

# Leviticus 8-10

## CHAPTER 8 - Consecration of the Priests

Before ministry begins people have to be called, sanctified and anointed by God. This chapter explains the sanctifying and anointing of those who were called to serve back in exodus 28

### **Exodus 28:1**

*“Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron’s sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.*

Once called they must be prepared for ministry. This will involve being set apart to the Lord, being cleansed, clothed and anointed

### **Leviticus 8:1-3**

*And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:*

*“Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, the anointing oil, a bull as the sin offering, two rams, and a basket of unleavened bread;*

*and gather all the congregation together at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.”*

Moses is instructed to gather Aaron and his sons before the the congregation at the tabernacle. They were to bring the garments, anointing oil and a sin, grain and burnt offering.

### **Leviticus 8:4-5**

*So Moses did as the Lord commanded him. And the congregation was gathered together at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.*

*And Moses said to the congregation, “This is what the Lord commanded to be done.”*

Moses obeyed the command of God and explained to the people what was happening.

5 men will be standing here before the congregation and the Lord as they are being ordained for ministry.

#### **Leviticus 8:6-9**

*Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water.*

*And he put the tunic on him, girded him with the sash, clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod on him; and he girded him with the intricately woven band of the ephod, and with it tied the ephod on him.*

*Then he put the breastplate on him, and he put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastplate.*

*And he put the turban on his head. Also on the turban, on its front, he put the golden plate, the holy crown, as the Lord had commanded Moses.*

After washing the priests in a ceremonial manner, they are dressed in the garments of ministry.

Aaron in the garments of the High priest

*Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar* in the garments of the priest

Clearly God had a dress code for service. The new covenant does as well. Those who serve the Lord must be clothed in the righteousness of Christ, must "put off the old man who grows corrupt according to deceitful lust", and put on the new man which was created according to God in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph 4:22-24). We must also be "clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49) and put on the whole armor of God Eph 6:11)

#### **Leviticus 8:10-12**

*Also Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was in it, and consecrated them.*

*He sprinkled some of it on the altar seven times, anointed the altar and all its utensils, and the laver and its base, to consecrate them.*

*And he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him, to consecrate him.*

The first step was a ceremonial washing.

David, Jesus and Paul all referred to the cleansing properties of God's word. If we want to be sanctified for service we need to devote ourselves to the Scriptures

After washing and dressing the priests are now anointed for service. The anointing involved a special oil designed only for use in the ministry. This oil was poured over the head of the priests and designed to both anoint and consecrate.

As a result of pouring the oil upon them they would be covered in it and bear its sent.

What is required under the new covenant to be prepared for service?

First we are all called to ministry. That ministry includes

- Personal ministry where we spend time with Jesus to become more like Him
- Priestly ministry where we represent others to the Lord in prayer
- Evangelism as we are all given the same commission to take the gospel to the world
- Discipleship as we are all called to invest in the lives of others helping them to grow in Christ

But we also recognize that there is a specific calling upon our lives.

- 2 Timothy 1:9 - who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,
- Ephesians 1:18 - the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
- Ephesians 4:1 - I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,
- Romans 11:29 - For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
- Ephesians 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Clearly we have been called by God and He has a specific purpose for each of our lives. The key is to walk within the calling with which you have been called. How do we do that?

Acts 6 gives some basic tenets that serve to illustrate what is necessary in order to serve Christ

**Acts 6:3**

*Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;*

Good reputation - others attest to your spiritual growth and maturity

Full of Spirit - showing evidence of having been gifted by God for that particular area of service

Full of wisdom - have a good grasp on the teachings of the word

When Jesus selected the 12 He was not looking for talent, but chose from among disciples. In other words those who had already denied themselves, taken up their cross and began to follow Christ were the ones selected to serve Him. Jesus looked for disciples among the fishermen and the tax collectors, but He looked for those who He would call to ministry from among those who had already denied self, taken up the cross and began to follow.

