

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Genesis 9:20, 21 *“Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. When he drank some of the wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent”*

Proverbs 23:31, 32 *“Do not gaze at wine when it is red,  
when it sparkles in the cup,  
when it goes down smoothly!  
In the end it bites like a snake  
and poisons like a viper.”*

Proverbs 31:4, 5 *“It is not for kings, O Lemuel –  
not for kings to drink wine,  
not for rulers to crave beer,  
lest they drink and forget what the law decrees,  
and deprive all the oppressed of their rights.”*

Noah had shown determination, fortitude and faith in the face of ridicule and opposition, in his building of the ark before the great flood. But he liked his wine and one of his first tasks on emerging from the ark was to plant a vineyard. He got drunk on its produce which caused divisions among his sons.

There are plenty of warnings in Proverbs about the dangers of alcohol distorting judgement, lowering inhibitions and causing violence. In the days of unclean water wine was a staple drink which in moderation helped to allay anxiety, promote sociability and reduce conflict. The mother of King Lemuel however was aware of the dangers of intoxication particularly in those in authority.

Those warnings are just as relevant today as in biblical times. We need ourselves and our leaders to be clear headed to make wise and thoughtful decisions pleasing to God.