

# Isaiah 5:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:

## Analysis

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Woe pronounced on those 'mighty to drink wine' and 'men of strength to mingle strong drink' satirizes misapplied valor—strength wasted on debauchery rather than righteousness. The ironic 'mighty' and 'strength' applied to drinking capacity mocks perverted values where prowess in vice replaces virtue. This anticipates Proverbs 23:29-35's warning against alcohol excess and Paul's command for sobriety rather than drunkenness (Ephesians 5:18).

## Historical Context

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Elite culture featured drinking as status symbol and social bonding. Isaiah condemns this indulgence, especially among leaders whose dissipation impaired judgment.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. What culturally celebrated 'strengths' are actually vices disguised as virtues?

2. How do we misapply our God-given capacities to pursuits that dishonor rather than glorify Him?

## Interlinear Text

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הוֹי	גְבוֹרֵי יָם	לִשְׁתּוֹת	יַיִן	וְאֲנָשִׁי	חַיִּיל
Woe	unto them that are mighty	to drink	wine	and men	of strength
H1945	H1368	H8354	H3196	H582	H2428
לְמִסְךְ	שִׁכָּר:				
to mingle	strong drink				
H4537	H7941				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 5:11** (Parallel theme): Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!

**Isaiah 28:7** (Parallel theme): But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.

**Habakkuk 2:15** (Parallel theme): Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

**Isaiah 56:12** (Parallel theme): Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.