol.
- Approx. 40% of convicted rape and sexual assault offenders said that they were drinking at the time of their crime.
- Approx. two-thirds of victims of domestic violence report that alcohol was involved in the incident.
- Nearly one-half of the cases of child abuse and neglect are associated with parental alcohol or drug abuse.

1. The first two times alcohol appears in Scripture it is under very negative circumstances.

Gen 9:20-21 And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.

Gen 19:33 So they made their father [Lot] drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

2. Scripture clearly condemns drunkenness.

1 Cor 5:11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner – not even to eat with such a person.

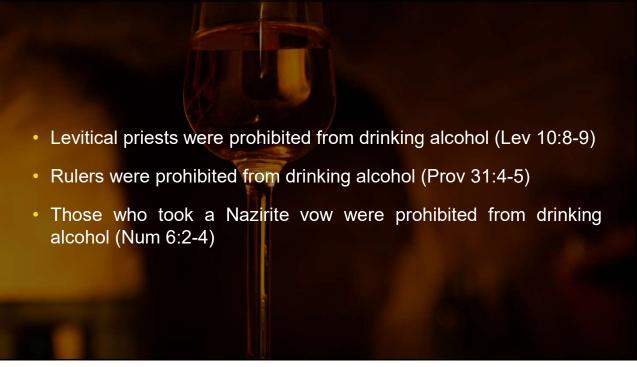
Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation;

1 Cor 6:9-11 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? ... nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

13

God gives 10 reasons in Prov 23:29-35 why He does not want His people drinking alcohol:

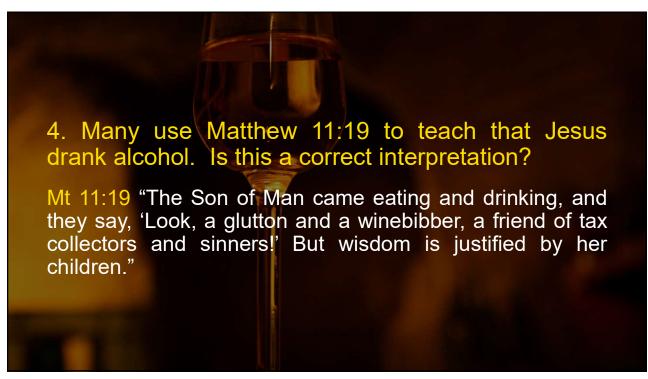
- Drinking shows a lack of wisdom.
- Drinking leads to poverty.
- Drinking produces mockers.
- Drinking produces arrogance.
- Drinking steals purpose from life.
- Drinking takes away the senses.
- Drinking causes disagreeableness & quarrels.
- Drinking brings anguish and sorrow.
- Drinking brings personal harms of all kinds.
- Drinking lowers moral inhibitions.

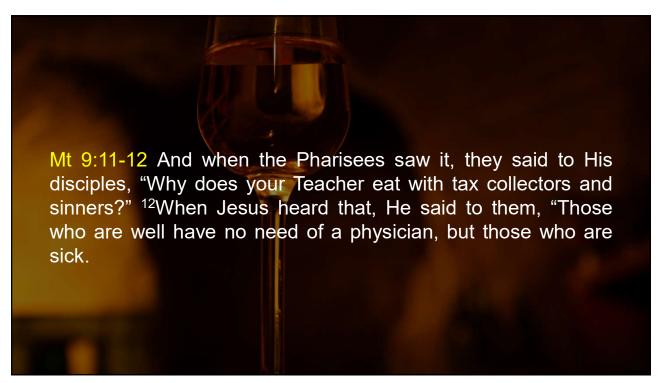


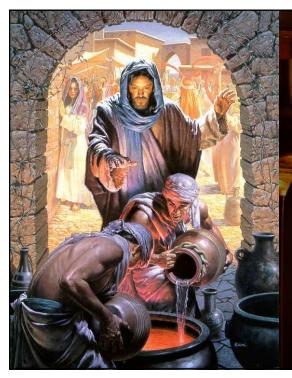


Dr. S. M. Isaacs, a 19th century Jewish rabbi:

"In the Holy Land they do not commonly use fermented wines. The best wines are preserved sweet and unfermented . . . The Jews do not, in their feasts for sacred purposes, including the marriage feast, ever use any kind of fermented drinks. In their oblations and libations, both private and public, they employ the fruit of the vine – that is, fresh grapes – unfermented grape juice, and raisins, as the symbol of benediction. Fermentation is to them always a symbol of corruption, as in nature and science it is itself decay, rottenness."



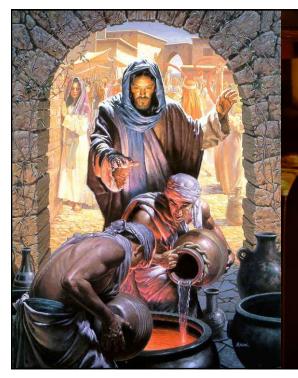




5. What about the "kegger in Cana" Jesus threw recorded in Jn 2:1-11?

What are the implications if Jesus served alcohol to the wedding guests of Cana?

Hab 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!



Js 1:13-15 "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt ¹⁴But anyone. one each is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵Then. when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."

Dr. William Patton, *Bible Wines or Laws of Fermentation & Wines of the Ancients*:

"Christ did instantly what, by the laws of nature which he had ordained, it would have taken months to grow and ripen into [its final fruit]. So in the case of the wine, Christ, by supernatural and superhuman rapidity, produced that marvelous conversion of water into the 'pure blood of the grape' which, by his own established law of nature, takes place annually through a series of months, as the vine draws up the water from the earth, and transmutes it into the pure and unfermented juice found in the rich, ripe clusters on the vine."

