

Drugs And Drinking: What Do The Scriptures Really Teach?

Books In The Holy Scriptures As Written In The Book Of Yahweh

*If you are unfamiliar with
The True Names of The Prophets and Apostles, this box will acquaint you.
We also recommend Taped Sermons to help learn the correct pronunciation.*

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Drugs And Drinking: What Do The Scriptures Really Teach?

● II Timothy 3:1-4—

- 1 Know this also: that in the last days perilous times will come.
- 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
- 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers; *without a truce, unforgiving*, false accusers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of those who are righteous,
- 4 Traitors; *betrayers*, headstrong, arrogant, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of Yahweh.

At this time, we are in the Last Days and this prophecy has truly come to pass. Much of today's society is highly engrossed in pleasing themselves. One of the tools used by today's society to please themselves is drugs.

Reading from *The Mind*, by Richard M. Restak, M.D., Bantam Books, 1988, pages 105-107, we find the following information about the use of drugs.

Throughout history human beings have been conducting an uncontrolled experiment on the mind. They have used, and often abused, substances capable of acting on the brain to produce pleasure so overwhelming that the mind is wholly concentrated on attaining this pleasure. It becomes the motivating force in their lives—more important than food, companionship... safety, even life itself.

This drug taking is found worldwide. It exists in every culture. The drugs may be alcohol, which can be distilled from a wide variety of substances; cocaine, whose source is the coca leaf; marijuana, hashish, and related substances derived from cannabis, a hemp plant; and the opiates, from the poppy, which have morphine-like properties, and include opium, morphine, and heroin. Today, in addition to these naturally occurring substances, there are a wide variety of synthetic drugs—among them prescription sedatives, barbiturates, amphetamines, and mood-altering medications such as tranquilizers—whose potential for abuse is also often exploited.

When we talk about the potential for abuse, we mean that a substance has the capacity to induce dependence in those who use it, whatever their need may be: the intense pleasure these substances arouse, or the blocking out of a reality the user finds frightening, disturbing, or in some other way unendurable. Some authorities make a distinction between psychological and physical dependence. Psychological dependence is a form of obsessive behavior whose objective is the attainment of pleasure or the avoidance of unpleasantness...

Physical dependence, which technically is termed addiction, occurs when the brain itself becomes biochemically changed because of the continuing consumption of a drug. Tolerance develops, causing the user to need increasing amounts of the drug for it to have its customary effect. Because of these

biochemical changes in brain function, an abrupt stopping of the drug causes acute physical and mental symptoms, the withdrawal syndrome.

But whether or not there are changes in the brain, dependence so persistent and consuming that individuals organize their lives so as to sustain the behavior can properly be called addiction. Dr. Richard Miller, the director of a drug treatment program near Sacramento, California, says, “Of all the drugs and the compulsive behaviors that I have seen in the past twenty-five years, be it cocaine, heroin, alcohol...all have one common thread. That is the covering up, or the masking, or the unwillingness on the part of the human being to confront and be with his or her human feelings.”

Addiction to drugs is the most visible and shattering of all forms because it threatens the fabric of society itself. All too often, the risks—whether the anguish of the withdrawal syndrome or a drug’s harmful or even potentially fatal consequences—do not matter to the addict. The drive to secure the drug is overwhelming. Abuse of addicting drugs has become epidemic in recent years, at appalling cost not only to the individuals whose lives (and the lives of those close to them) have been shattered by drugs, but to the civility and very structure of the social order.

The following article, from *USA Today* magazine, Volume 117, November 1988, page 8, tells us about the cost of drug abuse to both individuals and society as a whole.

The \$110,000,000,000 Problem: Drugs

America’s love affair with illegal drugs is costing a fortune in death, addiction, and lost productivity—and it’s getting worse each year. According to Federal statistics, the U.S. population smokes, snorts, inhales, injects, and swallows more than \$110,000,000,000 in illegal drugs annually. America has the highest level of teenage drug abuse of any industrialized nation in the world. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the average age of the first drug use is 13. One-third of children aged 12 to 17 (6,200,000 children) already have experimented with drugs. Sixteen percent still use marijuana. Twenty percent of high school seniors have tried cocaine or crack, its powerfully addictive derivative. The *Weekly Reader* reports that nearly one-third of our fourth graders already are being pressured to try alcohol and marijuana.

In school or out, drugs are definitely big business—bigger, in fact, than the American automotive industry. In 1986, over \$1,000,000 in cash and tangible assets (not including drugs) was seized *each day* by the Drug Enforcement Administration—more than \$373,000,000 per year.

The financial impact on American business and government is even more staggering. Drug abuse added nearly \$1,000,000,000 to the nation’s health care bill in 1987. The nation’s manufacturing facilities, government services, and other business operations lost more than \$60,000,000,000 in productivity in 1987 as employees worked under the influence of illegal drugs. Of all crime in the U.S., 60-70% is drug-related. In California alone, the economic impact of drug abuse on the state’s taxpayers is estimated at more than \$17,600,000,000 annually. Other states report similar costs.

Millions of people, today and throughout history, have abused

drugs and alcohol in an endless search for pleasure. The main reason worldly societies rely on these types of drugs is to escape the harsh realities of this sin-sick world.

The questions that the called out ones of Yahweh must ask are: What does Yahweh say in the Holy Scriptures concerning the use of recreational, mind-stuporing drugs, and the use of alcohol to the point of intoxication? Notice Yahweh's words to the Children of Israyl.

● **Leviticus 18:1-5—**

- 1 And Yahweh spoke to Mosheh, saying:
- 2 Speak to the children of Israyl and say to them; I *am* Yahweh your Father.
- 3 After the doings of the land of Egypt where you dwelt, shall you not do; and after the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, shall you not do; neither shall you walk in their ordinances.
- 4 You shall observe and do My judgments, and keep My ordinances, to walk in them. I *am* Yahweh.
- 5 You must therefore keep My statutes, and My judgments, which, if a man does, he will live through them. I *am* Yahweh.

The word **ordinances** in the previous verse is #2708 in *Strong's Hebrew Dictionary*, **chuqqâh** and means **appointed, custom, or manner**.

Yahweh makes it plain to us that we are not to follow the ordinances of any nation or people which are contrary to His Law. As Yahweh's called out people, we must not judge our lives by the ways or customs of the world. We must judge our lives according to the Laws of Yahweh just as Yahshua Messiah said in **Mattithyah 4:4**, if we desire eternal life. The Apostle Shaul wrote in **Romans 6:23** that the wages of sin is death. Knowing that the wages of sin is death, we must come to a complete understanding of what sin actually is.

What Is Sin?

Yahweh inspired Shaul to write in:

● **II Timothy 3:16-17—**

- 16 All Scripture *that is given through inspiration of Yahweh* is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
- 17 That the man of Yahweh may become perfect, thoroughly furnished for every righteous work.

In effect, Yahweh inspired Shaul to say that He furnishes us with a perfect example of what sin is and what sin is not. So, by studying the Scriptures, we can come to a full understanding of what is righteous and wrong. Therefore, there will be no doubt about what pleases Yahweh—Whom we worship and obey. Yahweh tells us in:

● **Proverbs 14:12—**

- There is a way which seems right to a man, but the ends thereof are the ways of death.

If we believe the Scriptures, then we can believe, just by reading the previous Scriptures, that we cannot decide for ourselves what is right or what is wrong. We should believe the Scriptures for they are the words of life, or death, depending on whether we choose to obey or disobey Yahweh, Who alone can give life.

Yahweh has given us, through these Scriptures, the perfect way of Life. If everyone lives by Yahweh's Way there would be perfect peace upon this planet at this very time.

Some people think their way is better than Yahweh's Way. Other people who have more understanding can see instantly that their way would bring hurt to themselves and to others.

Yahweh, having more understanding above all others, has given a perfect way which brings hurt to none, but rather joy and peace for those who follow in His Way. Yahweh tells us in:

● **IYahchanan 3:4—**

Whoever commits sin, transgresses also the Law; for sin is the transgression of the Law.

