> I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.
> — *Daniel 10:3*

Book: Old Testament / Daniel
Topics: wine, fasting, food

Interpretation:
The Book of Daniel is part of the Old Testament and is considered one of the most important texts in Jewish and Christian literature. In this context, verse 10:3 is particularly significant, as it reflects the prophet *Daniel's* attitude toward a difficult situation and fasting.

This verse is part of the story of Daniel's heavenly visitation, during which he receives a series of divine messages. Daniel's fast lasts three weeks, during which he abstains from delicacies, meat, wine, and even incense. It is a common practice in Jewish culture, abstaining from certain pleasures in order to achieve a deeper connection with God.

Why did Daniel fast for three weeks?

According to the biblical narrative, Daniel spent approximately three years in exile in Babylon. In chapter 10 of the Book of Daniel, the prophet prays to God, asking Him to grant him greater wisdom and understanding of His plans for his people. Although God answers immediately, Daniel decides to fast for three weeks to fulfill God's will and prepare for His messages.

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> Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do.
> — *Ecclesiastes 9:7*

Book: Old Testament / Ecclesiastes

Topics: wine, bread, food, heart, joy, life

Interpretation:
In this verse, the wise author of Ecclesiastes encourages us to find joy in enjoying earthly pleasures. Food and drink are two of life's greatest pleasures, and they are God's gifts that we should enjoy with gratitude and contentment. It's important to note that this is not a call to overindulgence, but rather to moderation and gratitude for what we have.

The importance of finding joy in simple things

In a society that increasingly values ??wealth, success, and power, life's simple joys are often overlooked. However, Ecclesiastes reminds us that true joy is found in the simplest, most everyday moments. A delicious meal with friends and family, a glass of wine at the end of a long day—these are what truly make life worth living. When we learn to appreciate these things and rejoice in what we already have, we become happier and more grateful.

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> The vine is dried up and the fig tree is withered; the pomegranate, the palm and the apple tree— all the trees of the field—are dried up. Surely the people’s joy is withered away.
> *— Joel 1:12*

Book: Old Testament / Joel
Topics: wine, food, harvest, joy, sadness

Interpretation:
The Book of Joel is one of the 12 prophets of the Old Testament and is known for its apocalyptic message. The Book of Joel is divided into two parts: in the first, the prophet describes the invasion of locusts that devastated the land; in the second, Joel's message is a message of hope for everyone who repents and surrenders to God.

The reason for this barrenness in the verse Joel 1:12 is the iniquities of people.

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> I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.
> *— John 15:5*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: wine, dependence, Fruitfulness, Jesus, reward

Interpretation:
John 15:5 gives us one of the most beautiful and meaningful analogies of *Jesus* in His dealings with His followers. To understand this message, it is important to examine the symbolism behind the vine and its branches, as well as to reflect on our own spiritual lives.

The Vine as a Symbol of Life and Fertility

The vine appears frequently in the Bible and symbolizes life, abundance, and fertility. In the Old Testament, the imagery of the vine is used to describe the people of Israel, as in *Psalm 80:8-11: "You transplanted a vine from Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land. The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches. Its branches reached as far as the Sea, its shoots as far as the River."*

In this sense, the vine is seen as a source of life and blessing, but also as a responsibility to care for and protect it.

Branches as Representations of Believers

In Jesus' analogy, the branches are the believers who cooperate with the vine to bear fruit. As a branch of the vine, the shoot receives the sap and nutrients it needs to grow and develop. But it also has the responsibility to bear fruit, that is, to show signs of life and love through its actions and words.

The Importance of Abiding in Christ

To bear fruit, it is necessary to remain in Christ. The vine is the source of life and energy that enables the branches to bear fruit. Jesus himself says this in *verse 4: "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."*

To maintain this connection with Christ, it is necessary to cultivate a life of prayer, Scripture reading, fellowship, and personal giving.

The Fruit of the Christian Life

The fruit that God expects from us is not limited to one thing. In fact, we can identify several types of fruit that should characterize our Christian life.

One of them is love, as it says in *John 15:9-10: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love."*

Another important fruit is joy, as in *verse 11: "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." We also find peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23)*.

The Danger of Separation

Finally, *John 15:5* reminds us that separation from Christ is a real and serious danger. When we lose sight of our connection to the vine, our growth is stunted and our spiritual life begins to wither. Sin, worldliness, and lack of commitment separate us from the source of life and leave us vulnerable to spiritual dryness and death.

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> When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
>
> *— John 19:30*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: wine, Easter, Jesus, Spirit

Interpretation:
John 19:30 is one of the most shocking moments in the life of *Jesus*. This Bible passage talks about Jesus' death on the cross and how His final act here on earth was to say, *"It is finished!"*

This is a tense and meaningful moment that challenges us to reflect on the life and sacrifice of *our Lord and Savior*.

The meaning of “It is finished”

The phrase *“It is finished”* is the Greek word *“tetélestai,”* which means *“was completed”* or *“was perfected.”* When Jesus said this on the cross, He was indicating that He had finished His work here on earth.

He had fulfilled His purpose *to save mankind from sin and death*. His sacrifice on the cross is the fulfillment of the prophecies that spoke of the coming of the Messiah and his sacrifice as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world *(John 1:29)*.

A lesson in love and sacrifice

Jesus' death on the cross is an example of love and sacrifice for us. He loved the world so much that He was willing to give His life for us. *Romans 5:8* says, *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

Jesus' sacrifice is an act of love that shows us the true heart of God and enables us to restore the relationship with Him that was lost after the Fall.

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> In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”
> — *Luke 22:20*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: wine, blood, covenant

Interpretation:
Luke 22:20 refers to *the Lord's Supper* that *Jesus* shared with His disciples before His crucifixion. During the meal, Jesus took bread and wine, using them as a symbol of His body and blood.

The meaning of the new covenant in the Lord's Supper

This new covenant speaks of the new relationship between God and humanity that Jesus established through His death and resurrection. Jesus sacrificed Himself for the forgiveness of our sins, and through His blood we are reconciled to God.

This new covenant brings with it the promise of eternal life and the hope of eternal reconciliation with our Creator. We no longer have to live in sin and separation from God, because Jesus opened the way to justification and redemption.

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> Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”
> *— Matthew 26:27-28*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: wine, blood, covenant, Forgiveness, Jesus, sin

Interpretation:
These verses are found in the biblical account *of Jesus' Last Supper* with His disciples before the crucifixion. During the meal, *Jesus* took the bread and broke it, saying that this was His Body, and then took the cup of wine and said that this was His Blood, which would be shed for the salvation of many.

The context of this passage is *the establishment of the New Covenant*, which is the relationship between God and humanity through *Jesus Christ*. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the final fulfillment of the Old Covenant that God made with His people in the Old Testament, and the beginning of the New Covenant, which offers salvation to all who believe in Him.

Sin and salvation

The New Covenant, established by the blood of Jesus, is the key to the forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation. Sin separates us from God and leads to eternal death, but through Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection, we can be restored to a relationship with God and receive the promise of eternal life.

This passage shows us that Jesus was sent by God to be the final and complete sacrifice for sin. His shed blood is the perfect offering that satisfies God's justice and makes grace and forgiveness available to us.

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