

Survival in the Time of the End (Part 1)

Many shall be Purified in the "Time of the End"

Daniel 12:9,10 Many (like Daniel) shall be purified in the time of the end. The wicked will not understand, *but the wise (the survivors) shall understand.*

Daniel 1:8-17 Daniel would not defile himself with the unhealthy food and wine of Babylon. He and his three friends preferred a simple diet. God blessed them with wisdom, knowledge and understanding.

If more people today followed the example of Daniel, there would be more survivors, less heart disease, strokes, and cancer.

Healthy, Happy and Holy

3 John 2 The Lord wants us to prosper and be in good health.

1 Corinthians 6:19,20 The body is the temple of God. Honor God in your body.

1 Thess. 5:23 God will sanctify our bodies in preparation for Christ's coming.

1 Corinthians 3:16,17 Those who defile the temple of God will be destroyed.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether you eat or drink, do all to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Cleanse the flesh and the spirit, perfecting holiness.

Philippians 3:18,19 Destruction will come to those whose god is their belly.

What about Unclean Food?

Genesis 7:1-3 The distinction of clean and unclean animals is "pre-Jewish"

Levit. 11:4-8,10-12 Unclean flesh is an abomination and should not be eaten.

Isaiah 65:4; 66:15-17 Those eating swines flesh at the coming of the Lord will be consumed.

2 Corinthians 6:17 Paul quoted Isaiah 52:11, "touch no unclean thing."

Revelation 18:2 Babylon is full of "unclean" things.

Matthew 7:6; Luke 15:15 Jesus always spoke negatively of "swine" (pigs).

Scriptures Erroneously Applied to Unclean Foods

Mark 7:1-5,15 It is not what goes in but what comes out that defiles a man. The issue was not unclean foods but Jewish traditions about ceremonial washing.

Acts 10:10-14,28 God told Peter to eat the "unclean animals." Peter later understood that this vision *referred to Gentiles (not food)* who should no longer be considered "unclean." Peter never did eat those animals anyway.

1 Timothy 4:1-5 It is a "doctrine of devils" to "command to abstain from meats *which God created to be received.*" God did not "create" unclean animals to be received. Food must first be "sanctified by the word of God." *The word of God* does not "sanctify" (set apart) unclean animals to be eaten.

Romans 14:1-6 Paul wrote about the "weak" and the "strong," "stumbling-blocks," and the "eating" or not "eating" of certain things. A careful comparison of Romans 14 with *the parallel chapter of 1 Corinthians 8* reveals that the issue was eating or not eating "food sacrificed to idols" and was not a discussion of unclean foods.

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Survival in the Time of the End (Part 2)

Should Followers of Jesus Christ Smoke?

“Sin is breaking the law.” 1 John 3:4. The Law says, “Thou shalt not kill.” Exodus 20:13. It is a sin to kill, *and this applies to self-murder from smoking*. It is a fact that smoking kills the smoker! Smokers run a higher risk of developing cancer of the lungs and heart disease do than non-smokers. Those who “do His commandments” will enter “into the city” while “murderers” will be outside. Revelation 22:14,15. Why take a chance? Would Jesus smoke? He gave us “an example, that *you should follow His steps*.” 1 Peter 2:21. God is merciful. He will forgive and give “the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor. 15:57.

Wine (Grape Juice) which is Approved in the Bible

Isaiah 65:8 “The new wine” found “in the cluster” has “a blessing in it.” Proverbs 3:10 “Thy presses shall burst out with new wine (grape juice).” Psalm 104:13-15 God brings forth “*food* out of the earth ... wine ... oil ... and bread which strengtheneth man’s heart.” These are all natural products from the soil which are a blessing to mankind. Deuteronomy 32:14 “Drink the pure blood of the grape (grape juice).”

Wine (Alcohol) which is Condemned in the Bible

Proverbs 20:1 “Wine is a mocker, and strong drink is raging; and whosoever is *deceived thereby is not wise*.” *Alcohol is deceptive and dangerous*. Proverbs 23:29-35 Alcoholic wine is *strongly condemned* for hurting the body, morals, and social life. It bites “like a serpent.” *Don’t even “look” at it!* Looking leads to tasting, drinking, drunkenness, and finally, destruction. Habakkuk 2:15 A woe is pronounced on all who lead others to drink alcohol.

Scriptures Erroneously Applied as an Approval of Alcohol

Matthew 26:27-29 The “cup” at the Lord’s Supper was “the fruit of the vine.” John 2:1-10 The wine Jesus made at the wedding was not alcoholic, which “bites like a serpent.” Rather, it was “the good wine (vs. 10).” Eph. 5:18 “Not drunk with wine ... but be filled with the Spirit.” This is not moderation *but contrast*. “Filled with the Spirit” leaves no room for liquor. 1 Timothy 5:23 Paul told Timothy to use “a little wine for thy stomach’s sake, and for thine often infirmities.” Grape juice was well known in the ancient world as good medicine for stomach ailments.

In the 1800’s, before the repeal of Prohibition (1933), Baptists, Methodists, Salvation Army, etc. *took a strong stand for total abstinence from all alcohol*. Those who now advocate “moderation” rather than “abstinence,” are actually contributing to the “drunkenness” of the 1990’s! God says, “Be sober.” 1 Peter 5:8.

For further study, order Samuele Bacchiocchi’s book: “Wine in the Bible: A Biblical Study on the Use of Alcoholic Beverages.” Biblical Perspectives, 4569 Lisa Lane, Berrien Springs, MI. 49103.

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