

# Wine of Babylon

#0091

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—July 1, 1965

In our last vespers service, we were studying the announcement of the second angel of Revelation 14:8:

“...Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication” Revelation 14:8.

The fall of Babylon is due to her fermented wine, her perversion of truth which she communicates to the nations. Now against this, God warns His people and all who will listen:

“Be not drunk with wine... but be filled with the Spirit”  
Ephesians 5:18.

We are living in the time, dear friends, when everybody in this world will be fully under the influence of Babylon’s wine or completely out from under its influence, filled with the Spirit. The Latter Rain is coming in wonderful power upon those whose hearts and minds and lives have been emptied of all Babylon’s influence.

We were studying last Friday night about just what alcohol is, how it got started, and what its influence is. I referred to something last Friday night that I want to give you the reference for tonight. It’s found in the book *Temperance*, page 12.

“Satan gathered the fallen angels together to devise some way of doing the most possible evil to the human family. One proposition after another was made, till finally Satan himself thought of a plan. He would take the fruit of the vine, also wheat, and other things given by God as food, and would convert them into poisons, which would ruin man's physical, mental, and moral powers, and so overcome the senses that Satan should have full control. Under the influence of liquor, men would be led to commit crimes of all kinds. Through perverted appetite, the world would be made corrupt.

...Satan has succeeded in turning the world from God. The blessings provided in God's love and mercy he has turned into a deadly curse” *Temperance*, page 12.

So you see, alcohol is the brainchild of the Devil. It is the device of Satan. It is a perversion of a gift of God. Chemically, alcohol is the result of breaking down the sugar molecules in the juice of the grape, the apple, or in other fruit. Ethyl alcohol is the result of fermentation in which life-giving food is changed into death-dealing poison. Who but the Devil could think of something like that?

Now he has not limited himself to ethyl alcohol. In a thousand other ways—through various drug poisons, through the nicotine of tobacco, through the caffeine of coffee and tea and the cola drinks, and through many of the things that are being used today which I will not take the time to name—Satan is benumbing the brains of men. He is dulling the senses. He is working here in the forebrain to dethrone reason, conscience, and judgment, and thus with the governing power more or less asleep in the human soul, Satan takes over and uses the lower nature to control the actions of men.

In Jeremiah 51:7, the Scripture tells us that all “...the nations have drunken of her wine” (the wine of Babylon) “therefore the nations are mad” (that is, insane). Those who are under the influence of alcohol or any of these other poisons do not act rationally. In fact, we are told here in the book *Temperance*, page 30:

“When drink is in, reason is out” *Temperance*, page 30.

This is true whether it comes out of a whiskey bottle, a wine cup, a coffee cup, a glass of tea, a bottle of cola drink, or any of these other many, many poisons. All the influence is to interfere with the function of the forebrain.

Why do people take these poisons into the body? Because the great enemy has discovered how to destroy man and, in the process, make him feel like he is being given a lift, or given relief from worry, or given some fun. The action of all these drug poisons in one way or another is to give a man a feeling which he enjoys.

But now watch (and don't miss this): this feeling is due to fiction. The feeling is not based on reality. It is the result of putting to sleep certain cells in the brain so that, as the result, people *think* something is happening when it's not happening at all.

I will never forget when I was just a boy selling magazines in San Diego, California. I saw a group of newsboys following a fellow into a candy store, and I went along. And this fellow was saying to the clerk of the candy store to all these newsboys (and of course I got in on it), “Give these boys some candy. Give everyone a sack of candy. I will pay for it. I can pay for it.” And as the clerk put some candy in, he said, “Put some more in. Fill them up.”

Oh he paid. You know what he had in his stomach, don't you? In his bloodstream, in his brain? He was a millionaire that evening. How he felt the next morning is something else! Yes, the Bible says:

“Wine is a mocker... and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” Proverbs 20:1.