If we want to walk in the calling that God has for us it starts with dedicating ourselves to the Lord. This is more than walking forward at church, but it has to start somewhere. To dedicate ourselves to the Lord means that we are willing to reevaluate everything we are doing in light of the Word of God. I recently heard repentance defined this way:

It is as if we were given a chance to do it all over again, what changes would we make. How would you invest differently if could do it all over again? How would you spend last week's \$2 now that you know the powerball numbers?

What changes will you make in you private life or your marriage now that you have dedicated your life to Christ?

The anointing with oil illustrates the work of the Holy Spirit

All ministry is dependent upon the work of the Spirit

- When Zerrubabel was doing a construction project he was told that it "was not by might nor by power but by the Spirit" that it would be accomplished

- When the church was being established they were told to wait until they were baptized with the Spirit
- Over and over again in Acts we read of people being filled with the Spirit

### **Leviticus 8:13**

*Then Moses brought Aaron's sons and put tunics on them, girded them with sashes, and put hats on them, as the Lord had commanded Moses.*

After anointing The High priest, the remaining priests are presented before the Lord and the people and dressed in the garments for their ministry.

Notice because the roles are different the garments are different.

There are a. Artery of roles in ministry but all require commitment to Christ, calling, cleansing and anointing tpby the Spirit.

### **Leviticus 8:14-17**

*And he brought the bull for the sin offering. Then Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the bull for the sin offering, and Moses killed it. Then he took the blood, and put some on the horns of the altar all around with his finger, and purified the altar. And he poured the blood at the base of the altar, and consecrated it, to make atonement for it.*

*Then he took all the fat that was on the entrails, the fatty lobe attached to the liver, and the two kidneys with their fat, and Moses burned them on the altar.*

*But the bull, its hide, its flesh, and its offal, he burned with fire outside the camp, as the Lord had commanded Moses.*

The sin offering was offered as a means of consecrating the priests and the place. Laying hands upon it was an admission of guilt. It was a way of recognizing that we are sinners and must have a sacrifice to make us acceptable to God.

### **Leviticus 8:18-21**

*Then he brought the ram as the burnt offering. And Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram, and Moses killed it. Then he sprinkled the blood all around on the altar.*

*And he cut the ram into pieces; and Moses burned the head, the pieces, and the fat.*

*Then he washed the entrails and the legs in water. And Moses burned the whole ram on the altar. It was a burnt sacrifice for a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the Lord, as the Lord had commanded Moses.*

After dealing with sin, the burnt offering was presented as a picture of dedication to the Lord. The whole animal was offered showing that the whole person, body, soul and spirit were given to the Lord

This was a sweet aroma to the Lord.

Paul alluded to this offering in:

Romans 12:1-2

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

*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.*

2 Corinthians 2:15-16

*For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.*

*To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?*

It is when we offer ourselves entirely to the Lord that we become a sweet aroma that encourages others to do the same

#### **Leviticus 8:22-29**

*And he brought the second ram, the ram of consecration. Then Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram, and Moses killed it. Also he took some of its blood and put it on the tip of Aaron's right ear, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.*

*Then he brought Aaron's sons. And Moses put some of the blood on the tips of their right ears, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. And Moses sprinkled the blood all around on the altar.*

*Then he took the fat and the fat tail, all the fat that was on the entrails, the fatty lobe attached to the liver, the two kidneys and their fat, and the right thigh;*

*and from the basket of unleavened bread that was before the Lord he took one unleavened cake, a cake of bread anointed with oil, and one wafer, and put them on the fat and on the right thigh;*

*and he put all these in Aaron's hands and in his sons' hands, and waved them as a wave offering before the Lord.*

*Then Moses took them from their hands and burned them on the altar, on the burnt offering. They were consecration offerings for a sweet aroma. That was an offering made by fire to the Lord.*

*And Moses took the breast and waved it as a wave offering before the Lord. It was Moses' part of the ram of consecration, as the Lord had commanded Moses.*

We are now introduced to a new offering. This was a ram, was treated like a burnt offering but was called the offering of consecration. It was this offering that symbolized the surrender not only to the Lord but to the ministry.

