

Isaiah 5:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!

Analysis

The second woe condemns those who 'rise up early' pursuing intoxication and 'continue until night' in drunkenness. The problem isn't wine itself but making alcohol pursuit the organizing principle of life. 'Inflame them' suggests seeking altered consciousness to escape reality or responsibility. This lifestyle demonstrates rejection of God's call to purposeful, sober-minded living.

Historical Context

Wine was common in ancient Israel, but drunkard lifestyle indicated moral dissolution. The wealthy had leisure for extended feasting while the poor suffered injustice, compounding their sin.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What substances or activities do you use to escape rather than address life's challenges?

2. How does sober-mindedness equip you for spiritual vigilance and Kingdom service?

Interlinear Text

הוּי	מְשִׁכִּימֵי	בֹבֶקֶר	שִׁכָּר	יִרְדּוּ פוֹ
Woe	unto them that rise up early	in the morning	strong drink	that they may follow
H1945	H7925	H1242	H7941	H7291
מְאַחֲרֵי	בֶּנֶת שָׁרָף	יַיִן	יִדְלִיקֵם:	
that continue	until night	till wine	inflamm	
H309	H5399	H3196	H1814	

Additional Cross-References

Romans 13:13 (Parallel theme): Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

Isaiah 5:22 (Parallel theme): Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:

Proverbs 20:1 (Parallel theme): Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Isaiah 28:1 (Parallel theme): Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!

1 Corinthians 6:10 (Parallel theme): Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Luke 21:34 (Parallel theme): And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

Galatians 5:21 (Parallel theme): Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

