

# ONEG SHABBAS

THE UNOFFICIAL PARASHAH SHEET FOR KIDDUSH CLUBS

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## To Drink or Not to Drink: The Expression “To Drink” in the Torah

Rabbi Drew Kaplan

With the appearance of the phrase “to drink” (לשתות) appearing in this week’s Torah portion, I was curious to discover how frequently it appeared in the Torah and how it appears. It turns out that this week’s Torah portion features the final appearance of this word.

Of the nine appearances of this word, the first three appear in Genesis, all regarding animals drinking, whether camels (Gen. 24:19 and Gen. 24:22) or goats (Gen. 30:38). The first three appearances of this term in the book of Exodus concern the Egyptians unable to drink water, due to the first of the ten plagues (Ex. 7:18, 7:21, & 7:24). The final appearance of this word in the book of Exodus describes the lack of water for the Israelites to drink at Rephidim (Ex. 17:1).

In the book of Numbers, the first appearance is in a strange complaint by the Israelites, complaining about the lack of water to drink (Num. 20:5), although that deserves its own



separate discussion. The final appearance in the Torah, as I mentioned earlier, is the recap of the lack of water to drink at Rephidim (Num. 33:14), previously mentioned in the book of Exodus.

Surely, water is not only an important beverage, it is perhaps the most important beverage to drink, not only for humans, but, as we read in the book of Genesis, for animals, as well. So the lack of potable water in a desert (or anywhere, really) becomes a vital issue of life and death.

Understandably, a riot broke out, but fortunately, water was able to be furnished to our ancestors (Ex. 17:7). Interestingly, none of these details are mentioned here, just a note on location with this lack of potable water. Commenting on the verse in our Torah portion, Rabbi Moses ben Nahman (1194-1270) (aka Ramban) points out that it was a “דבר גדול” what happened there “כי הוא המקום הניכר והנודע בו” because it was the place that was recognized and known by this incident”, even though there were other aspects of the incident.

Having a riot break out and being attacked by Amalek were not significant enough to be mentioned, but not having water to drink, however, is, according to Ramban. Clearly, for the Torah to mention this incident, it surely stuck out as a memorable moment. Hopefully, none of us are without water to drink, for, if we were, like our ancestors, would surely remember it. May we never lack water to drink (or anything else). l’chaim



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Oneg Shabbas is a project of Jewish Drinking, Inc., a 501(c)3 initiative to educate about drinking in Jewish wisdom, tradition, history, practice, and more in order to enrich people's lives. This publication is composed by, edited by, and published by Rabbi Drew Kaplan. If you have any comments, compliments, or suggestions, he can be reached at [Drew@JewishDrinking.com](mailto:Drew@JewishDrinking.com)

# The Jewish Drinking Show

## Drink

## Upcoming Episodes

### Recommendations?

While *The Jewish Drinking Show* is currently on a summer break with episodes set to return in mid-August, a new segment on the show encourages listeners to share with listeners their own personal recommendations of beverages. With a couple of episodes already having received listener input for suggested beverages, we would love to receive your recommendations for fellow listeners. These audio and/or video clips are suggested to be 60-90-second video clips on a beverage they want to recommend, especially if it is a beverage that they not only enjoy, as well as being widely available and perhaps a beverage that people are generally either not necessarily aware of or familiar with but something to encourage. Submissions may be sent by email to [Drew@JewishDrinking.com](mailto:Drew@JewishDrinking.com) or by WhatsApp at 562-400-5627.



### Announced

While *The Jewish Drinking Show* is currently on a summer break with episodes set to return in mid-August, here is the tentative lineup of August through October episodes, which includes the Toast to Israel at 75 series:

- 22 August – Jay Buchsbaum: K kosher Runs at European Wineries (Royal Wine) [Episode #138]
- 29 August – Tal Chotiner & Gal Kalkshtein: Creating Israel's First Whiskey Distillery (M&H) [Episode #139]
- 5 September – Adam Montefiore: Contemporary Wine Trends in Israel [Episode #140]
- 12 September – Doug Greener: Contemporary Beer Trends in Israel [Episode #141]
- Fall holidays break
- 10 October – Ephraim Greenblatt & Shmuel Naki: Creating a Brewery in Jerusalem (Hatch) [Episode #142]
- 17 October – Shmuel Naki (& Ephraim Greenblatt): Creative Brewing in Israel (Schmulz) [Episode #143]
- 24 October – Bennett Kaplan: Jerusalem's Distillery (Thinkers) [Episode #144]
- 31 October – Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Sinensky: Man Seders [Episode #145]

## Wine Wednesday Events

Continuing on in our monthly Texts-and-Tastings series, we will continue our Wine Wednesday miniseries over the course of the next two months. These Wine Wednesday events will be taking place on August 2nd and September 13th at 8:00pm at a private residence in Cincinnati.

Having begun with events in April and May, we recently held our July event this week, enjoying three wines from Twin Suns, as well as kosher-for-Passover reposado tequila (all courtesy of The River Wine), pairing it with a discussion of The Third Century Kiddush Club Conundrum and Its Aftermath in the Talmud.

For the August and September events, we will be enjoying Israeli products, including not only wines supplied for review

purposes by [KosherWine.com](http://KosherWine.com), but also a gin and a couple of wildly creative beers.



The surprise hit of Wednesday evening's event was Twin Suns' Buttery Chardonnay (picture courtesy of Eric Schwartzberg)

As we have done at previous events in this series, for attendees interested in doing so, we will be recording review videos to share.

In addition to the August and September events, stay tuned for information on October's event in a sukkah on Drinking in the Book of Ecclesiastes (קהלת) and November's Mezcal and Mourning event.

While there is no charge to attend, a minimum suggested donation of \$18 is requested. Both men and women are welcome to attend these events. For more on this series, visit [JewishDrinking.com/CincyEvents](http://JewishDrinking.com/CincyEvents)

If you are, or know of someone, who struggles with alcohol abuse, alcoholism, or other substance abuse, there are resources out there to help, which are available at [JewishDrinking.com/AlcoholAbuse](http://JewishDrinking.com/AlcoholAbuse)