There is additional commitment involved when a person responds to the call to ministry. It is now more that our own conscience that is involved we must now do what is best for others

The blood

In a symbolic fashion the ear, thumb, and toe of the priests were sprinkled with blood. This would show the need for what they hear, do and where they go all needs to be set apart for the Lord.

#### The fat

This represented the best and it was presented as a wave offering. That simply meant that they held it up and waved it before the Lord. Hands raised and offering to the Lord

This is a picture of worship. Not just the raising of the hands but the bringing of our best to the Lord. Our best song, our best attention, our best gifts

#### The breast

This part belonged to Moses

#### **Leviticus 8:30**

*Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood which was on the altar, and sprinkled it on Aaron, on his garments, on his sons, and on the garments of his sons with him; and he consecrated Aaron, his garments, his sons, and the garments of his sons with him.*

This is perhaps the most surprising and illustrative part of the consecration process. The priests, after dressing in their special garments (designed for glory and beauty) had blood splattered upon them. The stain of the blood would stand out above every other aspect of the garments

*"The priests wore garments designed by God and put together by the finest craftsmen in the land. These garments included a tunic, sash, robe, ephod, breastplate and even a turban. When he priest got dressed all eyes would be upon his attire. That is why this verse is so striking. Once clothed the priest would approach the altar, sacrifice a ram and sprinkle its blood upon his clothing. Instead of seeing the glory of the garments all eyes would be fixed upon the stain left by the blood."*

#### **Leviticus 8:31-32**



*And Moses said to Aaron and his sons, "Boil the flesh at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and eat it there with the bread that is in the basket of consecration offerings, as I commanded, saying, 'Aaron and his sons shall eat it.'*

*What remains of the flesh and of the bread you shall burn with fire.*

The priests were them to consume the flesh of the sacrifice. It is always necessary to not only believe but also to receive. This was true at passover and communion.

#### ***Leviticus 8:33-35***

*And you shall not go outside the door of the tabernacle of meeting for seven days, until the days of your consecration are ended. For seven days he shall consecrate you.*

*As he has done this day, so the Lord has commanded to do, to make atonement for you.*

*Therefore you shall stay at the door of the tabernacle of meeting day and night for seven days, and keep the charge of the Lord, so that you may not die; for so I have been commanded."*

After being consecrated they were required to remain at the tabernacle for a week. No reason is given but it was emphasized under the threat of death

#### ***Leviticus 8:36***

*So Aaron and his sons did all the things that the Lord had commanded by the hand of Moses.*

The chapter concludes explaining that they did as they were commanded. The next chapter will pick up after the priests have been consecrated and have completed their week long quarantine

## **CHAPTER 9 - The Priestly Ministry Begins**

#### ***Leviticus 9:1***

*It came to pass on the eighth day that Moses called Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel.*

After the time of consecration was completed the priests ministry will begin.

**Leviticus 9:2**

*And he said to Aaron, "Take for yourself a young bull as a sin offering and a ram as a burnt offering, without blemish, and offer them before the Lord.*

First step was for Aaron and the priests to offer a sacrifice for themselves

Book of Hebrews explains:

**Hebrews 5:1-3**

*For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.*

*He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.*

*Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins.*

The priests were required to offer for themselves because like the people they were sinners. This point is abundantly clear in the call of Aaron who was an idol builder.

It is interesting that the term used to describe our sinfulness is "weakness" we are all prone to sin and wandering. We all have areas of weakness the Bible calls "*easily besetting sins*" we must recognize what these are and guard against them

**Leviticus 9:3-4**

*And to the children of Israel you shall speak, saying, 'Take a kid of the goats as a sin offering, and a calf and a lamb, both of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering, also a bull and a ram as peace offerings, to sacrifice before the Lord, and a grain offering mixed with oil; for today the Lord will appear to you.'* ”

After previously having offered sin, grain and burnt offerings they are still required. The old covenant required continual offerings because of the sin of the people and the weakness of the sacrifice. In contrast Christ was offered once as a sacrifice for all

#### **Hebrews 10:1-4**

*For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.*

*For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.*

*But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.*

*For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.*

#### **Hebrews 9:12-14**

*Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*

*For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,*

*how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

#### **Leviticus 9:5-7**

*So they brought what Moses commanded before the tabernacle of meeting. And all the congregation drew near and stood before the Lord.*

*Then Moses said, "This is the thing which the Lord commanded you to do, and the glory of the Lord will appear to you."*

*And Moses said to Aaron, "Go to the altar, offer your sin offering and your burnt offering, and make atonement for yourself and for the people. Offer the offering of the people, and make atonement for them, as the Lord commanded."*

The priests were to sacrifice the offering to atone for their sins and that of the people. Once completed Moses promised that the glory of the Lord would appear.