This is the influence of alcohol and all these other drug poisons, to bring about a feeling that is not true. As we studied last Friday night, the wine of Babylon is the result of perverting the truth of God.

Now I want to read you a statement from the late Dr. David Starr Jordan of Stanford University—in his time, one of America’s greatest educators. Listen to these penetrating and thought-provoking words.

“The basis of intemperance is the effort to secure, through drugs, the feeling of happiness when happiness does not exist. Men destroy their nervous system for the tingling pleasures they feel as its structures are torn apart. There are many drugs which cause this pleasure, and in proportion to the delight they seem to give is the real mischief they work. Pain is the warning to the brain that something is wrong in the organ in which the pain is felt. Sometimes that which should be felt as pain is interpreted as a pleasure.”

Suppose that here is a man that has his fingers on the anvil, and he strikes his fingers one by one with a hammer. The brain would feel the shock as pain, wouldn’t it? And it would give orders to check those hammer blows. But suppose that through some abnormal condition, some twist of the nerves, or some clot on the brain, that that injury is felt not as pain but as exquisite delight. Then there would arise the impulse to do what? Hit it again.

The knowledge of the injury which the eye would tell the brain would influence the will to stop it, but the impulse of delight would plead for repetition. And in this fashion, the hand might be sacrificed for a feeling of pleasure (which is no real pleasure at all but a form of mania).

“Of this character is the effect of all nerve-exciting drugs” says this imminent educator. And he mentions alcohol, opium, tobacco, cocaine, cola, tea, coffee. Of all these, he says the effect is of the nature of mania. They give a feeling of pleasure or rest when rest or pleasure does not exist.

“This feeling arises from injury to the nerves which the brain does not truthfully interpret. One and all these various drugs tend to give the impression of a power, or a pleasure, or an activity which we do not possess.”

In other words, they make the nervous system tell lies. But if they are pleasant lies, why not? This brings us right down to this point, friends: do we want the wine of

Babylon because the thrill it gives, because of the tick that is in the cup, or do we want the life-giving water that Jesus offers, the Holy Spirit of God? And this Spirit, the Bible calls the Spirit of truth. And no lie is of the truth.

Whatever, my dear friends, whether it's chemical, whether it's religious, whether it's literature, whether it's amusement, whatever it is, whatever is of the nature of the false, the fictitious, this is in the wine cup of Babylon. No lie is of the truth. Truth comes from the *Author* of truth, Jesus Christ. And the Spirit of truth is waiting to fill us all with a sense of reality which gives true satisfaction, not the exciting, fictitious mania of Babylon.

Back now to the quotation from Dr. Jordan:

“One and all these various drugs tend to give the impression of a power or a pleasure which we do not possess. One and all there function is to force the nervous system to lie. One and all the result of their habitual use is to render the nervous system incapable of ever telling the truth.”

Now let me hasten from this to a statement dealing, not with the physical drug poisons of alcohol and tobacco and tea and coffee and these others, but now this next statement I am reading is a very similar statement dealing with an intoxication which comes through the eye and the ear instead of through the mouth and the stomach, an intoxication which comes from influences affecting the mind directly: the reading of fiction. This is from the life and letters of Joseph Conrad. Conrad wrote many, many novels. At the end of his life, he wrote this. And this is not a novel. This is not fiction. These are a few lines he wrote that *weren't* fiction. Listen:

“It is a fool's business to write fiction for a living. It is indeed. It is strange. The unreality of it seems to enter one's real life penetrate into the bones, make the very heartbeats pulsate illusion through the arteries. One's will becomes the slave of hallucination, responds only to shadowy impulses, waits on imagination alone. A strange state. A trying experience. A kind of fiery trial of untruthfulness. And one goes through it with an exaltation as false as all the rest of it. One goes through it and there is nothing to show at the end, nothing, nothing, nothing.”