The transgression of Yahweh's Law—sin—is the thing which brings hurt to you and everyone around you. The transgression of Yahweh's Law—sin—is what brings eternal death, unless one repents of sin and is forgiven by Yahweh. The transgression of Yahweh's Law—sin—is what we need to recognize; and we can if we know Yahweh's Scriptures. We are told in:

● **Yaaqob 2:10-11—**

10 For whoever keeps the whole Law, and yet offends in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

11 For He Who said: Do not commit adultery, also said: Do not murder. Now if you do not commit adultery, yet you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the Law.

Yahweh's Laws, statutes, and judgments are found principally in the first five books of the Bible—known as the torah. The word **torah** means **instruction or law**. The Ten Commandments are a condensed outline of Yahweh's Plan of Law. If we break any one of Yahweh's Laws then we are guilty of having broken them all. Yahshua said the following.

● **Mattithyah 19:17—**

But He said to him: Why do you question Me about righteousness? There is only One Who is the standard of perfection, and that is Yahweh; so if you would enter into life, keep the Laws.

Yahweh inspired Shaul to write in **Romans 7:7** that he would not have known what sin is except for Yahweh's Law, which made sin very clear.

If the Apostle Shaul would not even have known what sin was without having Yahweh's Laws to guide him, how much more do we need the Laws to guide us in our quest for eternal life? Since only the Scriptures can guide us to truth and life, then we need to

search the Scriptures to see what they really say about the use of drugs and alcohol.

The Use Of Recreational Drugs

The use of drugs by mankind is by no means a new practice. Yahweh was well aware of the drug use in the lands of Egypt and Canaan. Yahweh warned His people.

● Deuteronomy 29:16-20—

16 You yourselves know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we passed through the countries on the way here.

17 You saw the abomination of gods among them—gods of wood, stone, silver, and gold; *elohim and teraphim*.

18 *I solemnly entreat you to enter into the covenant and oath*, for fear that there may be among you a man, woman, clan, or tribe this day whose heart would turn away from Yahweh our Father, to go and worship the gods (*elohim*) of those nations; for fear there should be among you a root that brings forth gall and wormwood—poison and bitterness: the consequences of practicing godworship (the worship of elohim and teraphim).

19 *I solemnly entreat you to enter into the covenant and oath*, so it will never come to pass, when that one hears the words of this curse, that he can congratulate and delude himself in his heart, and *erroneously* think: I will have peace and safety, even though I persist in going my own way. Yahweh will hold all of his sins against him; he has acted; sinned, presumptuously. He is as a drunkard totally out of control.

20 Yahweh will never be willing to spare him, for Yahweh shall break forth in a destructive fire, and His jealousy will burn against that man! All the curses written in this Book will fall upon him, and Yahweh will blot out his name from under heaven.

The first thing I want you to notice is the phrase **gall and wormwood**. Most people in the world today read over these words without ever realizing the meanings they possess.

The word **gall** is translated from the Hebrew word **rowsh** which is listed as word #7219 in *Strong's Hebrew Dictionary* and means:

7219. rô'sh, *roshe*; or rôwsh (Deut. 32:32), *roshe*; appar. the same as 7218; a poisonous plant, prob. the *poppy* (from its conspicuous *head*); gen. *poison* (even of serpents):—gall, hemlock, poison, venom.

The *Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon*, by Benjamin Davidson, page 671, gives us this information about the word **rowsh**.

-VIII. *a poisonous plant*: according to some, *hemlock*; others, *colocynth*. Gesenius, *the poppy*, whence *opium*; and then for poison in general.

The word **wormwood** is translated from the Hebrew word **la'anah** which is listed as word #3939 in *Strong's Hebrew Dictionary*, and means:

3939. **la'anâh**, *lah-an-aw'*; from an unused root supposed to mean to *curse*; wormwood (regarded as *poisonous*, and therefore *accursed*):—hemlock, wormwood.

● *Gesenius' Hebrew Lexicon*, on page 440, gives us this information about the Hebrew word **la'anah**:

לענ? an unused root. Arab. لعن to curse. Hence—
לענה? fem. *wormwood*, Jer. 9:14; 23:15; Lam. 3:15, 19; Prov. 5:4; this herb is perhaps so called as being *noxious* (see the root) and *poisonous* (comp. Deut. 29:17; Apoc. 8:10, 11); as bitter herbs were commonly so regarded by the Hebrews (compare Heb. 12:13).

What few people in this world never realize is that the Hebrew words translated **gall** and **wormwood** describe the plant sources of chemicals which cause the users to lose control of their mental faculties.

Most of the known substances that are abused as recreational drugs have their etymology in the words gall and wormwood.

We read earlier that the Hebrew word **rowsh**, translated **gall**, refers directly to the **opium poppy**. Reading from *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary Of The English Language*, Unabridged, Second Edition, copyright 1968, by The World Publishing Company, we find that opium is:

ô'pi-um, *n.* [L. *opium*; Gr. *opion*, from *opos*, vegetable juice.] a narcotic drug prepared from the juice of the unripe seed capsules of the opium poppy: it contains such alkaloids as morphine, codeine, and papaverine, and is used as an intoxicant and medicinally to relieve pain and produce sleep. A full dose is intoxicating and exhilarating, but its effects are dangerous and fatal if taken in large quantities. It is heavy, of a dense texture, of a brownish-yellow color, has a faint smell, and its taste is bitter and acrid.

Notice characteristics given in this definition of opium. It is described as an intoxicating narcotic drug. Now notice the meanings of these two words from *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*, copyright 1987, by Merriam-Webster Incorporated.

¹*nar-cot-ic* \när-'kät-ik\ *n* [ME *narkotik*, fr. MF *narcotique*, fr. *narcotique*, adj., fr. ML *narcoticus*, fr. Gk *narkōtikos*, fr. *narkoun* to be numb, fr. *narkē* numbness — more at SNARE] (14c) 1 **a** : a drug (as opium) that in moderate doses dulls the senses, relieves pain, and induces profound sleep but in excessive doses causes stupor, coma, or convulsions **b** : a drug (as marijuana or LSD) subject to restriction similar to that of addictive narcotics whether in fact physiologically addictive and narcotic or not 2 : something that soothes, relieves, or lulls

²*narcotic* *adj* (1601) 1 **a** : having the properties of or yielding a narcotic **b** : inducing mental lethargy : SOPORIFEROUS 2 : of, induced by, or concerned with narcotics 3 : of, involving, or intended for narcotic addicts — *nar-cot-i-cal-ly* \-i-k(-)lē\ *adv*

in-tox-i-cate \-sə-ˌkāt\ *v* -**cat-ed**; -**cat-ing** [ML *intoxicatus*, pp. of *intoxicare*, fr. L *in-* + *toxicum* poison — more at TOXIC] (15c) 1: POISON 2 a: to excite or stupefy by alcohol or a drug esp. to the point where physical and mental control is markedly diminished b: to excite or elate to the point of enthusiasm or frenzy (*intoxicated* with joy)
in-tox-i-cat-ed \-sə-ˌkāt-əd\ *adj* (1576): affected by or as if by alcohol —
in-tox-i-cat-ed-ly \-ˌkāt-əd-lē\ *adv*
in-tox-i-ca-tion \in-ˌtāks-ə-ˈkā-shən\ *n* (15c) 1: an abnormal state that is essentially a poisoning (intestinal ~) 2 a: the condition of being drunk: INEBRIATION b: a strong excitement or elation

So we see that the gall and wormwood spoken of in **Deuteronomy 29:18** is referring to the wide range of substances used recreationally by those of this world which dull a person's senses and cause loss of physical and mental control.

Besides opium, there are many other substances both natural and synthetic that are used recreationally by those of this world. The Holy Scriptures do not specifically name such substances as LSD, cocaine, PCP, marijuana or heroin. But it does give us, in the meanings of gall and wormwood, the description of the effects of these substances on the human mind. These substances, regardless of what scientific or legal classification they fall under, when used recreationally, are taken solely for the mind altering effect they produce.