It is not until we have come to God through Christ and been redeemed that we can experience the glory of God. That glory is expressed in what He does in the life of the believer. The glory of freedom from sin, joy, peace, love for God and others, contentment and purpose in living. If we want to experience the Lord we need to receive Christ and surrender all to Him. The things we hold back are actually keeping us from enjoying the glory of God

#### **Leviticus 9:8-21**

We are told of each of the offerings being presented to the Lord

- Sin offering - a recognition that they were sinners and in need of a substitute
- Burnt offering - a picture of dedication to the Lord
- Grain offering - giving their best to the Lord
- Peace offering - a picture of the fellowship made possible because of the sacrifice.
- Wave offering - a picture of worship as the priests lifted their hands and waved a portion of the sacrifice before the Lord

#### **Leviticus 9:22-24**

*Then Aaron lifted his hand toward the people, blessed them, and came down from offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and peace offerings.*

*And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people, and fire came out from before the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.*

After completing the offerings Moses and Aaron do two things.

First they blessed the people. This was actually done twice; once before entering the tabernacle and once upon exiting. This may have been a blessing specific for the day or may have been the blessing later recorded in Numbers.

*Numbers 6:24-26*

*“The Lord bless you and keep you;*

*The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;*

*The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.”*

The purpose of this particular blessing is also given

*Numbers 6:27*

*“So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.”*

Second, Moses and Aaron entered into the tabernacle.

This is a picture of the fellowship that is made possible once sin is removed. Their fellowship was limited, ours is not. We can access God as often and for as long as we desire. There is no time limit in the presence of the Lord.

Out means of access is through the cross, into the throne-room and before the throne of Grace. It is there where we will receive mercy for sins committed and grace to enable us to do what God has called us to

When Moses and Aaron entered the tabernacle God responded by first filling the place with His glory and then sending fire to consume the sacrifices.

The people's response is appropriate; they shouted and fell on their faces.

Worship is an important part of the life of the believer and the function of the church. When we gather we should have an atmosphere where people can encounter the Lord. While there are a variety of worship styles, the heart of worship is to encounter the Lord offering praise and surrendering all. I think there are a few things we can learn about corporate worship from the example of Israel on this day of a dedication.

First notice that the people gathered in accordance with the Word of God. It is clear that their time was not a free for all. The Word of God determined how the people would gather and what was to be done at their gathering. God has always revealed Himself through His Word and the best way to encounter God is through the pages of His Word. When we keep the teaching of the Word at the center of our worship we will encounter the God of the Word.

Second, the people did not come empty handed. They brought with them offerings to present to the Lord. Worship to them was not a spectator sport where the priests worshipped and the people watched. Too often when we gather for worship we spend our time watching the worship team worship, we enjoy the music but fail to use the time to enter into the presence of the Lord and encounter Him.

Third, they bowed down before God. Their bowing was symbolic of what was taking place within them. They were seeing the glory of God, that is they were understanding who are is. They realized that He was a holy, righteous, majestic God that loved them and was establishing a relationship with them. It was in

response to realizing who God is that they bowed themselves before Him in surrender. This really is the end goal of worship. That our lives would be consecrated to the Lord.

When we gather for worship we should come with expectant hearts. Expecting that we will offer ourselves and our praise to God and expecting that He will reveal Himself to us as we seek His face.