And where did we find is the end of those who make lies? Revelation 22:15, where is the end? Outside the city. And where is the end of those who love the lies that are made? Outside the city. Oh, my friends, God is the God of truth! Jesus says, “...I am the way, the truth, and the life...” (John 14:6). Life-giving truth—this is what Christ offers us.

How strange that anyone would turn to these fermented perversions in which the

truth of God is changed into a lie. How strange that people would drink from the wine cup of Babylon when they may drink the water of life freely offered from the hand of Jesus Himself. Is it not a strange infatuation, dear friends?

“...The nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad” Jeremiah 51:7.

As I have indicated, all these things in the wine cup of Babylon are the result of perversion. They all produce excitement of a kind, deception of a kind, and in the end, bring death.

Let me illustrate it in another field. God has placed within the human heart a desire to advance, to grow, to develop. How the little child looks forward to being bigger. How we like, if we are normal, to learn, to develop our muscles and our minds. God intended that every creature should continue to develop this wonderful mind that He has given each of us. And this mind is made each one after a separate pattern. And it is God’s plan that the mind should develop on through eternity, becoming more and more God-like.

Heaven, we are told, is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ. We will never come to the end of understanding an infinite God. There will always be an infinite ocean further to explore. But there came a time in the experience of Lucifer when he decided that the only way for him to continue to advance would be at the expense of somebody else. The only way for him to rise would be for him to pull down somebody else.

He was already the highest of all created beings, and so the only thing he saw to pull down was the Deity. He started his attacks against Christ. He became jealous of the Son of God. But he ended up in an open, rebellious, defiant warfare against God. He said, “...I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...” Isaiah 14:13. And so there was war in Heaven. (See Revelation 12:7–9.)

Satan is the author of war. He is responsible for the first war and ever war since. Satan is the author of rebellion. He is the first great rebel. But my dear friends, notice this, it began with a sinful thought: “In order for me to win, somebody else must lose. In order for me to get ahead, I must step on, step over, somebody else.” And ever since then, whenever any plan has been devised whereby in order for somebody to seem to win, somebody else must lose, Satan has been there at work.

God never arranged any plan to rob Peter to pay Paul. God never devised anything whereby in order for you to win, somebody else must lose. God never inspired in any heart of angel or human beings the lust for beating, for winning, at the expense of others.

And yet this spirit is all through human experience. It’s found on the playground. It’s found in the classrooms. It’s found in the workshop and in the store. It’s found in

the business world, the social world, the political world. It meets its final fruition on the battlefield where men become so filled with the lust for power that they will actually kill others because they must win, they must beat, they must succeed no matter how many are dead as the result.

And so we have the Alexanders, the Julius Caesars, the Napoleons, the Hitlers of history. And there are millions of others who have had lusts like that, who somehow did not achieve their notoriety. They are written great in the annals that men write, but they are not great in the books of Heaven, my friends. They are not great in the books of Heaven. The humblest child of God who in love serves his fellow men is a million times greater than all these who have given their lives trying to beat their fellow men.

Now I ask you, where do you find your entertainment? Where do you find your interest? Is it in beating somebody else? In mimic play or in reality? Or it may be that you find it merely in watching others? Do you find entertainment in watching two men hit each other until blood flows, and one of them is down and out?

“Oh, no!” says one, “I can’t stand that. It’s too gory.” Maybe you would rather see them just engage in mimic battles with balls and bats or racquets? But in each case, the excitement is to see who is going to do what? Win. But in the wine cup of Babylon, remember, the excitement that is produced by that competition, whether on the battlefield where blood flows, or in the *mimic* battlefield of competitive athletics, or in the scholastic, vying for achievement, somebody to be first. Wherever it is, remember that if somebody wins, somebody else what? Loses.

And as some rise up and shout and cheer and clap and go wild in excitement—“We won! We won!”—others are going away in anger or frustration or sometimes literally in tears because they lost. Is God the author of that kind of thing, my friend? Would God create a situation where, in order for somebody to be happy, somebody else had to be miserable? Would God do that?