Listed below are just a few of the many drugs that are commonly used in today's society. Keep in mind that in this search for pleasure, new drugs or derivatives of old drugs are developed or introduced nearly every day.

Commonly, under the heading of Narcotics, are listed:

Opium: a yellow to dark brown, addicting, narcotic drug prepared from the juice of the unripe seed capsules of the opium poppy: it contains such alkaloids as morphine, codeine, and papaverine, and is used as an intoxicant and medicinally to relieve pain and produce sleep.

Morphine: (Greek Morpheus Gr. Mythology the God Of Dreams, son of Hypnos...The God Of Sleep) A bitter, white or colorless, crystalline alkaloid, derived from opium and used in medicine to relieve pain.

Codeine: (Greek [kodeia-a poppy head]) An alkaloid, derived from opium and resembling morphine, but milder in its action and less habit forming; used for the relief of pain and in cough medicines.

Heroin: [fr. *Heroin*, a trademark] (1898): a strongly physiologically addictive narcotic $C_{21}H_{23}NO_5$ that is made by acetylation of but is more potent than morphine and that is prohibited for medical use in the U.S. but is used illicitly for its euphoric effects.

Under the classification of depressants are chemicals which have a sedative effect. Among these are barbiturates which produce effects of slurred speech, disorientation and drunken behavior.

Methaqualone (Slang-Quaaludes): A white, crystalline powder used in the form of its hydrochloride salt as a sedative and hypnotic.

Valium: A colorless, crystalline compound, useful in the symptomatic

relief of psychoneurotic states manifested by tension, anxiety, apprehension, fatigue, depressive symptoms or agitation.

Narcotics, sedatives, pain killers, tranquilizers and sleeping pills all have potential for abuse. These chemicals can affect the thought controls of one's mind. The use of these chemicals for the sake of pleasure or escaping reality is sin. Please be aware, however, that the use of medication for a genuine medical condition, as prescribed by a legitimate physician, is acceptable to Yahweh.

Can you now begin to see gall and wormwood in Deuteronomy 29:18 is speaking of the wrongful use of these drugs? And there are more. The drugs listed as stimulants include:

Cocaine: A bitter, crystalline Alkaloid that is obtained from coca leaves and was once used as a local anesthetic, can result in physiological and psychological dependence, and produces intoxication. A highly addictive derivative of cocaine known as CRACK has recently received a great deal of media attention because of its devastating effects on its users' lives.

Amphetamines: A white, crystalline compound used as stimulants for the central nervous system. A drug used to overcome mental depression, fatigue, etc., and to lessen the appetite in dieting.

Methamphetamine: An amine used in the form of its crystalline hydrochloride as a stimulant for the central nervous system and in the treatment of obesity.

These powerful stimulants of the central nervous system speed up the heartrate, adrenal production, and brain-body functions. Many believe these drugs to be a help and a blessing to their lives and decide to prescribe them to themselves. But these drugs are highly physically addictive. The brain itself becomes biochemically changed by the use of these drugs. Tolerance develops, causing the user to increase the dosage in order to receive the intended effect. Stopping the drug use causes acute physical and mental symptoms. The normal, energetic person is then unable to function without the dose of their drug. This dose becomes their one quest. Rather than seeking Yahweh with all their hearts, they now must seek the drug their bodies now require in order to energize their apathetic bodies.

Several other drugs are classified as **hallucinogens, substances that produce hallucinations. Notice the definitions of the following words.**

hal-lu-ci-nate \hə-ˈlūs-ᵀn-āt\ *vb* -nat-ed; -nat-ing [*L. hallucinatus*, pp. of *hallucinari*, *allucinari* to prate, dream, fr. Gk *alyein* to be distressed, to wander] *vt* (1822) **1** : to affect with visions or imaginary perceptions **2** : to perceive or experience as an hallucination ~ *vi* : to have hallucinations — **hal-lu-ci-na-tor** \-nāt-ər\ *n*
hal-lu-ci-na-tion \hə-ˈlūs-ᵀn-ā-shən\ *n* (1629) **1 a** : perception of objects with no reality usu. arising from disorder of the nervous system or in response to drugs (as LSD) **b** : the object of an hallucinatory perception **2** : a completely unfounded or mistaken impression or notion
: DELUSION

When one is hallucinating, one is definitely not in complete control of one's mind. Drugs are classified as hallucinogens include:

LSD: [*lysergic acid diethylamide.*] a chemical compound extracted from ergot alkaloids, used in the study of schizophrenia and other mental disorders and as a psychedelic drug: it produces hallucinations, delusions, etc. resembling those occurring in a psychotic state.

Mescaline: An hallucinatory, crystalline alkaloid that is the chief active principle in mescal buttons.

Psilocybin (Slang: Magic Mushrooms): An hallucinogenic drug obtained from a Mexican fungus and various other mushrooms.

Phencyclidine Hydrochloride or PCP: A chemical used experimentally some years ago as an anesthetic for humans, but discontinued because of adverse reactions. At the present time the FDA allows it to be used as a tranquilizer for animals only. PCP, known as Angel Dust on the streets, is a mind-destroying chemical with such adverse reactions that the *Reader's Digest* was compelled to write an article warning of its hazards to our young people.

Hemp: a tall Asiatic plant of the hemp family, a substance such as marijuana, hashish, etc., is made from the leaves and flowers of this plant.

Marijuana: Its dried leaves and flowers, smoked, especially in the form of cigarettes, for euphoric effects. Euphoric: a feeling of vigor, well-being, or high spirits.

Hashish: A drug formed from the resin contained in the flowering tops of Indian Hemp, chewed or smoked for its intoxicating and euphoric effects.

Marijuana and its related substances, have long been proclaimed harmless by its users. However, *The Executive Health Report*, October 1977, page 8, gives us this information about the so-called harmless drug marijuana.

David Powelson, M.D., formerly chief of psychiatry, Cowell Hospital, University of California, Berkeley, at one time advocated legalizing the use of marijuana. Later, after more evidence was available, he wrote: "I now believe that marijuana is the most dangerous drug we must contend with: 1. Its early use is beguiling. The user is given an illusion of feeling good; he cannot sense the deterioration of his mental and physiological processes. 2. Its continued use leads to delusional thinking. After one to three years of continuous use, the pathological forms of thinking begin to take over the thought process."

The word, assassin, is derived from the Arabic word, hashshashin which means hashish user. The Hashshashin were members of a

secret sect of Moslems who killed Christian leaders during the Crusades supposedly while under the influence of hashish. Are we really to believe that a drug that can lead one to murder is really harmless?

The drugs we have listed here are those most commonly used for recreational purposes, providing escape from reality while altering one's judgment and understanding.

● **Deuteronomy 29:18-19—**

18 ...for fear there should be among you a root that brings forth gall and wormwood...

19 ...so it will never come to pass, when that one hears the words of this curse, that he can congratulate and delude himself in his heart...

Yahweh is concerned that we hear and obey Him at all times. Yahweh knows that if the human body consumes the chemicals previously listed in order to escape reality or for pleasure's sake, then that human may very well say to himself, "I will be secure, even though I persist in going my own way."

Those who use these drugs for their own pleasure go against Yahweh and His Word. Please keep in mind that Yahweh does not condemn all drugs. But as we just read in Yahweh's Law the illicit use of drugs for a recreational or mind altering use is condemned!

● **Deuteronomy 32:31-33—**

31 For their rock is not as our Rock! Our enemies have even conceded this!

32 For their vines are vines of Sodom and from the fields of Gomorrah. Their grapes are the grapes of gall; poison of godworship (the worship of elohim), their clusters are filled with bitterness; bitterness of idolatry: godworship (the worship of elohim).

33 Their wine is the dragon's poison, and the cruel venom of asps.

What About Alcohol?

Millions of people today believe anything short of total abstinence from any kind of beverage containing alcohol is a sin. Many other people believe there can never be enough alcohol in their wine cellars or at their parties.