## CHAPTER 10 - The Profane Fire

### **Leviticus 10:1-3**

*Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them.*

*So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.*

*And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke, saying:*

*'By those who come near Me*

*I must be regarded as holy;*

*And before all the people*

*I must be glorified.' "*

*So Aaron held his peace.*

After an amazing move of God where the priest and people dedicated themselves to the Lord the scene transitioned to the profane offering of two of Aaron's sons

Numbers refers to this event and lists all 4 sons of Aaron

### **Numbers 3:2-4**

*And these are the names of the sons of Aaron: Nadab, the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.*

*These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, whom he consecrated to minister as priests.*

*Nadab and Abihu had died before the Lord when they offered profane fire before the Lord in the Wilderness of Sinai; and they had no children. So Eleazar and Ithamar ministered as priests in the presence of Aaron their father.*

The scene then is that after a dramatic move of God that drew the congregation to surrender to Christ, two of the four priest brought an unholy offering into the Tabernacle and were struck by the fire of God.

They are not the only ones struck by trespassing upon the holiness of God.

- Uzzah touched the ark and died
- Saul had the kingdom taken from him for offering an unlawful sacrifice
- Uzziah was struck with leprosy for his unlawful sacrifice

The question we want to ask is "What was it about this offering that made it profane"?

The word profane can mean foreign, outside or strange.

May have offered something that was forbidden or may have offered something acceptable in a forbidden manner

Two indictments are brought against Nadab and Abihu

First they failed to regard God as holy. Instead they conjured up their own way of coming to Him and their own offering they assumed to be holy. Like Cain who offered the work of his own hands. Many are doing the same today. Failing to keep in mind the holiness of God we think we will be accepted by him because we have defined ourselves as good. It is also not uncommon for a person to live however they want and think that a quick church service or confession will make everything better. This text makes clear that not all religious activity is created equal



Second they did not seek to glorying God. It seems likely from this indictment that they were wanted to be exalted in the eyes of the people. This is a very dangerous thing for anyone serving the Lord.

There is perhaps one more insight into their sin. When the Lord spoke to Aaron regarding their actions He said,

***Leviticus 10:9-10***

*“Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations, that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean,*

If the boys were not intoxicated when they brought this offering then this command would seem sorely misplaced. It is likely that their sin may not have been what they offered as much as how they offered it. They had been anointed in the previous chapter, this is a picture of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit. Now we find them under the influence of another Spirit. And their offering is rejected outright.

It is very clear that God wants those serving Him and representing Him to be under no other influence than Him.

***Ephesians 5:18*** - *do not be drunk with wine in which is excess, but be filled with the Spirit"*

**We have clear instruction in Scripture that those who serve the Lord are to refrain from alcohol.**

- We see it in illustration in the Old Testament

Kings

**Proverbs 31:4-5**

It is not for kings, O Lemuel,  
It is not for kings to drink wine,  
Nor for princes intoxicating drink;  
Lest they drink and forget the law,  
And pervert the justice of all the afflicted

Nazarites

Numbers 6:2-4

“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When either a man or woman consecrates an offering to take the vow of a Nazirite, to separate himself to the Lord,

he shall separate himself from wine and similar drink; he shall drink neither vinegar made from wine nor vinegar made from similar drink; neither shall he drink any grape juice, nor eat fresh grapes or raisins.

All the days of his separation he shall eat nothing that is produced by the grapevine, from seed to skin.

Priests - clearly presented in our text

- We see it in command in the New Testament

Bishops are told to keep away from wine

1 Timothy 3:3

not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;

- We also find it in practice within the New Testament

John the Baptist

***Luke 1:15***

*For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.*

Timothy

1 Timothy 3:3

not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;

That is why the pastors on our staff do not drink. They will not use your tithe that pays their salary to purchase alcohol and they will not stand before you under any other influence other than that of the Holy Spirit!

### **But what does the Bible say about drinking at large?**

We know Jesus turned water into wine and that Timothy was encouraged to drink a little wine for his health. We also know that Israel considered wine as a gift from God as they did grain, water and other provision. We know that wine was part of the offering brought before the Lord. It is important to keep a few things in mind.

