

DRUNKS IN THE BIBLE

Int.

1. Aim: To show that the sin of Drunkenness is always harmful.
2. The Word "Alcohol" is not found in the Bible.
 - a. But there are several companion words found: drink, strong drink, drunk, drunken, drunkenness, drunkard, wine bibber
 - b. Alcohol can be used in many medical applications
 - c. But as a beverage it is condemned in the Bible.
3. Notice what the Bible Says about drinking:
 - a. GALATIANS 5:21 "Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."
 - b. 1 CORINTHIANS 5:11 "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat."
4. Alcohol has damaged many lives and souls. It harms and hurts the body!
5. But, since we are most concerned about the soul, let's look at its influence in that way. We will look at 6 drunks that are described in the Bible. Each is a lesson in itself but together they are a powerful condemnation of drunkenness or intoxication of any kind.

Discussion

I. NOAH-- DRINK DEPRIVES A MAN OF DIGNITY

A. Gen. 6 - 9:18-29

1. His name and history. (Genesis 5:28-29) **And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son: 29 And he called his name Noah, saying, This [same] shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.**
2. He is described positively in NT.
 - a. HEBREWS 11:7 **"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."**
 - b. 2 PETER 2:5 **"And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth [person], a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;"**

B. But STRONG drink causes him to lose his dignity

1. Gen. 9:18-27
2. He uncovered himself - why? Because he was drunk !
3. Drinking and immodesty have a connection - he was not in his right mind when he did this.

C. Notice these verses warning against strong drink.

- a. PROVERBS 20:1 **"Wine [is] a mocker, strong drink [is] raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."**

- b. ISAIAH 24:20 "The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again."

D. Strong Drink deprives a man of dignity like it did Noah

II. LOT-- DRINK DEPRIVES MAN OF MORALS Gen. 13-14;19:30-38

A. History

1. Pitched his tent toward Sodom - lived in this wicked and evil city Gen. 13:13
2. When he warned his Sons-in-law to flee from this city because God was going to destroy it we read that " he seemed as one that mocked..."
3. He and his wife and two of his daughters started to flee the city. Mrs. Lot looked back and was turned to a pillar of salt. Lot and daughters escaped.

B. After he had escaped he became a man who lost his morals under the influence of strong drink

1. Gen. 19:31-32
2. Filled with strong drink he committed incest.
3. He was deceived by his daughters because they got him drunk.
4. Remember Lot's wife and don't forget Lot either.
5. Isaiah 5:22-23 "Woe unto [them that are] mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: 23 Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!"
6. Drink deceives us and can deprive a man of morals.

III. **AMNOM-- DRINK DEPRIVES A MAN OF GOOD SENSE AND PRUDENCE**

II Sam. 13 - Vs. 23-29

A. Tell the Story

1. Committed sin against his step sister - His brother Absalom wanted revenge
2. For two years he went prepared and alert and could not be taken but drunk he was easy prey. As we all are. Our prudence leaves us first.
3. He died because of drink- II Sam. 13:28-29

B. Drink deprives a man of good sense and prudence.

1. It is the nature of alcohol because it is a depressant but it depresses the moral centers and the reasoning centers of the brain first.
2. That's why people think that it livens up the evening. It loosens inhibitions.
3. But also good sense. Stereotype of a man with a lampshade over his head is not far wrong.
4. But worse. Drinking and driving. Words we say to others. Financial decisions made under the influence-
5. All these reflect the loss of prudence under the influence of alcohol.

IV. **SOLOMON- DRINK DEPRIVES A MAN OF REPUTATION.**

A. Story

1. His last experiment is described in (Eccl 2:3) "I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what [was] that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life."
2. How foolish to think that you can learn the good of life by partaking of its evil.

B. Yes Solomon's wives lead him astray but did not wine as well.

1. Proverbs 31:4-5 "[It is] not for kings, O Lemuel, [it is] not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: 5 Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted."

2. Prov 23:29-35

C. Did Solomon speak from first hand knowledge? How sad to think it. To see the wisest man of all reduced to this level by drink. And what of those who knew him and saw it. What did he lose in their eyes? His reputation was destroyed by alcohol.

