

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 Jun 2023.....	Jeremiah 01.....	Prepares
2) 11 Jun.....	Jeremiah 02-06.....	Judges
3) 18 Jun.....	Jeremiah 07-10.....	Personal
4) 25 Jun.....	Jeremiah 11-15.....	Exclusive
5) 02 Jul.....	Jeremiah 16-18.....	Shapes
6) 09 Jul.....	Jeremiah 19-25.....	Rules
7) 16 Jul.....	Jeremiah 26-29.....	Present
8) 23 Jul.....	Jeremiah 30-33.....	Redeems
9) 30 Jul.....	Jeremiah 34-35.....	Worthy
10) 06 Aug.....	Jeremiah 36-39.....	Speaks
11) 13 Aug.....	Jeremiah 40-45.....	Trustworthy
12) 20 Aug.....	Jeremiah 46-52.....	Just
13) 27 Aug.....	Lamentations 01-05.....	Good

INTRODUCTION

- Abstaining from alcohol blessed the Rechabites for all eternity
- Six other groups of people were also to avoid alcohol/drunkenness
 1. Nazarites (those who took a special vow) **Numbers 6:2-3**
 2. Spiritual Leaders (Priests) **Leviticus 10:9**
 3. Political Rulers (Kings)..... **Proverbs 31:4**
 4. Church Elders (not given to drunkenness) .. **1Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7**
 5. Church Deacons (not given to much wine)..... **1Timothy 3:8**
 6. Spiritually mature women (not given to much wine) **Titus 2:3**

Passage	Comments
Jeremiah 34:1-22	<p>The Jews Worshipped God with Their Lips...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To obtain God's favor the Jews who owned Hebrew slaves set them free – but only for a short time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ By law, the Jews could own Hebrew slaves, but only for 6 years Exodus 21:2 ♦ v16. When the Jews reneged on their covenant and enslaved their poor brothers again, God took it as polluting His name ♦ vv17-22. Punishment would be harsh enslavement of the slave owners and destruction of Jerusalem • Sad to say, many obey God only if and when it is convenient to do so, or they are forced to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ "...Because of the greatness of Your power Your enemies give feigned obedience to You" Ps 66:3 ♦ It is hard to even get Christians to obey the speed limit – the good laws of the land
35:1-19	<p>Rechabites Will Always Stand Before God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-2, 6. God tested the Rechabites by asking them to drink wine – but they refused since it would be in violation of their dad's orders to avoid alcoholic drinks • vv18-19. God's promise to the faithful Rechabites – They would always have a man standing before Him. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What would this look like? ♦ Can we identify any Rechabites today? ♦ Only God knows for sure... • This was a challenge to the Jews to obey God as the Rechabites obeyed their earthly father • 2Kings 10:15-17. When King Jehu of the northern kingdom of Israel, approximately 220 years earlier, picked up Jehonadab, the son of Rechab, to ride in his chariot with him as a witness to Jehu's destruction of all that belonged to King Ahab, it gave credibility of his kingship having such a conservative individual onboard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ So, being a teetotaler has its distinct advantages <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rulers recognize the value of sobriety 2. Society & God's Church need sober leadership
Other Long-Term Promises	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David will always have a man on his throne Jer 33:17 2. Levites will always be offering burnt offerings . Jer 33:18 3. Sons of Zadok will always be before God Ezek 44:15

Key Passages on Intoxicating Drinks	Comments
Genesis 9:21 He drank of the wine and became drunk and uncovered himself inside his tent.	• First incidence of drinking alcohol in the Bible reveals it releases inhibitions
Genesis 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.	• 2 nd incidence of wine in the Bible reflects it was a favored component for socializing
Genesis 19:32 "Come, let us make our father drink wine, and let us lie with him that we may preserve our family through him	• 3 rd incidence of wine in the Bible led to incest and the creation of 2 wicked nations (Moabites and Ammonites)
Genesis 27:28 Now may God give you of the ... fatness of the earth, And an abundance of grain and new wine;	• Wine (or possibly beer made from grain) was considered a blessing from God
Exodus 29:40 ...and there shall be ... one-fourth of a hin of wine for a drink offering with one lamb	• Wine, because of its economic significance, was often part of a sacrifice demanded by God
Psalms 4:7 [God has] put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and new wine abound.	• Gladness from God is more satisfying than an abundance of food and wine
Psalms 104:15 And wine which makes man's heart glad, so that God may make his face glisten with oil, and food which sustains man's heart.	• Even Benjamin Franklin said "Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy"
Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.	• It is the misuse of alcoholic beverages, which is a problem for an individual and society
Proverbs 21:17 He who loves pleasure will become a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not become rich.	• ...and the over-indulgence of a good thing also leads to financial woes
Proverbs 23:20 Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, or with gluttonous eaters of meat;	• God puts gluttony and drunkenness in the same basket – It takes discipline to live right
Proverbs 31:4 Kings should not drink wine; Rulers should avoid strong drink	• Simple rule to live by – if you are a leader, avoid alcohol
Proverbs 31:6 Give strong drink to him who is perishing, and wine to him whose life is bitter.	• Medicinal value of alcohol
John 2:1-10 ...they said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, ... but you have kept the good wine till now"	• When Jesus turned water into wine, He did not make the cheap stuff
Mark 15:23 They tried to give Jesus wine mixed with myrrh; but He did not take it.	• Jesus did not want his senses dulled from experiencing God's full wrath on our sins
Romans 14:21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.	• If our eating and drinking causes others to avoid Christ, then we should curtail it

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- There are benefits to living a disciplined life like the Rechabites
- For us teetotalers, we can wait for God's special feast to be held where "the best of meats and the finest of wines" will be available to all. Yes, besides wine, this passage also seems to allude to bacon, ham, and sausage being in Heaven as well. God is good! **Is 25:6**

NEXT WEEK: Jeremiah 36-39. If someone throws you under the bus or tosses you into a well, can you be content & still glorify God?

..... cf **Philippians 4:11; 1Peter 4:14-16**

