

John 2 vs 1-12

Glorious celebration:

The Bridegroom Messiah arrives with a
“bang”!

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Glorious Celebration

John 2 vs 1-12

Setting the scene....

When we read narrative, we can expect the narrator to tell us what we are supposed to make of the passage.

For example ... John tells us what his gospel is all about in chapter 20 vs 30-31:

***Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples,
which are not written in this book;
31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.***

Also – it's worth knowing that the chapter and verse numbers in our text weren't there in John's original script or any of the New Testament writings. They were added in the 13th century (chapter numbers) and the 16th century (verse numbers). So they are all relatively new and sometimes not brilliant!

With the New Testament originally written as straight text, the way the authors helped the reader, or listener, was to give clear indications of how their material was organised, and when they were moving on to a new subject in the text.

This section of John is organised around 2 signs or miracles – they are the 'book ends':

- Beginning at the start of chapter 2 - with the miracle at the wedding...
- ...and closing in chapter 4 - with the gift of life from death for the official's son

Pretty much all that is written between these 2 miracles hangs together - i.e. it's all on the same theme.

- Yet another sign that this is actually sophisticated writing – not that of some ignorant peasant fisherman!

John 2 vs 1-12: *On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."*

⁶Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. ⁹When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

¹²After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

What does John say that this first story in Chapter 2 is about?

v 11 ***This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.***

➤ So... Jesus' glory ... and their belief

Did you know...

Galilee was an important fishing and trading centre in the far north of the country. The New Bible Dictionary says:

'This, then, was the region in which Christ grew up - at Nazareth, in the limestone hills of lower Galilee. Thanks to its position, it was traversed by several major route-ways of the Empire, and was therefore far from being a rural backwater.'

Back to vs 1-12 ... How does this wine miracle reveal Jesus' glory?

Or is this simply the provision of wine at a wedding – the comparison being as if we would pop out to the off licence and get some more wine in?!

Answer..... NO!

➤ Just look at the vast quantity

v 6: ***Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons...***

....that is at least 1000 bottles of wine!

➤ and the excellent quality

v 10: ***“Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.”***

= 120-180 gallons of the very finest wine known to man ... and provided not by the bridegroom but by the promised LORD!!

Let the party begin!

This picture of such wonderful provision is neither new to the Jewish audience, nor without deep symbolism.

Let's look at what is said by the prophet Isaiah about God's plan for a 'Messianic banquet' - 700+ years before Jesus came:

Isaiah 25 vs 6-9:

*On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.*

*7 And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.*

*8 He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.*

*9 It will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”*

This reading from Isaiah would be well known to the Jews – an understandably popular explanation of what would happen when the promised Messiah/Heavenly Bridegroom comes.... And WHAT a celebration:

- A great feast (with aged wine...really difficult to achieve in their time) and
- the removal of death!
- In other words - the 2 signs of John chapters 2 -4!

It is a major Old Testament theme that God’s Kingdom, when it comes, will be a mighty feast – the expectation being that this feast will be brought by God’s King - the Bridegroom of John 2 v 9...

Hence Isaiah 25 v 9: ***It will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he
might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”***

So – with this miracle, Jesus reveals ***His glory*** at this wedding feast.

v 11 ***This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.***

In other words, this event, taking place at an international cross road in the country, was the equivalent of an “atomic bomb” sized explosion, announcing the arrival of the promised LORD... the Heavenly Bridegroom! He – who has arrived to bring God’s new kingdom.

The account of this miracle would have “rocketed” up each roadway Surely you would have read about this event in your newspaper the next day!

Timing is everything...

John 2 v 4: *And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.”*

We get a great insight through this conversation with Mary, Jesus’ mother. Effectively Jesus seems to be saying: “Don’t think that this is why I have come - to do party tricks - you ain’t seen nothing yet!”

v 4 ***“My hour has not yet come”***

But - WHICH ***hour?***

Jesus keeps referring to his '**hour**' throughout the three years of his ministry. He refers to it in chapters 5, 12 and 17.

ch 17 v 1 : ***When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you."***

- So 'the hour' refers to his death and resurrection – i.e. the glorification of Christ.

Jesus – the King of the Messianic banquet – is The KING over all – but in this incident, at the start of the gospel, he makes it clear to his mother that the hour for his crucifixion and coronation has not yet arrived.

What will become self-evident as we review this book?

- There IS a plan - there is '**an hour**'!
- The Cross of Christ IS the plan!

Remember John 1 vs 3-4:

All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men

And John 1 vs 14:

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

So - Jesus' glory is revealed.

No pretender here – THIS is the 'real deal' – someone in control for eternity!

WHAT a contrast with the way that many Caesarsand world leaders before and since....have attempted to rule and be viewed as if they were immortal!!

What comes next...

After the "bombshell" of the wedding announcement that the Heavenly Bridegroom has arrived, we travel from Galilee to the very heart of the Jewish nationthe Temple in Jerusalem.

We arrive at the biggest festival event of the entire year – 'Passover' - when the Jews celebrate what..??

- Why ... Being SAVED!!

So – 'The Saviour' arrives and acts as if he owns 'the joint'!

John 2 vs 1-12

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