

## Drink Offering

About 1450 years before Christ the Lord gave these instructions to Israel through Moses:

Numbers 15:2-5 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you have come into the land you are to inhabit, which I am giving to you,'<sup>3</sup> 'and you make an offering by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering or a sacrifice, to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering or in your appointed feasts, to make a sweet aroma to the LORD, from the herd or the flock,'<sup>4</sup> 'then he who presents his offering to the LORD shall bring a grain offering of one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with one-fourth of a HIN of oil;<sup>5</sup> 'and one-fourth of a HIN of wine as a drink offering you shall prepare with the burnt offering or the sacrifice, for each lamb.

The sanctuary system that was given the Israelites points to Jesus. I say it still does because although we don't offer animal sacrifices that sacrificial system still points to Jesus.

The wages of sin is death. Jesus Christ gave Himself as a sin offering for you and me to save us from eternal death. The sanctuary system given to the Israelites shows this in many ways.

Some animal sacrifices were eaten but sin offerings were not eaten, they were burned. The morning and evening sacrifices were not eaten, sacrifices for vows or free will offerings and offerings of the appointed feasts were not eaten. They were burnt offerings. With these, a grain offering mixed with olive oil was burned and wine was poured out either on the sacrifice or most probably on the ground. Why this waste?

These pointed to Jesus' death. Jesus said:

Luke 22:19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."<sup>20</sup> Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

Ancient Israel while making their burnt offerings also burned a grain offering and poured out a wine offering. These were prophetic symbols of Jesus' death. Jesus Christ, the innocent One, suffered death in place of sinners.

Isaiah 53:12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

The words, "poured out His soul" point us back to the drink offering and supply its meaning.

Fermented wine can never represent our Lord and Savior who was pure and undefiled, separate from sinners. In the Bible fermentation represents sin. But Jesus was sinless.

In the Bible, the word wine is used for both alcoholic wine and grape juice. Only by the context can you understand which is being referred to. As an example, wine is spoken of in the Bible while it is still in the grape in the cluster.

Isaiah 65:8 Thus says the LORD: "As the new wine is found in the cluster, And one says, 'Do not destroy it, For a blessing is in it,' So will I do for My servants' sake, That I may not destroy them all.

This is obviously grape juice.

The Bible also says:

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

Thus let no Seventh-day Adventists have alcoholic wine on their tables and especially not on the Lord's table.

Are you a Christian? You cannot represent Jesus Christ to the world while consuming alcoholic beverages.

Philippians 2:14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,<sup>15</sup> that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,<sup>16</sup> holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.<sup>17</sup> Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

Jesus poured out His life as a drink offering for us. Let us also be ready to pour out our lives for Christ. But the best thing is not to die, but to live blameless and harmless, children of God without fault. If you have sins, confess them to the Lord and forsake them. Those who forsake their sins will find mercy.