What is right? What is wrong? Is it a sin to drink a little wine or strong drink? Since we are to live by every word of Yahweh as our Savior Yahshua tells us to do in **Mattithyah 4:4**, just what do the Scriptures say concerning drinking and drunkenness? Notice the following Scripture which is often skipped, or ignored, by many preachers today.

● **Deuteronomy 14:26—**

Then you shall spend that money for whatever you desire to have: for oxen, or for sheep, or **FOR WINE, OR FOR STRONG DRINK**, or for whatever you desire to have. You shall *then eat* there in front of Yahweh your Father, and you shall rejoice: you and your household.

The word **wine** in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word

yayin, which is listed as word #3196 in *Strong's Hebrew Dictionary* and means **fermented wine**.

3196. **yayin**, *yah'-yin*; from an unused root mean. to *ef-fervesce*; *wine* (as *fermented*); by impl. *intoxication*:—ban-quetting, wine, wine [-bibber].

The words strong drink are translated from the Hebrew word **shekar**, listed as word #7941 in *Strong's Hebrew Dictionary* and means: **an intensely alcoholic liquor**.

7941. **shêkâr**, *shay-kawr'*; from 7937; an *intoxicant*, i.e. *intensely alcoholic liquor*:—strong drink, + drunkard, strong wine. **shikkôr**. See 7910.

If you will completely read the Deuteronomy 14 you will see that Yahweh gives His People Three Feasts in His Year. Yahweh tells us to rejoice at His Feasts. Yahweh even tells us to use wine or strong drink at His Feast, if that is what we want.

Was the idea of drinking changed in the so-called New Testament? Did the Savior or His Disciples teach the complete abstinence from wine or strong drink?

The first place the so-called New Testament speaks of drinking is at the marriage attended by our Savior Yahshua. Not only was He present, but evidently His mother was in some way helping in the marriage festivities. When the wine which was previously provided was completely consumed by the guests, Yahshua's mother came to Him and asked Him what they should do. The complete story of Yahshua's turning the water into wine is written in **Yahchanan 2:3-11**.

The Wedding Feast had progressed so far that they were surprised that the host had saved the best wine to be served last. It was customary to serve the best wine first and to serve the poorest wine last. When our Savior made wine to serve at this Wedding Feast, He made the best.

The usual explanation from those who make their own interpretations of the Scriptures is that the wine our Savior made was not alcoholic—there was no alcohol in it.

The Greek word for the wine Yahshua created is the same Greek word for wine written in **Ephesians 5:18**, where it is definitely shown that if you drink too much, you will get drunk.

The word translated **wine** in both **Yahchanan 2** and **Ephesians 5:18** is the Greek word **oinos** which is listed as word #3631 in *Strong's Greek Dictionary*.

3631. **oinos**, *oy'-nos*; a prim. word (or perh. of Heb. or. [3196]); '*wine*' (lit. or fig.):—wine.

This word refers us to the Hebrew word **yayin**, which definitely shows wine to be a fermented, intoxicating beverage.

3196. **yayin**, *yah'-yin*; from an unused root mean. to *effervesce*; wine (as fermented); by impl. intoxication:—banqueting, wine, wine [-bibber].

Any authority, as well as your own common sense, will tell you no one will get drunk on unfermented grape juice.

This shows us further proof that alcoholic beverages are not condemned by Yahweh. The Scriptures plainly tell us Yahshua was without sin (**Hebrews 4:15**). If drinking alcohol was a sin, Yahshua Messiah would not have performed the act of making wine!

Drinking And Health

The Apostle Shaul wrote the following instructions to Timothy.

● I Timothy 5:23—

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

Our Creator Yahweh is concerned for our health. He gave us His Laws to guide us in His Ways, which include His Ways to health. Yahweh inspired the Apostle Yahchanan to write in:

● III Yahchanan 1:2—

Beloved, I pray above all things that you are successful and are in health; I know it is well with your soul.

The instruction Shaul first wrote to Timothy is righteous instruction for us today. Most medical doctors agree that wine or beer, when used sparingly, is beneficial to one's health. In fact, many medical doctors prescribe beer or wine to their patients. But the key word in this is sparingly. The Scriptures say not to drink to the point of drunkenness. Our Creator Yahweh made the human body and He knows what is healthy for that human body.

From the book, *The Wonder of Wine*, written by Edouard Kressmann and published by Hastings House Publishers, we find this information on page 197, concerning the Medicinal use of Wine.

PART FIVE: WINE IN LIFE

Wine does not fatigue the stomach any more than the head. On the contrary, it promotes digestion. Many scientists have shown the beneficial effect of fine wines on the human body, especially when they are drunk at table, thanks to their countless constituents, in particular their tannins, mineral salts, vitamins B, etc. That is why light Bordeaux red wines are particularly recommended by the medical profession, both to those in fine health and active people who wish to prolong their days, as well as to convalescents and old people whose strength needs to be built up again.

The Apostle Shaul knew the benefits that wine mixed with water

had on the human body. From antiquity people have mixed a small amount of wine with unfamiliar water when they traveled to places they were unaccustomed to. Wines have many beneficial aspects for many different ailments.

Wines were used externally as an antiseptic in wounds, and also for soaking foods to kill harmful bacteria on the skins of fruits or vegetables. It was used as a blood builder and to strengthen the circulatory system.

In the book, *Wine Appreciation*, by Richard P. Vine, Facts on File, 1988, we read the following information on page 77.

Nutritional aspects of wine. Studies have shown the presence of minerals and vitamins in wine. Wine is an effective iron supplement, and 80 percent of the iron in wine is present in the ferrous form that is readily available for use in the human body.

In this same book, on pages 80-81, is the following:

WINE AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

There is no evidence to support the notion that moderate amounts of alcohol produce increased levels of cholesterol. Recent articles published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* have shown that coronary artery disease was less likely to develop in men who drank alcoholic beverages in moderation than those who abstained or were heavy drinkers.

WINE AND DIABETES. Dry wines with low-sugar content can be an excellent and regular energy source for those on diabetic diets. If one suffers from diabetes, consult with a physician before making wine a regular part of the diet.

In recent years, the United States Government conducted a study on the effects of alcohol on pregnant women and their unborn children. They came to a conclusion, and subsequently issued a warning that even the slightest amount of alcohol is harmful to a fetus. However, as the following excerpt from the book *Wine Appreciation*, by Richard P. Vine, 1988, Facts on File, pages 81-83, shows us, both the government's study and its conclusion are flawed.

WINE AND PREGNANCY...In the 1970's the term "FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME" was coined to describe a group of congenital defects seen in the children of alcoholic mothers.

The bulletin of the FEDERAL DRUG ADMINISTRATION in July 1981 stated that even the smallest amount of alcohol might be dangerous to the fetuses of pregnant women. The full blown amount of alcohol syndrome has, to this date, been reported only in women suffering from chronic alcoholism who in one study **drank as much as one and one-half gallons of liquor per day.**

...It is important to relate that only approximately 500 cases of fetal alcohol syndrome to date have been described in medical literature.

...We should also note that it is somewhat misleading to attribute all the affects of the fetal syndrome solely to the amount of alcohol consumed, since many of these women were also heavy smokers, some used hard drugs, and many had poor diets.

As we have read previously, using alcohol sparingly, as Yahweh commands, will bring harm to no one.

Wine At Yahshua's Memorial

Wine is one of the purest substances known to mankind. Since leavening represents sin and grape juice definitely contains leavening (yeasts), then grape juice could not have represented the blood of Yahshua at Yahshua's first Memorial Service with His Disciples!

Unadulterated wine contains no yeasts or impurities at all. Unadulterated wine contains no leavening. Therefore unadulterated wine, and only unadulterated wine, can represent the blood of Yahshua at Yahshua's Memorial. Write for our booklet, *The Blood And Body Of Messiah*, for complete understanding about this important subject.

The Sin Of Drunkenness

It should be obvious by now that Yahweh does allow His people to drink alcoholic beverages. However, Yahweh does not say, "drink while you drive to the Feast." Yahweh does not say, "drink until the alcohol inflames you." Yahweh does not say, "go to drinking parties, drink a lot, make a fool of yourself, bring dishonor on the Name of Yahweh." Yahweh does not say these things.

