



[Hosea 4:11-12](#)

(11) "Harlotry, wine, and new wine enslave the heart.

(12) My people ask counsel from their wooden *idols*,
And their staff informs them.

For the spirit of harlotry has caused *them* to stray,
And they have played the harlot against their God.

New King James Version

Undoubtedly, the Israelites of Hosea's day were literally getting drunk and involved in harlotry, but for us today the application is spiritual. At the end time, [God](#) predicts, His people will be deceived by a force near demoniacal in its deceptive power. Because of their closeness to [the world](#), they will share the great harlot's attitude, "drunk with the wine of her [fornication](#)" ([Revelation 17:2](#)).

Hosea's word-picture illustrates the effect a drug like alcohol has on a person's mind. Under the influence of alcohol, one's reactions slow, even though the person thinks he has better control. Most fatal accidents in the United States involve automobiles and roughly half of them occur with at least one driver under the influence. In driving while intoxicated, one's ability to make right decisions is severely hampered. Alcohol obscures judgment. When one cannot think clearly, a sound judgment is nearly impossible.

Linked to this inability to make sound judgments is the destruction of inhibitions, modesty and restraint. In addition, alcohol produces a false sense of security and confidence, so people do silly and senseless things while drunk and regret them along with their hangovers.

The same process occurs to a person drunk with the wine of the wrath of this spiritual prostitute. The attitude of this world deprives people of their spiritual judgment and removes their spiritual inhibitions. Their resistance to evil weakens, and they will begin to do things that they vowed they would never do. Like a drunken man's fidelity to his

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wife is destroyed by wine, so is a Christian's loyalty to God when he imbibes of this world's attitudes. His judgment is shattered.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The World, the Church and Laodiceanism](#)

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