

The Beginning of Jesus' Signs (John 2:1–22)

Englewood Bible Church

Dr. John Niemelä

January 26, 2011

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW OF JOHN 1

1:1-18 is like a movie trailer, previewing themes in John's Gospel

Jesus, who is fully God is also with God (the Father and the Spirit)

Question regarding John 1:1: How can Jesus be with God and be God?

GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

Joseph lived in Nazareth while single (Luke 1:27). So did Mary while she was single.

Sepphoris: A likely reason for Joseph residing in Nazareth (even while single)

Sepphoris: A reason for many Judeans moving to lower Galilee

Mary seems to have relatives in Cana (maybe a marriage of her nephew or niece)

John 2:3–5 shows her in a role where the kitchen help

Sepphoris and Nazareth are close to each other

CHRONOLOGY OF JOHN 1:19–3:21

AD 29: John the Baptist's ministry started (15th yr of Tiberius: Lk 3:1): a solid date

Latter half of AD 29: The Baptist's ministry caught Sanhedrin's attention (John 1:19ff.)

Fact-finding committee came when John was very popular (cf. 4:1)

Not the very beginning of John's ministry and probably not in heat of summer.

If at the very beginning, crowds would not yet have become sizeable.

If in the heat of summer, crowds probably would not remain sizeable.

Then, Jesus met first 5 disciples & went to Cana one week later (1:35–2:1)
1:35-40 = Andrew and another disciple (whom I believe was John)
1:41-42 = Peter
1:43-49 = Philip and Nathanael

Jesus came to Jerusalem for the Passover (which was April 7, AD 30) (John 2:13)

Feast of Unleavened Bread lasted seven more days (until April 14, AD 30)
This is a solid date, because the *naos* (the sanctuary) was completed 46 years earlier. (18/17 BC completion + 46 years = AD 29/30)

John 2:20 literally reads: This sanctuary has been built 46 years.

Translators have not noticed that the Judeans refer to the holy place (sanctuary = *naos* in Greek), not the Temple courts (which would be *hieron* in Gk). Josephus dates the completion of the holy place 46 years prior to AD 30. Cf. Hoehner, *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*

Jesus remained in Jerusalem for the eight days (April 7–14), possibly a bit longer

He left Jerusalem after April 14, AD 30 (3:22); as John the Baptist ministered (3:23-36)

He left for Galilee (John 4:1-2) when John the Baptist was jailed (Mat 4:12; Mk 1:14)

NEW EXPOSITION: Water to Wine (John 2:1–12) & Jesus' First Passover (John 2:13–22)
Water to Wine (John 2:1–12)

Jesus, His disciples, and His mother invited to a wedding feast in Cana (2:1–2)
Joseph unmentioned. He may have died, but John 6:42 sounds like he was alive.

Jesus' mother said, "They have no wine" (2:3); she expected Him to do a miracle, because Jesus said, "Woman, what [is that] to you & to me? My hour has not yet come." (2:4)

His mother told the servants to obey Jesus' instructions (2:5)

Six stone 20–30 gal. waterpots were there according to Judean purification rites (2:6)

Mark 7:1–4 shows that a lot of water for hand washing would have been used

Handwashing would occur before and after eating

The family seems to be related to Mary, so they would be Judean. they may well have followed Judean custom (if, in fact Judean and Galilean weddings differed)

Jesus told them to [re]fill the waterpots with water. They filled them to the brim (2:7)—

Fullness to the brim shows that nothing was added to the water.

He told them to draw some water for the master of ceremonies, which they did (2:8)

When the master of ceremonies tasted the wine, he asked the bridegroom why he did not serve this better wine first (when the guests first started drinking) (2:9–10)

For those who think that this was grape juice, verse 10 says otherwise

Furthermore, this wedding was months after the grape harvest

This first sign before His disciples manifested His glory. They believed in Him (2:11)

Jesus, His mother, His brothers & His disciples visited Capernaum briefly (2:12)

The brothers were Mary and Joseph's children (born through normal means).

(They were not Jesus' cousins, as one denomination claims)

THE (FIRST) TEMPLE CLEANSING (John 2:13–22)

Jesus (and His disciples) went to Jerusalem for the Passover (2:13)

Sacrificial animal sellers and moneychangers were doing business (2:14)

Mark 12:17 (at 2nd Temple cleansing) shows the Gentile Court filled w/ animals

He drove them out with a whip and rebuked them for making the Father's House into a house of merchandise (2:15–16)

CONCLUSION