● Proverbs 23:29-35—

29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions; *quarrels?* Who has babbling; *complaining?* Who has unnecessary bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?

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

31 Do not gaze passionately at the redness of wine, when it sparkles in the cup. It goes down sweetly;

32 But in the end it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder.

33 Your eyes will stare at strange women, and your mind will imagine perverse things.

34 Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, or like one who lies on the top of a mast.

35 *You will say:* They hit me, but it did not hurt. They beat me, but I did not feel it. When will I wake up, so I can take another drink?

What brought on this sorrow spoken of here? This sorrow was not brought on by obeying Yahweh. It was brought on by drinking

too much. It is not the drinking of alcohol which Yahweh condemns, rather it is drunkenness, drinking to the point of intoxication.

Reading from the *Encyclopædia Judaica*, pages 237-238, we find this information concerning drinking and drunkenness.

DRUNKENNESS (Heb. *!shikkaron*).

In the Bible. Biblical, apocryphal, and ancient Near Eastern references make it clear that, far from being condemned, the use of alcoholic beverages was regarded by Jews and others as a necessary (Ecclus. 39:26; Pritchard, Texts, 598, line 89;602, line 32) and distinctive (Ps. 104:15; Pritchard, Texts, 77c, line 12ff.) feature of human life. A feast was inconceivable without wine, and Proverbs 9:1 ff. speaks of Wisdom personified offering food and wine. Indeed, complete abstinence was associated with a turning away from civilization (Jer 35: see *Rechabites). *Wine was valued for bringing joy and banishing sorrow (Judg. 9:13; Ps. 104:15; cf. Pritchard, loc. cit., line 21; Prov. 31:6-7; Eccles. 10:19; Ecclus. 31:27-28; 40:20) and was used cultically in libations (Ex. 30:40-41) and the festive sacrificial meal (Deut. 14:26).

Intoxication, however, was deprecated (cf. Ecclus. 31:25-31; 39:27), both in the cult—in keeping with the biblical rejection of the Dionysiac element of other ancient religions (Lev. 10:8-11; I Sam. 1:13-16; Ezek. 44:21)—and in daily life. Wisdom literature warns that drunkenness brings poverty, woes, quarrels, wounds, strange visions, etc. (Prov. 20:1; 21:17; 23:19-21;29-35; 31:4-5; cf. I Esd. 3:19-24) and causes kings to err in judgment (Prov. 31:4-5; cf. Lev. 10:8-11 (priests); Isa. 28:7 (priest and prophet). Several narratives depict the disgrace and sometimes death of drunkards (Noah, Gen. 9:20-27; Lot, Gen. 19:31-38; Nabal, I Sam. 25:36; Amnon, II Sam. 13:28-29; Elah, I Kings 16:9; Ben-Hadad, I Kings 20:16; Ahasuerus, Esth. 1:10; cf. Holofernes, Judith 13:2). The prophets frequently condemn drunkenness, particularly among the wealthy and the leaders (Isa. 28:1 ff.; 56:11-12; cf. Prov. 31:4-5), associating it with moral insensitivity (Isa. 5:11-12, 22-23; Amos 2:8), licentiousness (Hos. 4:11-12, 18), and forgetting Yahweh (Hos. 4:11-12; cf. Job 1:4-5). Drunkenness and gluttony are among the charges against the insubordinate son (Deut. 21:20).

The *Interpreter's Bible Dictionary*, on page 872, says this about drinking and drunkenness.

DRUNKENNESS. Wine was not banned in Israel. It was not only valued for giving pleasure and banishing sorrow (Judg. 9:13; Ps. 104:15; Prov. 31:6-7); it had a place in the sacrificial meal (Deut. 14:26; cf. I Sam. 1:9, 12-16; Amos 2:8). Drinking to intoxication (/wɪk? [only figuratively]; Jer. 13:13; Ezek. 23:33), however, was a disgrace, and the exemplary stories of the drunkenness of Noah (Gen. 9:20-27) and Lot (19:31-38) serve to show to what immoral uses the drunkard (/wɪk?) exposes himself. Drunkenness is associated with licentiousness in Hos. 4:11, 18 (cf. II Sam. 11:13). Drunkenness is related of wealthy Nabal (I Sam. 25:36), and of the kings Elah (I Kings 16:9), Ben-hadad (20:16), and Ahasuerus

(Esth. 1:10). The wisdom writers disapprove of it on utilitarian grounds (Prov. 20:1; 21:17; 23:20-21, 29-35); the prophets condemn it in the leaders of the people for causing moral blindness (Isa. 5:11-12; 28:7 ff; 56:11-12; Amos 6:6; cf. Prov. 31:4-5).

The charge brought against the insubordinate son by his parents epitomizes his corruption in the phrase: “He is a glutton and a drunkard” (Deut. 21:20). Priests must not take any strong drink while on duty in the sanctuary (Lev. 10:8-9).

In the NT, too, drunkenness [Rom. 13:13; [I Pet. 4:3]] is associated with debauchery and Gentile depravity. A bishop may not be intemperate (I Tim. 3:3; Tit. 1:7). Drunkards will not inherit the kingdom of Yahweh (I Cor. 6:10; Gal. 5:21), nor are they to be tolerated among the called out ones (I Cor. 5:11-13).

As the following Scriptures show, Yahweh condemns drinking until the alcohol inflames and effects one’s thinking. We are plainly told in the Scriptures to be moderate in our drinking and above all not to be drunk.

● **Romans 13:13**—

Let us walk properly, as in the daytime; not in revelry and drunkenness, not in sexual impurity and debauchery, not in strife and jealousy.

● **Proverbs 20:1**—

Wine is a mocker, and strong drink is a brawler, so whoever is deceived by them; not moderate with them, is not wise.

● **Philippians 4:5**—

Let your moderation be known to all men; Yahweh *is* at hand!

The Scriptures are plain. We must always strive to be in control of our minds. Yahshua’s own words tell us to never allow our minds to become clouded, so that we do not think clearly, whether with recreational drugs or the drug of drunkenness.

● **Luke 21:34**—

So be on your guard—see to it that your minds are never clouded with carousing, drunkenness, or anxieties and worries of this life—*so* that day will not come upon you unexpectedly.

The word **clouded** in this verse is translated from the Greek word **bareo**, which comes from the Hebrew word **kabad** as the Manual Greek Lexicon by G. Abbott-Smith, page 75, tells us.

● *Gesenius’ Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon*, page 781, shows us that **kabad** means **dull, hindered in the use of the senses**.

קָבַד & קָבַד (Jud. 20:34) fut. יִקְבֵּד.

(1) TO BE HEAVY

From heavy things not being easily moved, this verb is applied—

(5) to *indolence, dullness* (Schwermüdigkeit), and to any hindrance of the use of the senses; hence *to be dull, sluggish*, of the eyes, Gen. 48:10; of the ears, Isa. 59:1 (שְׁוֹרְרִיבִים); also of the mind not easily moved, and therefore obdurate, Exod. 9:7 (compare חִזְקִי). In like manner verbs of *fatness* are applied to indolence;

We find these further instructions in Ephesians.

● **Ephesians 5:18**—

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

The word **drunk** in this verse comes from the Hebrew word **shakar**, as *Thayer's Greek Lexicon*, page 396, shows us.

to intoxicate, make drunk; pass. [cf. W. 252 (237)] *to get drunk, become intoxicated*: Lk. xii. 45; Jn. ii. 10; 1 Th. v. 7 [B. 62 (54)]; [W. 217 (203)], *Eph. v. 18*; Rev. xvii. 2 (see e*k, II. 5); *tou' nevtkaro"*, Plat. symp. p. 203 b.; Lcian. dial. deor. 6,3; a*pov tino", Sir. i. 16; xxxv. 13.*

The meanings of the Hebrew word **shakar**, as shown in *Gesenius' Hebrew Lexicon*, page 823, show us that being drunk means being out of control of one's mind and actions.