1. The wine of Biblical times had a very low amount of alcohol
2. While wine was considered a gift drunkenness was clearly forbidden
3. The Bible is written by realists who understood the danger of alcohol

### ***Proverbs 23:29-35***

*25 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?*

*30 Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine.*

*31 Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly;*

*32 At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper.*

*33 Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things.*

*34 Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying:*

*35 "They have struck me, but I was not hurt; they have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?"*

According to the CDC "Excessive alcohol use led to approximately 88,000 deaths per year on the USA... shortening the lives of those who died by an average of 30 years"

"The economic costs of excessive alcohol consumption in 2010 were estimated at \$249 billion, or \$2.05 a drink"

That means you can add another \$2 to every drink you buy as that will be further costs because of drunken activities

#### CDC ADDED

##### Short-Term Health Risks

Excessive alcohol use has immediate effects that increase the risk of many harmful health conditions. These are most often the result of binge drinking and include the following:

- \* Injuries, such as motor vehicle crashes, falls, drownings, and burns.<sup>6,7</sup>
- \* Violence, including homicide, suicide, sexual assault, and intimate partner violence.<sup>6-10</sup>
- \* Alcohol poisoning, a medical emergency that results from high blood alcohol levels.<sup>11</sup>
- \* Risky sexual behaviors, including unprotected sex or sex with multiple partners. These behaviors can result in unintended pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.<sup>12,13</sup>

The following is a compilation of much of what the Bible says about alcohol and drunkenness

#### **Proverbs 20:1**

Wine is a mocker,  
Strong drink is a brawler,  
And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

**Proverbs 31:6**

Give strong drink to him who is perishing  
And wine to those who are bitter of heart.

- First mention of wine is when Noah abused it, got drunk and behaved inappropriately
- Lot's daughters got him drunk and committed sexual sin

**Genesis 19:33**

*So they made their father 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.*

- Eli rebuked Hannah when he mistook her behavior for drunkenness in the house of the Lord

**1 Samuel 1:14**

*So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!"*

- When David wanted to trick Urriah into sleeping with Bathsheba he got him drunk

**2 Samuel 11:13**

*Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.*

- King Ahab and his young leaders defeated Syria because in their self confidence they got drunk instead of preparing for battle

**1 Kings 20:16**

*So they went out at noon. Meanwhile Ben-Hadad and the thirty-two kings helping him were getting drunk at the command post.*

- We know that Babylon fell to Persia while Belshazar and his princes were at a drunken party.
- Habakkuk refers to the people's drunkenness leading to improper sexual behavior

**Habakkuk 2:15-16**

*“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!  
You are filled with shame instead of glory.  
You also—drink!  
And be exposed as uncircumcised!  
The cup of the Lord's right hand will be turned against you,  
And utter shame will be on your glory.*

**In the New Testament we are clearly commanded against drunkenness**

Ephesians 5:18

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

And told that drunkards will not inherit eternal life

1 Corinthians 6:10

nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

And told that we used to be drunkards before coming to Christ but He transforms us. Meaning that this is pre Christ behavior that should change when we come to the Lord

1 Corinthians 6:11

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.

Abstaining from wine was part of a vow of consecration to the Lord

Numbers 6:2-4

“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When either a man or woman consecrates an offering to take the vow of a Nazirite, to separate himself to the Lord, he shall separate himself from wine and similar drink; he shall drink neither vinegar made from wine nor vinegar made from similar drink; neither shall he drink any grape juice, nor eat fresh grapes or raisins.

All the days of his separation he shall eat nothing that is produced by the grapevine, from seed to skin.

This vow marks the life of John the Baptist who was referred to by Jesus as the greatest man to have ever lived

This same requirement is given for those who serve in ministry

1 Timothy 3:3

not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;

As a leader Timothy was so far removed from wine that he had to be encouraged to use it even for medical reasons

1 Timothy 5:23

No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

**As you are making your decision about alcohol, the conclusion of the matter should include The fact that as Christians we are also commanded to not allow our bodies to be “mastered” by anything (1 Cor 6:12, 2pet 2:19**

1 Corinthians 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.

1Cor 10:31

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God"

Nor do anything that will cause another to stumble

1 Corinthians 8:9

But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.



