

Total Abstinence From Alcohol

(Part 2)

"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." (Proverbs 31:4-5 NKJV)

Wine take wisdom away and make the person doing wrong things and pursue wrong decisions. Let us read a story of a king who ruined himself by drinking wine: *"Belshazzar, in a state of drunkenness, committed sacrilege with the sacred vessels from the Jewish temple. That very night he was killed as a fulfillment of prophecy:* Let us read that, *"King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them."*² While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them.³ So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them.⁴ As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.⁵ Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote.⁶ His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his legs became weak and his knees were knocking.⁷ The king summoned the enchanters, astrologers and diviners. Then he said to these wise men of Babylon, *"Whoever reads this writing and tells me what it means will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around his neck, and he will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom."*⁸ Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or tell the king what it meant.⁹ So King Belshazzar became even more terrified and his face grew more pale. His nobles were baffled.¹⁰ The queen, hearing the voices of the king and his nobles, came into the banquet hall. *"May the king live forever!"* she said. *"Don't be alarmed! Don't look so pale!"*¹¹ There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods. Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners.¹² He did this because Daniel, whom the king called Belteshazzar, was found to have a keen mind and knowledge and understanding, and also the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means."¹³ So Daniel was brought before the king, and the king said to him, *"Are you Daniel, one of the exiles my father the king brought from Judah?"*¹⁴ I have heard that the spirit of the gods is in you and that you have insight, intelligence and outstanding wisdom.¹⁵ The wise men and enchanters were brought before me to read this writing and tell me what it means, but they could not explain it.¹⁶ Now I have heard that you are able to give interpretations and to solve difficult problems. If you can read this writing and tell me what it means, you will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around your neck, and you will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom."¹⁷ Then Daniel answered the king, *"You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means."*¹⁸ *"Your Majesty, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor."*¹⁹ Because of the high position he gave him, all the nations and peoples of every language dreaded and feared him. Those the king wanted to put to death, he put to death; those he wanted to spare, he spared; those he wanted to promote, he promoted; and those he wanted to humble, he humbled.²⁰ But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory.²¹ He was driven away from people and given the mind of an animal; he lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like the ox; and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over all kingdoms on

earth and sets over them anyone he wishes."²² *"But you, Belshazzar, his son, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this."*²³ *Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways."*²⁴ Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription.²⁵ *"This is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN"*²⁶ *"Here is what these words mean: Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end."*²⁷ *Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting."*²⁸ *Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians."*²⁹ Then at Belshazzar's command, Daniel was clothed in purple, a gold chain was placed around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom.³⁰ That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain,³¹ and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two."³² (Daniel 5:1-31)

Alcohol destroys the body. Even in small amounts it begins its subtle work of destruction, taking its toll on mental and physical reactions. *"Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly!"*³³ *In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper."*³⁴ *Your eyes will see strange sights, and your mind will imagine confusing things."*³⁵ *You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, lying on top of the rigging."* (Proverbs 23:31-34) God knew this fact very well when He gave instructions that priests and kings (spiritual and secular leaders) should refrain from any use of alcoholic beverages.

In the Old Testament instruction to the Levites, the spiritual leaders of Israel, priests were commanded to abstain from wine or intoxicating drink when they went into the presence of the Lord to minister, *"Then the LORD said to Aaron,"*³⁶ *"You and your sons are not to drink wine or other fermented drink whenever you go into the tent of meeting, or you will die. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come,"*³⁷ *so that you can distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean,"*³⁸ *and so you can teach the Israelites all the decrees the LORD has given them through Moses."* (Leviticus 10:8-11) This requirement of abstinence was given so the ministering priest would be able to distinguish between the holy and the unholy, between the clean and the unclean, and so he could be a teacher of all the statutes of God.

Secular leaders are also to abstain from alcohol. *"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"* (Proverbs 31:4-5 NKJV) If the prohibition is absolutely essential for spiritual and secular leaders, it is certainly essential for every believer. We who are kings and priests unto God, *"and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen."* (Revelation 1:6) must live according to His standards.

My Dear and Beloved: Today, all born-again Christians have been made priests to God, *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."* (1 Peter 2:9) As such we should always give our best and be at our best in His service. We believe the standard of abstinence demanded of the Old Testament priest should be the standard of every Christian today. We too must distinguish between right and wrong. We must be Spirit-led teachers in a society that greatly needs divine instruction and godly example as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and was buried and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that enlighten me about the real danger of alcohol in my life. Lord I commit myself to abstain from alcohol and I commit myself to teach others to avoid it. Lord give me perseverance and self-control to do that, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.