I. שָׁכַר fut. יִשְׁכַּר; Arab. سَكَر — (1) TO DRINK TO THE FULL (i. q. הָרַג), Hagg. 1:6; *to drink to hilarity*, Cant. 5:1; Gen. 43:34. It is very often — (2) *to make oneself drunken*, Gen. 9:21; followed by an acc. of the drink, Isaiah 29:9; 49:26; followed by הָרַג Isa. 51:21. Metaph. in the prophets the wicked are said to be *drunken*, since they rush, by a kind of madness, upon their own destruction, Isa. 29:9; 51:21; Lam. 4:21; Nah. 3:11. Compare שָׁכַר, Part. pass. שָׁכַרְהוּ drunken, Isa. 51:21.

According to *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*, the word **drunk** means having the faculties impaired by alcohol.

drunk \ˈdrʌŋk\ adj [ME *drunke*, alter. of *drunken*] (14c) 1 : having the faculties impaired by alcohol 2 : dominated by an intense feeling (~ with power) 3 : of, relating to, or caused by intoxication

This is exactly the condition of a person who uses alcohol to the point of drunkenness or who uses recreational drugs to escape reality. One's sense of righteousness and judgment is affected when one cannot think clearly, whether it is through recreational drugs or the drug of drunkenness.

● **Amosyah 6:12**—

Do horses run up rocky crags? Do men plow there with oxen? But you have turned judgment into gall, and the fruit of righteousness into hemlock; wormwood.

● **Deuteronomy 29:18-19**—

18 ...for fear there should be among you a root that BRINGS forth gall and wormwood—poison and bitterness: the consequences of practicing godworship (the worship of elohim and teraphim).

19 I solemnly entreat you to enter into the covenant and oath, so it will never come to pass, when that one hears the words of this curse, that he can congratulate and delude himself in his heart, and erroneously think: I will have peace and safety, even though I persist in going my own way. *Yahweh will hold all of his sins against him: he has acted; sinned, presumptuously. He is as a drunkard totally out of control.

*Footnote Deuteronomy 29:19—Hebrew clause *lamon saphut haruh at hatzmah*. Traditionally translated that the intoxication sweep away the thirst or so that the watered will be swept away with the dry. Dr. Solomon ben Yitzhak, in his Commentary in the *Chumash, with Targum Onkelos, Haphtaroth, and Rashi's Commentary*, Volume Devarim, Pages 146 and 228, shows that this phrase is correctly translated Yahweh will hold all of his sins against him; he has acted; *sinned*, presumptuously. He is as a drunkard *totally* out of control.

The whole world is deceived, as **Revelation 12:9** says. We must not follow this deceived world if we choose eternal life. We must follow the inspired Scriptures which were written for our correction. Yahweh tells us through Luke.

● **Luke 7:33-35**—

33 For Yahchanan the Immerser came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and you say; He has a demon.

34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking; and you say; Look at Him! A gluttonous Man and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!

35 But wisdom is justified by all her children.

Understand the Word of Yahweh. He does not condemn the use of a little wine, as Shaul told Timothy. Yahweh does condemn drunkenness, the drinking of too much alcohol, wherein is excess, as **Ephesians 5:18** says.

Yahweh Limits Drinking

Yahweh tells us over and over to be sober and to watch and pray always so that we may avoid the pitfalls of Satan who will use any means possible to cause us to fall away from Yahweh's Laws and House.

● **Luke 21:34-36**—

34 So be on your guard—see to it that your minds are never clouded with carousing, drunkenness, or anxieties and worries of this life—so that day will not come upon you unexpectedly,

35 For it will come, like a trap, on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Because of this—watch, and pray always that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

● **Proverbs 4:23**—

Guard your mind with all diligence, for out of it flows the springs of life.

● **I Kepha 4:7**—

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore, be sober and watchful in your prayers.

● **I Kepha 5:8**—

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary, the devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour:

The word **sober** in **I Kepha 4:7**, is the Greek word **sophreno**, which the *Analytical Greek Lexicon* by Harper, page 396, shows us to mean: to be in one's right mind.

... to be of a sound mind, be in one's right mind, be sane...

Yes, one must always be in one's right mind in order to resist the adversary. When one is drunk or under the influence of recreational drugs, one is definitely not in one's right mind and not capable of resisting Satan.

It is a Scriptural fact that Yahweh has called us out in these Last Days to overcome our carnal natures and qualify through the keeping of His Laws to have a part with the family of the 144,000 Priesthood. In the Law we see that the Priests who ministered in Yahweh's presence were commanded not to drink wine or strong drink when they entered the Tent of Meeting.

● **Leviticus 10:9-11**—

9 Do not drink wine nor strong drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the Tent of Meeting, or you shall die. *It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations.*

10 You must distinguish between the holy and unholy, and between the unclean and the clean,

11 And you must teach the children of Israyl all the statutes which Yahweh has spoken to them, by the hand of Mosheh.

Yahweh's Sanctuary now functions as the Tent of Meeting of the congregation. We are not to come into Yahweh's Sanctuary to worship Him with our minds clouded with alcoholic beverages. A person whose mind is clouded cannot learn all of Yahweh's Laws which the ministers will teach. Yahweh commands His ministers not to drink alcohol at all before they minister to the congregation at Yahweh's services. We must have our minds clear to come before Yahweh's presence. Even in the new world this statute will be taught and enforced.

● **Yechetzqyah 44:21**—

No priest will drink any wine, when they enter into the inner court.

Yahweh instructs all of His People who are striving to have a part or office with the family of the Holy Priesthood (those who have joined themselves to Yahweh's Work) not to be given to much wine, but that they must be sober and watchful.

● **1 Timothy 3:1-3,8**—

1 This *is* a true saying: If a man desires the office of an elder, he desires a righteous work.

2 An elder, then, must be blameless, in unity *as husband and wife*, vigilant; alertly watchful, sober, of righteous behavior, given to hospitality, able to teach,

3 Not given to wine, no striker; *violent*, not greedy for filthy lucre, but patient, not quarrelsome, not covetous;

8 In the same way, deacons *must be grave; dignified, reverent*, not double-tongued; *equivocal, telling a different interpretation*, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

● **Titus 1:7-8**—

7 For an overseer must be blameless as the manager of The House of Yahweh; not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, no striker; *violent*, not greedy for filthy lucre;

8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of righteous men, sober, just, holy, temperate; *self-controlled*.

● **Titus 2:2-3**—

2 That the elders be sober, grave; *dignified, reverent, temperate; self-controlled*, and sound in the faith, in the love of Yahweh, *and* in patient endurance.

3 In the same way, that the deaconesses be reverent in their behavior, not false accusers; *gossips and slanderers*, nor given to much wine, but teachers of righteous things.

The word given in these verses is the Greek word **prosecho**, which, according to *Thayer's Greek Lexicon*, on page 546, means **be addicted to**.

1 Tim. vi. 3 Tdf; to be given or addicted to...

The Apostle Shaul wrote that he would not let himself become overpowered by or under the control of even something that was lawfully allowed to him, such as alcohol or food. How much more, then, does this apply to things that Yahweh condemns, such as recreational drugs?

● **I Corinthians 6:12**—

All lawful things are *permissible* for me, but not all things are advantageous. All lawful things are *permissible* for me, but I will not be overpowered by any of them.

Notice that this Scripture describes perfectly the condition of addiction. Reading from *Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament*, by John Wesley, page 601, we find this written about **I Corinthians 6:12**.

...yet I will not be brought under the power of any—So as to be uneasy when I abstain from it; for, if so, then I am under the power of it.

Some would have us add to Yahweh's commanded Word by banning all alcoholic beverages at Yahweh's Feasts. They seem to want to blame Yahweh's Law for their own weakness rather than striving to overcome the weaknesses they have.

But what about alcoholics? you may ask. Let me say, I have seen alcoholics turn to Yahweh's Way and overcome their problem. They now Praise Yahweh for the knowledge they have gained and the new freedom they now enjoy.