Oh, thank God there is something better! Thank God, there is something better. The wine-cup of Babylon: it excites, it intoxicates, it thrills.

Turn to Proverbs 14. I want you to see something interesting there.

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness” Proverbs 14:12–13.

Look at another ingredient in this wine cup of Babylon. Here again we have a perversion. God wants His children to be happy. He says to His disciples:

“These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full” John 15:11.

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them”  
John 13:17.

But Satan takes joy and perverts it into mirth, frolic, folly, foolishness, which he says is more exciting, more fun, that is the way to have a real good time. In fact, this is one of the great reasons why wine and beer, whiskey and gin abound at parties. You have heard the expression, “Throw a party.” And when people *throw* a party, they generally want some liquor. Why? So that the inhibitions, the self-control which a sober mind would exercise, will be gone, so that reality can be put aside and we can get all the fun there is of unreality.

Many a clown at a party is sad within. He is seeking to forget the real trouble by engaging in unreal mirth, folly. This is what happened at the birthday of Herod as wine flowed freely in that great palace, when the daughter of Herodias, Salome, came in and danced before the guests. And in that moment of drunken fun, the life of one of the greatest of the prophets was sacrificed. John the Baptist was beheaded because Herod and his guests were under the influence of the wine of Babylon: physical, mental and spiritual.

And so today in the great parties of society and in their counterparts in the nightclubs in the dark, people are laughing at the jokes of comedians, thrilling with the music of this degenerate age, excited from literal alcohol, excited from the music and the jokes, the folly, and the fun of those who like to forget God. My dear friends, God wants His children to be truly happy, but it is the happiness of *reality*, not make-believe.

May I read you something beautiful and wonderful from this book, *Ministry of Healing*? Every medical missionary needs to know this page:

“For those who would regain or preserve health there is a lesson in the words of Scripture, “Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.” Ephesians 5:18. Not through the excitement or oblivion produced by unnatural or unhealthful stimulants; not through indulgence of the lower appetites or passions, is to be found true healing or refreshment for the body or the soul... The hungry, thirsting soul will continue to hunger and thirst so long as it seeks to find satisfaction here. Those who drink at the fountain of selfish pleasure are deceived” *Ministry of Healing*, pages 246–247.

That is what wine does, whether it comes out of a bottle or out of a book; whether it is effective through the stomach or through the eye or the ear.

“Those who drink at the fountain of selfish pleasure are deceived. They mistake hilarity for strength, and when the

excitement ceases, their inspiration ends, and they are left to discontent and despondency” *Ibid.*

How a man feels the morning after the night before is proverbial, isn't it? Do you think God is in that business of giving a man, a woman, a youth, such a wonderful time on Saturday night that he isn't good for anything all day Sunday? Is that the best that Heaven can offer? And remember, whether that excitement comes from things moving on the screen, whether it comes out of a glass of whiskey, whether it comes from a book of fiction, whether it comes from listening to a comedian crack one joke after the other, or whether it comes from any of these other sources, the excitement is fictitious. The fun is froth and full.

“Those who drink at the fountain of selfish pleasure are deceived. They mistake hilarity for strength, and when the excitement ceases, their inspiration ends, and they are left to discontent and despondency” *Ibid.*

Somebody says, “Brother Frazee, you aren't leaving us very much, are you?” I hope not. I hope we won't leave anything in our lives that comes from the wine cup of Babylon. What do you say, friends? I not only want to escape being *dead* drunk, but I also don't want to be even *a little* drunk, do you? And the biggest reason is that I don't want to miss real life. Real life with God is so wonderful that it would be a shame to miss it for even five minutes, friends. And God offers us in this world a sample of it, and if we like it, He will extend it through all eternity.

But there will be nothing fictitious, nothing unreal, nothing false, all through the ages of eternity. Everything will be true. Everything will be real. Everything will be loving. Nobody will win at the expense of others. Everybody will win helping others, and everybody will enjoy that.