St. Augustine, an early Christian leader, born in 354 A.D.:

"For he on that marriage day made wine in the six jars which he ordered to be filled with water – he who now makes it every year in the vines; for, as what the servants had poured into the water jars was turned into wine by the power of the Lord, so, also, that which the clouds pour forth is turned into wine by the power of the selfsame Lord. But we cease to wonder at what is done every year; its very frequency makes astonishment to fail."

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Chrysostom, born in 344 A.D.:

"Now, indeed, making plain that it is he who changes into wine the water in the vines and the rain drawn up by the roots. He produced instantly at the wedding feast that which is formed in the plant during a long course of time."

Dr. William Patton:

"Is it not derogatory to the character of Christ and the teachings of the Bible to suppose that he exerted his miraculous power to produce . . . at least 60 gallons of intoxicating wine? – wine which inspiration had denounced as 'a mocker,' as 'biting like a serpent,' and 'stinging like an adder,' as 'the poison of dragons,' 'the cruel venom of asps,' and which the Holy Ghost had selected as the emblem of the wrath of God Almighty? Is it probable that he gave that to the guests after they had used the wine provided by the host, and which, it is claimed, was intoxicating?"

25

Dr. R.A. Torrey, *Difficulties in the Bible,* 1907:

"He provided wine, but there is not a hint that the wine he made was intoxicating. It was fresh-made wine. New-made wine is never intoxicating. It is not intoxicating until sometime after the process of fermentation has set in. Fermentation is a process of decay. There is not a hint that our Lord produced alcohol, which is a product of decay or death. He produced a living wine uncontaminated by fermentation."

John R. Rice, The Son of God, 1976:

"You may be sure that Jesus knew well the teaching that 'wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging,' and He would not go against the teaching of scripture of which He, Himself, was author and founder before the world began. The kind of wine which Jesus made is not the kind which is a mocker and, along with strong drink, is raging."



So what did Jesus make at that wedding?

Joel 3:18 And it will come to pass in that day that the mountains shall drip with new wine, the hills shall flow with milk,

Mt 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."

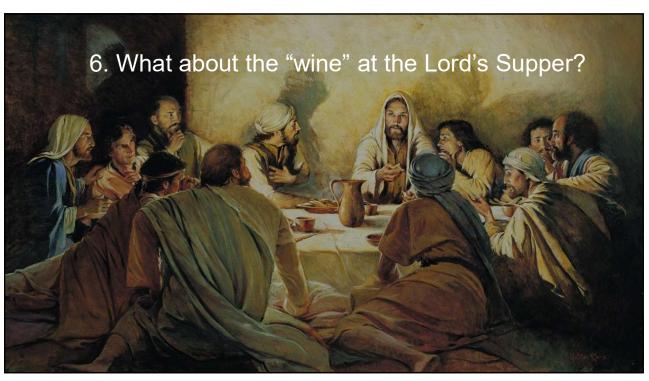
Dr. William Pettingill, Bible Questions Answered:

"I do not pretend to know the nature of the wine furnished by our Lord at the wedding of Cana, but I am satisfied that there was little resemblance in it to the thing described in the Scriptures of God as biting like a serpent and stinging like an adder (Prov. 23:29-32). Doubtless rather it was like the heavenly fruit of the vine that he will drink new with his own in his Father's kingdom (Matt. 26:29). No wonder the governor of the wedding feast at Cana pronounced it the best wine kept until the last. Never before had he tasted such wine, and never did he taste it again."

29

Why this miracle first?

Jn 2:11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.



Leaven (yeast) is a symbol for sin:

Ex 34:25 "You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leaven, nor shall the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover be left until morning.

Mt 16:6-7,12 Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees." ⁷And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have taken no bread." ... ¹²Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

1 Cor 5:6-8 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. ⁸Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Professor Moses Stuart:

"The Hebrew [forbids] anything fermented [in the Passover celebration]. All leaven, i.e. fermentation, was excluded from offerings to God."

Dr. William Patton:

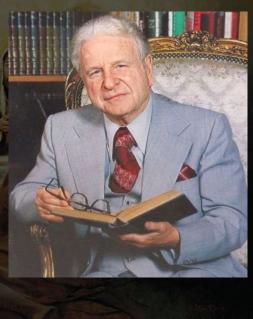
"The great mass of the Jews have ever understood this prohibition as extending to fermented wine, or strong drink, as well as to bread. The word is essentially the same which designates the fermentation of bread as that of liquors."

Dr. A. P. Peabody, 19th century Bible scholar:

"...in our Savior's time the Jews, at least the high ritualists among them, extended the prohibition of leaven to the principle of fermentation in every form; and that it was customary, at the Passover festival, for the master of the household to press the contents of 'the cup' from clusters of grapes preserved for this special purpose."

Dr. W. A. Criswell, *Great Doctrines of the Bible*, Vol. 3:

"It is a very interesting thing to me as I study the Scriptures that at no time in the four accounts of the institution of the Lord's Supper is the word 'wine' used. Always it is called the 'cup' or the 'fruit of the vine'... The Lord knew all about that, and back in that day long ago when there was no possibility of keeping crushed fruit of the vine without its fermenting the Lord knew this day was coming, and He purposefully never used the word 'wine' but instead 'cup' or 'fruit of the vine.'"



7. Don't believers have liberty in matters like these?

1 Cor 6:12 "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."

1 Cor 8:9 "Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak."

Gal 5:13 "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

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1 Pet 2:16 "Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God."

Rom 14:15,20-21 "If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died . . . Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall."

