

Elder Vernon Johnson

Colors

Red Wine

In the scriptures, there is a strong correlation between the color red and the subject of war, blood, and judgment. This correlation is manifest in the scriptural use of red wine.

There are four times in the scriptures where red and wine are used together. Three of these times have reference to the Lord Jesus Christ, his church, and judgment:

1. Gen. 49:12 "His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk."
2. Ps. 75:8 "For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them."
3. Isa. 27:2 "In that day sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine."

Reference 1 pertains to a prophecy of the Lord in the book of Genesis: Gen. 49:10 "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. 11 Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: 12 His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk." Notice that it says that his eyes shall be red with wine. We refer to this today as blood-shot eyes. The verse ties together red wine with the blood of Christ.

Reference 2 associates red wine with the wrath of God. The latter part of that verse prophecies of the wicked of the earth drinking of the wrath of God.

Reference 3 comes from a passage of scripture that speaks of the relationship of the Lord and his bride, the church: Isa. 27:2 "In that day sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine. 3 I the LORD do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day." The church is referred to as a vineyard of red wine.

When we study wine in the scriptures we note that it is associated with the blood of Christ. It is also associated with the wrath of God and ultimately the judgment of God.

First, it is associated with the blood of Christ. In the Old Testament there are many types and shadows of Christ. Included in these types and shadows are the drink

offerings offered with the sacrifices:

1. Ex. 29:40 "And with the one lamb a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil; and the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering. 41 And the other lamb thou shalt offer at even, and shalt do thereto according to the meat offering of the morning, and according to the drink offering thereof, for a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD."
2. Lev. 23:13 "And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin."

There were supposed to be a morning sacrifice of a lamb and a meat offering and a drink offering every day. Likewise there was to be an evening sacrifice of a lamb and a meat offering and a drink offering every day.

When Christ established the communion service, the ordinance was to be of unleavened bread and wine: Matt. 26:26 "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Thus, the unleavened bread represented the body of Christ and the red wine represented the blood of Christ. The symbolism of the Old Testament daily meat and drink offering are carried over in the symbolism of the New Testament communion service. Red wine represents the covenant blood of Christ in the New Testament.

Second, wine is used to represent the wrathful judgment of God:

1. Jer. 25:15 "For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it. 16 And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them. 17 Then took I the cup at the LORD'S hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me:"
2. Jer. 51:7 "Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad."
3. Rev. 14:8 "And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. 9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:"

From the above we make the following observations:

1. Red wine represented the blood of Christ.
2. The blood of Christ was shed to satisfy God's wrathful judgment against our sins.
3. The Lord's covenant people are a vineyard of red wine, for they have been justified by the blood of Christ (the red wine).
4. The wicked non-elect will drink of the red wine of God's wrath when Christ comes in glory.