

# Numbers 6:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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Abstinence from wine and strong drink marked the Nazirite's separation from common pleasures. Wine in Scripture often symbolizes joy and celebration, yet the Nazirite's greater joy was found in devotion to God alone. This self-denial wasn't asceticism but focused consecration, prioritizing spiritual discipline over temporal pleasure.

## Historical Context

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In ancient Near Eastern culture, wine was a staple beverage and symbol of prosperity. The Nazirite's abstinence was therefore a visible, countercultural statement of devotion that would have been immediately recognizable to observers.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

### Study Questions

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1. What legitimate pleasures might God call you to temporarily set aside for deeper devotion?
2. How does self-denial in one area create space for growth in another?

### Interlinear Text

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וּלְיָ	וְשָׁכַר	וְיָרֵי	וְחֵמָץ	וּלְיָ		
himself from wine	and strong drink	He shall separate	no vinegar	himself from wine		
H3196	H7941	H5144	H2558	H3196		
וְחֵמָץ	וְשָׁכַר	לֹא	וְשָׁתָה	וְכָל	מִשְׁכָּרִית	וְעֵנַבִּים
no vinegar	and strong drink	H3808	and shall drink	H3605	any liquor	grapes
H2558	H7941		H8354		H4952	H6025
לֹא	וְשָׁתָה	וְעֵנַבִּים	לֵחִים	וְיִבֹּשׁ	לֹא	יֹאכֵל:
H3808	and shall drink	grapes	moist	or dried	H3808	nor eat
	H8354	H6025	H3892	H3002		H398

### Additional Cross-References

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

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

**Amos 2:12** (Parallel theme): But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophecy not.

**Leviticus 10:9** (Parallel theme): 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:

**Judges 13:14** (Parallel theme): She may not eat of any thing that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all that I commanded her let her observe.

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