Researchers who have studied the drinking patterns of the Hebrew (Jewish) people have been amazed that drunkenness is virtually unheard of. The fact is really not amazing when one considers the righteousness of Yahweh's Law in commanding that the drinking of alcoholic beverages be done in moderation. Where Yahweh's Law is taught and practiced, there is true peace and joy. Notice the following excerpt from the *Encyclopedia Judaica*, Volume 4, pages 239-240.

Interest in contemporary drinking among Jews stems from

the mystery of its being a non-problem...Alcoholism and drunkenness have, in fact, never been a serious social vice among Jews...Writers in many countries during recent centuries have commented on the comparative sobriety of the Jews. Multinational statistics of arrests for drunkenness, incidences of alcoholic psychosis, and alcoholic admissions hospitals have consistently revealed a marked underrepresentation of Jews. From the 1940's, social scientists in the United States have systematically studied drinking patterns of Jewish youth and adults. The consistent finding has been that proportionately more Jews than other ethnic or religious segments of the population drink wine, beer, or spirits, but proportionately fewer Jews are heavy drinkers or alcoholics. Sophisticated socio-cultural-psychological hypotheses...relate Jewish sobriety to the early initiation of children in a family-centered, religiously oriented, moderate drinking pattern. The attitudinal values thus engendered are presumed to prevent later excess in drinking.

Yahweh's way is right. You will not have sorrow or woe from obeying Yahweh. It is only when we disobey that hurt comes.

Use alcohol sensibly, use it to rejoice before Yahweh and to His glory. To use alcoholic drink in the wrong manner is to bring dishonor and condemnation upon ourselves.

Drugs And Sorcery

The Prophecies show us that mankind will not repent of drunkenness and the wrongful recreational use of drugs, before Yahshua returns.

●Revelation 9:20-21—

20 And the rest of the men who were not killed by these plagues, still did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and gods (elohim, teraphim) of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which can neither see, nor hear, nor walk;

21 Neither did they repent of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

The word *sorceries* in Revelation 9:21 refers directly to those who traffic in, and use mind altering drugs for recreational use. The word *sorceries* is the Greek word *pharmakeia* which is listed as word #5331 in *Strong's Greek Dictionary*, which comes from word #5332.

5331. **pharmakeia**, *far-mak-i'-ah*; from 5332; *medication* ("pharmacy"), i.e. (by extens.) *magic* (lit. or fig.):—*sorcery, witchcraft*.

5332. **pharmakēus**, *far-mak-yoos'*; from *pharmakōn* (a *drug*, i.e. *spell-giving potion*); a *druggist* ("pharmacist") or *poisoner*, i.e. (by extens.) a *magician*:—*sorcerer*.

● *Thayer's Greek Lexicon*, page 649, gives us this information about sorcery, sorcerers, drugs and drug users.

- a. the use or the administering of drugs (Xen. mem. 4, 2, 17).
- b. poisoning (Plat., Polyb., al.): Rev. ix. 21 [here WH txt. Tr mrg.
- c. sorcery, magical arts often found in connection with idolatry and fostered by it: Gal. v. 20 [where see Bp. Lghtft.]; trop. of the deceptions and seductions of idolatry, Rev. xviii. 23.*
 ...one who prepares or uses magical remedies; a sorcerer: Rev. xxi. 8
 Rec. (Soph., Plat., Joseph., Lcian., Plut., al.)*

● *Vine's Expository Dictionary*, pages 1064 and 1065, tells us this about sorcerers and sorcery.

2. **PHARMAKOS**, an adjective signifying 'devoted to magical arts,' is used as a noun, a sorcerer, especially one who uses drugs, potions, spells, enchantments...In sorcery, the use of drugs, whether simple or potent, was generally accompanied by incantations and appeals to occult powers, with the provision of various charms, amulets, etc., professedly designed to keep the applicant or patient from the attention and power of demons, but actually to impress the applicant with the mysterious resources and powers of the sorcerer.

Now read the following information from the *Analytical Greek Lexicon* by Harper, page 423, concerning the words translated **sorcerer** and **sorcery**.

2) a drug employment of drugs for any purpose; sorcery, magic, enchantment, Gal. 5. 20; Re. 9.21; 18.23.

(§ 5. tab. E. d) pr. one who deals in drugs; an enchanter, magician, sorcerer, Ac. 21. 8.

As the meanings of these words show, the use of mind altering, recreational drugs is godworship, which is nothing more than the worship of Satan the devil who has the whole world deceived (**Revelation 12:9**). Notice the following Scripture.

● **II Corinthians 4:4**—

For the God (el) of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, so that the light of the message of the glory of the Messiah, Who is the image of Yahweh, should not shine unto them.

The word translated **blinded** is the Greek word **tuphloo** and according to *Thayer's Greek Lexicon*, page 633, means **to blunt the mental discernment and darken the mind**.

tufli owv, -w': 1 aor. e*tufli wsa; pf. tetufli wka; fr. [Pind. and] Hdt. down; to blind, make blind; in the N.T. metaph. to blunt the mental discernment, darken the mind:

This is a perfect description of what occurs to a person who uses recreational drugs to escape reality—whether they are the drugs

listed earlier in this article or the drug of drunkenness.

The Scriptures tell us that when one weakens one's mind with recreational drugs or with drunkenness, that one opens the mind to demonic influences and even demon possession. *Thayer's Greek Lexicon* on page 649, under the word **pharmakeia (sorcery)** refers us to the Hebrew word **lahatim**. According to the *Hebrew-Aramaic-English Dictionary* by Marcus Jastrow, page 693, the word **lahatim** tells us that sorcery (recreational drug use and drunkenness) is the work of demons.

לְהַתִּים m. pl. (b. h.; Talm. etymol. fr. **לָהַט** *glittering; delusions*. *Snh.* 67^b (ref. to Ex.VII, 11, a. 22) **בְּלִטְיָהֶם** 'with their *lahatim*' (secret arts) refers to works of demons, 'with their *lhatim*'—to works of sorcery (with ref. to **לָהַט** Gen. III, 24).

Notice now what Yahweh says about those whom He calls out, but who refuse to repent of using recreational drugs or of drunkenness.

● **I Corinthians 6:9-10—**

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of Yahweh? Do not deceive yourselves. Neither fornicators, nor godworshippers (worshippers of elohim), nor adulterers, nor men who commit sexual perversions with boys, nor men who commit sexual perversions with other men,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, will inherit the Kingdom of Yahweh.

● **Galatians 5:19-21—**

19 For the works of the flesh are obvious, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness,

20 Godworship (the worship of elohim), **sorcery**, hatred, contentions, evil jealousies, rage, selfish ambitions, dissensions; *disagreements with quarreling, heresies; sects or factions of division,*

21 Envy, murders, **drunkenness**, revelries, and the like; of which I warn you beforehand, just as I did in times past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of Yahweh.

● **Revelation 21:8—**

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and **worshippers of Gods** (elohim), and all liars, will have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone— which is the second death.

We know drugs will not be thrown into the lake of fire—people will. Therefore, this word **sorcerer** is not referring to the drugs, but to the people who use and sell drugs as having their part in the lake of fire.

This excerpt from *Reader's Digest*, August, 1983, page 135, states:

As surely as if they were nuclear bombs from a dreaded enemy, the tons of heroin from Asia, the mountains of cocaine from Bolivia and Peru, the endless supply of marijuana, quaaludes, and other illicit drugs from Columbia—and from American farms and laboratories—are

wrecking this society. Indeed, no Soviet espionage team could weaken America's military preparedness to the extent that drug abuse is rendering us naked to our enemies.

The curse of drugs has seeped down through our colleges and high schools into our elementary schools. Illegal drugs are playing havoc with our business communities, with sales of marijuana, heroin and cocaine commonplace on Wall Street. Drug abuse has become the scourge of professional athletics, the curse of our entertainment world from Hollywood to Broadway, a shame of Congress. It is a tragedy that touches every type of family in this land.

by Carl T. Rowan

Not only will the black-market drug users and drug dealers suffer, if they do not repent, but doctors who dispense the abominable, government controlled drugs for illicit purposes, will also suffer if they do not repent.

