

# A Woman Who Fears The LORD . . .

(A Study on Proverbs 31)



## Advises Against Intoxicating Drink

### INTRODUCTION

**I**ntoxicating drink has always been a controversial issue for Christians. However, the Word of God is very clear concerning drinking wine or any strong drink. The queen mother, in Proverbs 31, had a God-fearing understanding of what the Scriptures teach when she instructed her son the king: *It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink; lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the justice of all the afflicted. Give strong drink to him who is perishing, and wine to those who are bitter of heart. Let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more. Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy* (Proverbs 31:4-9).

### THEME SCRIPTURE

*It is not for kings, O Lemuel,<sup>1</sup> it is not for kings to drink wine . . .* (Proverbs 31:4).

### MEMORY VERSE

*Do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation;<sup>2</sup> but be filled with the Spirit* (Ephesians 5:18).

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<sup>1</sup> Lemuel: belonging to God, unto God, dedicated to God. Solomon was called Jedidiah, beloved of the LORD, from infancy; a symbolic name of Solomon.

<sup>2</sup> dissipation: excess, riot, in abandon.

I. THE QUEEN’S WARNING

READ Proverbs 31:4-9.

1. What does the queen mother warn her son the king to avoid (v. 4)? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why (v. 5)? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How does she emphasize her point against strong drink and wine (vv. 6, 7)? \_\_\_\_\_

3. A king must have a clear sound mind. Why (vv. 8, 9)? \_\_\_\_\_

We also have God-given responsibilities that require us to maintain a clear mind and sound judgment.

PERSONAL

SHARE what you have observed in the behavior of a person that is under the influence of intoxicating drink or drugs.

<sup>3</sup> intoxicating drink: strong drink; intoxicating liquor made from barley or distilled from honey or dates; intensely alcoholic liquor.

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## II. WINE IN THE BIBLE

The common use of ancient wine<sup>4</sup> is recorded in stories throughout the Old and New Testament.

### 1. NOAH GETS DRUNK

After the flood had subsided, Noah and his family descended from the ark and began a new life in a new world.

READ Genesis 9:18-28.

Who went out of the ark with Noah (vv. 18, 19)? \_\_\_\_\_

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What was Noah's new occupation (v. 20)? \_\_\_\_\_

What unfortunate situation resulted from the vineyard he planted (v. 21)? \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup>

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Because of Noah's intoxication what shameful thing occurred (vv. 22, 23)? \_\_\_\_\_

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How did each son react to Noah's shameful state? \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>4</sup> ancient wine: unlike wine today, according to the Jewish Talmud (Law), Biblical wine was fermented but diluted 3 parts water to 1 part wine. Even pagans would often use a ratio of 8 to 20 parts water to 1 part wine. They considered it to be barbaric to consume a mixture of half water and half wine.

<sup>5</sup> drunk (verse 21): to become tipsy; in a qualified sense to sedate with a stimulating drink or influence; filled with drink abundantly, be intoxicated.

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When Noah woke up from his drunken stupor, he realized that he had been dishonored by his youngest son, Ham. What curse did Noah pronounce on Ham's son, Canaan, and Canaan's descendants? What blessing did Noah pronounce on his sons Shem and Japheth (vv. 25-27)?

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What was the last account of Noah's life (vv. 28, 29)? \_\_\_\_\_

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After demonstrating his great faith in God to his wife, sons, and daughters-in-law, this incident in Noah's life shows us how our lives have a direct effect on our families and those around us, for good or for evil.

**PERSONAL**

What in your life could be a stumbling block or a blessing to your family and those God has placed in your life?

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## CHALLENGE

The following are additional stories for you to examine regarding the use of wine in the Old Testament: Melchizedek blesses Abraham, Genesis 14:18-20; Lot is made to get drunk, Genesis 19:30-38<sup>6</sup>; Laws of grain and drink offering, Deuteronomy 14:22, 23.<sup>7</sup>

### 2. JESUS TURNS WATER INTO WINE

READ John 2:1-10.

This is the first miracle Jesus performed at the beginning of His ministry.

Who was invited to the marriage in Cana of Galilee (vv. 1, 2)? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did Jesus' mother bring to His attention (vv. 3-5)? \_\_\_\_\_

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What was Jesus' response? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did she instruct the servants? \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE how Jesus performed His first miracle (vv. 6-8). \_\_\_\_\_

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What did the master of the feast notice about the wine that Jesus miraculously produced (vv. 9-11)?

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What quality of wine did Jesus bring forth? \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Moabites and Ammonites (vv. 37, 38): the descendants of Lot's daughters whom they conceived through drunken incest with their father who became the enemies of God's people.

<sup>7</sup> new wine: freshly pressed wine; grape juice.

<sup>8</sup> good wine (v. 10): excellent, choice, valuable.

The first miracle that Jesus performed was to bless a bride and groom at their wedding.

**PERSONAL**

How has Jesus brought blessings into your life unexpectedly? \_\_\_\_\_

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**III. WARNINGS AGAINST INTOXICATING DRINK**

1. What warnings and consequences are listed regarding drunkenness?

Proverbs 20:1 \_\_\_\_\_

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Proverbs 23:19-21 \_\_\_\_\_

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Proverbs 23:29-35 \_\_\_\_\_

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Isaiah 5:11, 12 \_\_\_\_\_

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Isaiah 5:22-24 \_\_\_\_\_

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Isaiah 28:7 \_\_\_\_\_

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Hosea 4:11 \_\_\_\_\_

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Habakkuk 2:5 \_\_\_\_\_

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Habakkuk 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_

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Galatians 5:19-21 \_\_\_\_\_

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Ephesians 5:17-21 \_\_\_\_\_

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What are we to do instead? \_\_\_\_\_

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Romans 13:13, 14 \_\_\_\_\_

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What are we to do instead? \_\_\_\_\_

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Romans 14:21 \_\_\_\_\_

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I Corinthians 6:9-11 \_\_\_\_\_

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I Timothy 3:2, 3 \_\_\_\_\_

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*For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking,  
but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 14:17

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