Friends, we can have a sample of it here. Jesus says, “Come unto Me... and I will give you rest” Matthew 11:28. “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you...” John 14:27. This peace is not something that He gives apart from Himself; it is in Christ, and we can receive it only by receiving Him.

So tonight, the wine cup of Babylon or the river of the water of life that flows from the heart of God, which do we wish? Which do we want to drink? Do we want the excitement that comes from the wine cup of Babylon, or do we want the deep joy the abiding peace, the day by day satisfaction that comes from knowing Christ as a personal friend, that comes from having Him as a companion in labor as well as in recreation?

Oh, I thank God, friends, that He wants to be such a personal companion and friend to everybody here! Your life can be filled with satisfaction. You don't have to look forward all week to some fun party on Saturday night, hoping that that will cause you to forget your troubles. Thank God, on Monday and Wednesday, on every day and every



hour of the day, you can have the presence of One who made you and knows how you tick, who knows what satisfies you. You can have the companionship of One who loves you so much that He died for you, who thinks you are so valuable that He gave His own life so that the potential that He put in you can be realized.

Wouldn't it be a shame to sell out so cheap, to have a few moments, a few years, of fun which is unreal, when we can make Him glad and receive the gladness that He has planned for us by living for Him and with Him? But it is not selfish pleasure that He offers us. There is a mystery about this, friends. The satisfaction that Jesus offers us is the satisfaction of being involved with Him in sacrificial living, in unselfish service, as love (don't miss this!) as love in His heart drove Him from the throne to the manger to the cross, so love like that in our hearts will lead us to turn away from the selfish pleasure, the fun, the excitement of this world and put our lives into loving service for Him and for suffering humanity.

This is the real satisfaction of life. This is what you were born for, and nothing less than the thing you were born for will satisfy you. Oh friends, I know that many of you have found true what I am saying tonight. Am I correct? I would that everyone here could know it to the full. And I say this to you: no matter how much we have had, there is more to be had. No matter how much Jesus has done for us, there is more He longs to do for us in separating us from Babylon and drawing us close to Him in this deep, sweet, personal experience in which love motivates every action.

Is there somebody here tonight that knows that an arrow from the Lord's quiver has reached your heart, somebody that knows that God brought you to this meeting to get a message that would change something in your life? And because you recognize it, and because you love Jesus, you are going to let Him make that change in your life that God has talked to your heart about tonight.

It may be something that the preacher has mentioned. It may be something that the preacher knows nothing about that you and God have been talking over as you sit there. Whatever it is, the thing that God has put His finger on in your life, will you give it to Him? If there is somebody that God has impressed tonight in that way and you will respond, will you just stand where you are with bowed head?

Just remain standing a moment as God deals with human hearts. Ah, dear ones, it is wonderful to have the Holy Spirit working on our hearts, isn't it? Thank God for everyone that is standing. Is there still another one that says, "Yes, Jesus is dealing with me. His Spirit is working with my heart. There is something that needs to come out. There is something that I have been indulging in that I know is not getting me ready for Heaven. There is something I need to give up, and I am doing it right now"?

God deals with things very definitely. Oh, how wonderful it is to let Jesus come in, to let Him come in. And friends, listen: if you have tried before and some habit has pulled you back and pulled you down, remember, Jesus is mighty to save. Just because you fell down once or twice or a hundred times, don't let that stop you. Reach

up your hand and let Him help you to get up and go on and up. He will. He will.

He died for you. And as my friend George Vandeman says, “When I look at myself, I don’t have much hope of being saved, but when I look at Jesus, I don’t see how I could possibly be lost.” Isn’t that nice? That is for you, my friends. That is for you. You hesitating one that wonders if you can make it, Jesus can make it in you and with you and for you. Will you let Him? Is there one more that says, “Yes, Jesus is calling me. Jesus is talking to my heart”? Thank God for every one.

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