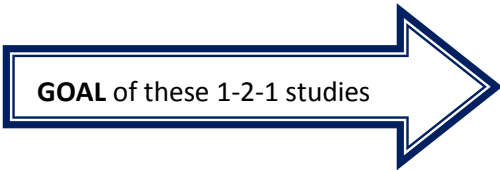


Summary sheet 4 for John 2 vs 1-25 – (part A - vs 1-12)



GOAL of these 1-2-1 studies

Realise that Jesus has arrived to bring in God's new creation (messianic) age – this is both wonderful and uncomfortable...

Context – how does this passage fit in?

The big build-up in ch 1 told us that Jesus is God and the Ruler/Messiah promised long ago in the OT. Now we see him in action... as both the wonderful Messiah who displays His glory by proving He is the one to usher in the promised messianic banquet and also that he is zealous for God's name as the promised Judge.

Remember John's purpose in writing this Gospel (20vs31) – we now see what it means for Jesus to be the Christ and also begin to see something of what it means to 'believe in his name' - responding rightly to his words not just being impressed by the miracles.

Impact on us

John wants us, like the disciples, to believe that Jesus is the promised glorious Messiah, and that his new creation kingdom is wonderful, one of celebration and rich satisfaction. But his rule will also prove unsettling – because he has come to deal with sin.

How John writes to make his point

Turning water into wine is the first of the major 'signs' Jesus does. These signs are more than just displays of miraculous power to impress people. They point to deeper realities, revealing who Jesus is and why he has come. The first two signs John records, in 2vs1-11 and 4vs46-54 (the healing of the official's son), act as bookends of this section. So, as we read the section we should be on the look-out for the major themes that will be introduced by the first sign and summed up by the second. We can expect the material in the middle to provide the explanation of these signs.

Structure

2vs1-12: God's Ruler is here. He is powerful and generous, able to bring in the longed for wonderful new creation in the future – Glory!

2vs13-25: God's Ruler is here to bring revolution and a new temple – Judgment!

John's references to the Old Testament and why they matter – vs 1-12

Messianic age/abundance of good wine

OT prophets spoke of a time when God's people would be gathered together, God Himself would dwell with them, and they would obey him joyfully in a land filled with peace and plenty. This 'messianic age' would be marked by a large quantity of very good wine (Amos 9vs13-15, Isaiah 25vs6-9). Jesus turning water into wine confirms the claim of chapter 1 that he is the glorious Messiah who will bring in this wonderful age.

Some questions to consider – vs 1-12

Opener: How would most people expect Jesus to behave at a party?

Considering the text1: What picture do we get of who Jesus is and what he's come to do from this miracle?

Considering the text2: How do the Old Testament prophecies in Isaiah and Amos sharpen our understanding of what Jesus is showing about himself here?

Considering the text3: v11 says Jesus "manifested his glory. And the disciples believed in him." What does this mean? What were the disciples believing about Jesus? How does this correct the common idea of God as a 'spoilsport'?

One to keep chewing on: What do you think are the pros and cons of having Jesus as your ruler?