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### Review of: Samuele Bacchiocchi, Wine in the Bible: A Biblical Study on the Use of Alcoholic Beverages

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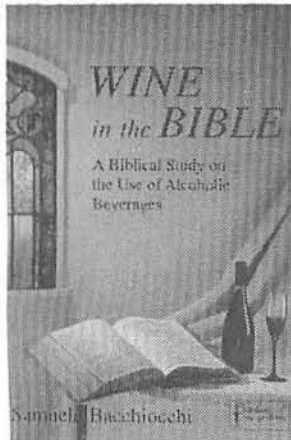
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call from the field" relates to global strategy and *who* is making decisions on global strategy. This series of books should be widely promoted; it provides stimulating, necessary, quality material on missions.

*Kay Clayton (M.A., University of Texas at Arlington) has served as missionary in the Philippines, taught cross-cultural communication and sociology, and presently works as a medical social worker in Fort Worth, Texas.*



**Wine in the Bible: A Biblical Study on the Use of Alcoholic Beverages**, by Samuele Bacchiocchi (Berrien Springs, Michigan: Biblical Perspectives, 1989; 307 pp., \$12.95 paperback).

Reviewed by Roy Gane.

Dr. Bacchiocchi of Andrews University, best known for his

search on the doctrine of the Sabbath, challenges the commonly accepted view that a moderate use of alcoholic beverages is condoned by the Bible. The Old Testament, the sayings and example of Jesus, and the teachings and practice of the apostolic church all point clearly in the direction of total abstinence from intoxicants. Ellen White's position agrees with the biblical evidence.

It is often assumed that the Greek and Hebrew words translated "wine" necessarily denote an intoxicating beverage. Bacchiocchi demonstrates con-

vincingly that these words refer to the juice of the grape, whether fermented or unfermented. Where "wine" is viewed positively in the Bible, the context indicates that the beverage is unfermented. Fermented wine, on the other hand, is spoken of negatively.

Another misconception is that the ancients could not preserve unfermented grape juice. Ancient sources reveal not only success, but also considerable sophistication in the technology of juice preservation. Information regarding the processing of grape products is of significant value in the analysis of some stories and sayings of Jesus in which "wine" appears.

Bacchiocchi's textual interpretation is of unassailable integrity, demonstrating a solid grasp of word usage, grammar, language structure, context, limitations of evidence, and the role of secondary sources. Conclusions with regard to some passages, such as Deuteronomy 14:26, Luke 5:37-39 and Acts 2:13, are fresh and startling.

Not content with producing a theoretical discussion for a scholarly audience, the author states his case in plain language. He emphasizes the immediate moral and social relevance of his study to the modern attitudes about alcohol. Several items contribute to the popular readability of the book: A brief preview of the book's content, bold-type subject headings, fullness of expression (at times to the point of redundancy) and recapitulation of important ideas. The book should be read by everyone concerned about intoxicants and interested in the scriptural teaching on the subject.

*Roy Gane (M.A., University of California, Berkeley) is finishing a Ph.D. in biblical Hebrew language and literature and teaching a course in biblical Hebrew texts at the University of California, Berkeley.*

## You Should Not Turn . . .

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future with premiums we must pay now and a policy that can be redeemed only at death.

What I really want to say to Chris is that in looking into religion he is headed in the right direction, but his real discovery will not begin until he realizes that God has already turned to him in Jesus Christ. My desire for him and all of us is that we know that and experience it in the very depths of our being. I pray that we all see that in reality it is God who has been searching for us. In Jesus Christ God's search is over. We have been found by His beloved

Son. God's mission to this earth was successful. He accomplished what he set out to do. In Jesus Christ we are the recipients of God's grace now while we await all that will be ours in the future. What a wonderful way to live each day—and what a glorious hope for tomorrow!

*Ron Pickell (M.Div., Andrews University) is Adventist chaplain on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and director of Terrace House—an Adventist student center.*

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