

Leviticus 10:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:

Analysis

Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:

This verse falls within the section on **Nadab and Abihu's Unauthorized Fire**. The tragic death of Aaron's sons for offering unauthorized fire demonstrates the severity of approaching God improperly.

Hebrews 9-10 explains how Christ's once-for-all sacrifice supersedes the repeated Levitical offerings, providing permanent cleansing from sin.

Historical Context

The tragic death of Aaron's sons for offering unauthorized fire demonstrates the severity of approaching God improperly. Chapters 8-10 describe the priesthood's consecration and early ministry. Aaron and his sons received special anointing for their mediatorial role between God and Israel. The tragic account of Nadab and Abihu (ch. 10) demonstrates that approaching God requires reverence and obedience. Ancient Near Eastern cultures had various sacrificial systems, but

Israel's sacrificial worship was unique in its ethical foundation, monotheistic framework, and emphasis on atonement rather than appeasement. Unlike pagan rituals focused on manipulating deities, Israel's sacrifices acknowledged God's sovereignty and sought reconciliation based on His gracious provision. The Israelite dietary laws in Leviticus 11 have no exact parallel in surrounding cultures, though some ancient cultures had food taboos, suggesting unique revelation rather than borrowed customs.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does understanding the purpose behind God's laws help you obey Him from the heart rather than mere duty?
2. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?
3. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?

Interlinear Text

אַל תִּשְׁתַּחַת אַתָּה וְבָנֶיךָ תְּבִנֵּה
wine nor strong drink H408 Do not drink H859 thou nor thy sons H854
H3196 H7941 H8354 H1121

אַל מָעוֹד מִזְבֵּחַ תְּבַאֲכָמָךְ בְּבָאָכָמָךְ
with thee when ye go H413 into the tabernacle H168 of the congregation H3808
H935 H168 H4150

לְדִרְתֵּיכֶם: עַזְלָם תְּמִימָה תְּמִימָה
lest ye die H4191 it shall be a statute H2708 for ever H5769 throughout your generations H1755

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:15 (Parallel theme): For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

1 Timothy 3:3 (Parallel theme): Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

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.

Ephesians 5:18 (Parallel theme): And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Ezekiel 44:21 (Parallel theme): Neither shall any priest drink wine, when they enter into the inner court.

Titus 1:7 (Parallel theme): For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

1 Timothy 3:8 (Parallel theme): Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

Numbers 6:3 (Parallel theme): He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried.

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

1 Timothy 5:23 (Parallel theme): Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.