V. Belshazzar-- Drink deprives a man of reverence

A. Dan. 5

1. Tell the story of ribald joking and debauchery and blasphemy associated with getting the vessels from the temple and drinking from them.

2. But God was nearer than he thought.

3. (Isaiah 5:11-12) "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, [that] they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, [till] wine inflame them! 12 And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands."

B. God had warned the Israelites long before of this danger of drink.

1. Lev 10:9-10 "Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: [it shall be] a statute for ever throughout your generations: 10 And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;

2. Strong Drink and spirituality are incompatible
3. EPHESIANS 5:18-19 "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"
4. Drink deprives a man of sense of God and reverence.

VI. Ahasuerus- Drink deprives a man of respect for others.

A. Esther 1

1. 7 days and seven nights of banqueting. Princes from 127 provinces.
2. The King, Ahasuerus, was drinking with the others.
3. In Esther 1:10-11 we read... "On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded....[names the 7 chamberlains] to bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on."
4. She refused. And She lost her crown.
5. But among the garbage heap of Sushan is this one Jewel. The queen refused. She didn't bow to superior authority that commanded evil.
6. The secret of good character lies not only in a willingness to receive good but to know and to refuse evil.

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VII. ALCOHOL IS DESTRUCTIVE IN MANY WAYS

- A. It leads to poverty and rags
1. Many families of drunkards have been deprived of food and clothing.
 2. Those addicted to strong drink will forfeit all they have in order to get another drink.
 3. Prov. 23:20-21 (KJS) **Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:
21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall
clothe [a man] with rags."**
- B. Strong drink corrupts courts and governments and brings national destruction
- C. Drunkenness leads to adultery, incest, and illegitimate children.
- D. Alcohol brings woe, sorrow, contentions, babbling, wounds, and inflamed eyes
1. Pro. 23:29-30 **"Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath
babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? 30 They
that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine."**
 2. Pro. 23:34-35 **"Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea,
or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. 35 They have stricken me, [shalt thou
say, and] I was not sick; they have beaten me, [and] I felt [it] not: when shall I
awake? I will seek it yet again."**
 3. These verses describe the pain and misery that an individual brings upon himself.
 4. One will go so low as to lie down in his own vomit or take a beating and never even know it.
 5. Don't be among that number who are deceived and destroyed by alcohol.

E. Truth in Advertising

1. There are some laws about ethics in advertising for products
2. If this law was followed then here is how it would read:
 - a. The contents in this bottle will cause 4 traffic deaths
 - b. Courage for a crime will be found in this bottle
 - c. This liquor will start a girl on the road to alcoholism
 - d. This whiskey will cause a disabling injury
 - e. This bottle will be purchased to erase moral inhibitions
 - f. This bottle will help break up a home with small children
 - g. Money will go for this bottle that should go for much needed food.
 - h. Drinking from this bottle will result in a child being born out of wedlock
 - i. This alcohol will cause a man to be fired from his job
3. Alcohol consumption would drop if it were advertised like this.

Conclusion

1. Christ can save drunkards when they repent
 - a. The church in Corinth had some drunkards but they repented and were forgiven
 - b. 1 Cor. 6:9-11 "...drunkards" and such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit our God."
2. Any person who is guilty of the sin of drinking can be forgiven when they repent.
 - a. Repentance is a change of mind which leads to a change of action
 - b. Acts 2:38 - Repent and be baptized - for the remission of sins
 - c. Belief, repentance, confession and baptism = added to the church

3. There is hope for the drunkard/alcoholic - they can repent and be forgiven
4. But it is better to stay away from the evil thing called Alcohol !
5. Beverage Alcohol destroys the body, the brain, the home, our reputation, our morals, our respect for others and the soul !!!
6. It is a deadly poison !!!
7. Prov. 23:32 "At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder."
8. Drunks in the Bible
 - a. Noah Solomon
 - b. Lot Belshazzar
 - c. Amnom Ahasuerus

Bibliography

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 2. Files on Drinking
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