How you react to this knowledge is your prerogative. It is Yahweh's prerogative to throw drug users into the lake of fire. Whether they are addicts or moderate users, it is sin with the same wages—death by fire.

To those Yahweh calls out who are ensnared by drunkenness or drug abuse, He says repent!

Yahshua's Example

When Yahshua Messiah was suffering terribly and was nailed to the stake, something was offered to Him to ease His pain.

● **Yahchanan Mark 15:23—**

Then they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but he would not accept *it*.

The word **myrrh** in this verse is listed as word #4669 in *Strong's Greek Dictionary* and means **a narcotic**.

● **Mattithyah 27:34—**

They offered Him wine to drink, mixed with gall; an opiate—but when He tasted *it*, He would not drink it.

Although it would not have been a sin, Yahshua refused to take a narcotic drug for the intense pain He was suffering. Yahshua knew that His suffering and death were in fulfillment of the Prophecies concerning Himself.

The Scriptures plainly show that in order to be the perfect sacrifice for sin it was necessary for Yahshua to bear all the suffering, in His own body, that sin brings.

● **IKepha 2:24—**

Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, should live for righteousness; by Whose stripes you were healed.

In order for Yahshua to pay the death penalty for us, that our sins

earned, He had to endure the great pain that was inflicted upon Him.

● **Isayah 53:4-5**—

4 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by Yahweh, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

Yahshua was well aware of Yahweh's Prophecies.

● **Yahchanan Mark 9:31**—

Because He was teaching His disciples, and telling them: The Son of Man is being delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will be raised up the third day.

If Yahshua had taken the narcotic drug that was offered to Him and allowed the pain to be numbed, He would not have suffered as the prophecies said He must. He would not then have borne our sins in His body and would not have qualified to be our Messiah.

No, it is not a sin to use certain drugs or chemicals if it is done for a genuine medical condition and in the amount prescribed by a legitimate physician. The Scriptures do not condemn all drug use. We need to be very careful, if we do take any medication, that we do not deceive ourselves and allow our minds to become clouded by taking drugs for pleasure's sake.

Recreational drug use (which includes the sin of drunkenness) is one of Satan's greatest tools in deceiving the whole world. There is simply no way a person whose mind is clouded with recreational drugs can discern righteousness from evil. As the news media continue to report, the use of recreational drugs by today's society continues to grow worse.

The History Of Drug Use

To understand how drug use has spread throughout history, let us look at the governmental system that was formed by Nimrod.

● **Genesis 10:8-10**—

8 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth.

9 He was a tyrant who deceived, who turned against Yahweh; therefore it is said: Like Nimrod the tyrant who deceived, who turned against Yahweh.

10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and all of them in the land of Shinar; that is, Babylon.

Nimrod systematically organized the people in turning against Yahweh's Laws. This geo-political-religious-beastly system became known as Babylon, which means **confusion, and gate of god** as the *Hebrew Lexicon* by Brown, Driver and Briggs, on page 93, shows us.

בָּבֶלֶת ²⁶² n.pr.loc. Babel, Babylon (in As. written *Báb-ili*, *gate of god* Dl^{Pa} 212, cf. on other hand Jen^{Kosmol.} 48ⁿ)— e. בָּבֶלֶת loc. הַבְּלֵתִים Ez 12¹³ +, הַבְּלֵתִים 2 K 20¹⁷ + once הַבְּלֵתִים־יִשְׂרָאֵל Je 27¹⁶;—the ancient capital of Babylonia, mod. *Hillah*, situated on Euphrates, in long. e. 44° 30' E., and lat. e. 32° 50' N.; Gn 10¹⁰ 11⁹ (where name connected with בָּלָל *confuse, confound*), both J, not elsewh.

In the *Encyclopedia Britannica Micropedia*, Volume 4, page 233, we find that the oldest catalogue of drugs was from ancient Babylon.

The oldest existing catalogue of drugs (called pharmacopoeia) is a stone tablet from ancient Babylonia (c. 1700 BC).

From the *New Catholic Encyclopedia*, Volume 4, page 1064, we learn that drug use spread from Babylon to the Greeks and Arabs and eventually throughout the Roman Empire.

Opium is the coagulated juice of the opium poppy. Its medical use for the relief of pain was known to the Greeks and Arabs, and spread throughout the Roman Empire.

Throughout the Holy Scriptures we find that the Babylonian system, which was in opposition to Yahweh's Laws, never died. It merely changed names as it spread throughout the world with the same practices of Godworship, including the use of drugs for pleasure and escape. The Book of Revelation shows us this same Satan inspired Babylonian Religious-Governmental System, very active in these Last Days. Satan, by continually teaching against Yahweh and His Laws, has caused the inhabitants of this world to act as one who is drunk, empty-headed, and out of control.

● **Revelation 17:3-5,2—**

3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the *midst of* godworshippers (worshippers of Elohim); and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication.

5 And upon her head *was* a name written: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication; practiced idolatry: godworship (the worship of elohim), and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

Drug use has victimized the young and old of all nations. The use of drugs causes drug users to think they see and realize wonderful things that they never knew before. They encourage others to use drugs so they can feel and see the same things. All

these people are deceived by Satan through Nimrod's Babylonian confusion.

● **Revelation 18:23**—

And the light of a lamp will shine no more at all in you. And the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride will be heard no more at all in you—for your merchants were the great men of the earth; for by your sorceries all the nations were deceived.

Earlier in this article we saw that the word **sorceries** comes from the Greek word **pharmakeia**, which means **drugs**. Satan is using recreational drugs (including drunkenness) to help him deceive this world into forgetting Yahweh and His Laws.

Satan is using recreational drugs, including drunkenness, to try to turn all people to the one world religion and government first established by Nimrod, and soon to be reestablished by Satan.

If you care anything about your eternal life, don't be an idolatrous partaker of Nimrod's religion by clouding your mind with Satan inspired recreational drugs. Remember the warning given to us in Yahweh's Law.

● **Deuteronomy 29:18-19**—

18 *I solemnly entreat you to enter into the covenant and oath, for fear that there may be among you a man, woman, clan, or tribe this day whose heart would turn away from Yahweh our Father, to go and worship the gods (elohim) of those nations; for fear there should be among you a root that brings forth gall and wormwood—poison and bitterness: the consequences of practicing godworship (the worship of elohim and teraphim).*

19 *I solemnly entreat you to enter into the covenant and oath, so it will never come to pass, when that one hears the words of this curse, that he can congratulate and delude himself in his heart, and erroneously think: I will have peace and safety, even though I persist in going my own way. Yahweh will hold all of his sins against him; he has acted; sinned, presumptuously. He is as a drunkard totally out of control.*

Yahweh tells us that recreational drug users and drunkards will not have a part in His Kingdom. Notice where they will end.

● **Galatians 5:19-21**—

19 For the works of the flesh are obvious, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness,

20 Godworship (the worship of elohim), sorcery, hatred, contentions, evil jealousies, rage, selfish ambitions, dissensions; disagreements with quarreling, heresies; sects or factions of division,

21 Envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I warn you beforehand, just as I did in times past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of Yahweh.

● **Revelation 21:8**—

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● **Revelation 22:15**—

For outside are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers,

and worshipers of gods (elohim) and everyone who professes to love, yet practices breaking the Law.

We are living in the end times. The return of Yahshua Messiah and the establishment of the Kingdom of Yahweh is at hand. Therefore, let us obey Yahweh and be sober so that we may be able to stand righteously before Yahweh.

● **I Kepha 4:7—**

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore, be sober and watchful in your prayers.

● **Luke 21:34-36—**

34 So be on your guard—see to it that your minds are never clouded with carousing, drunkenness, or anxieties and worries of this life—so that day will not come upon you unexpectedly,

35 For it will come, like a trap, on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Because of this—watch, and pray always that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.