

## John 2:1-11 The Glory of Christ in the Messianic Age

John 1:14 says: “**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.**” John writes many years after Jesus is gone (from the earth). And it is brilliant! He looks back upon the FULL work of Jesus on the earth including his birth, his life, his death, his resurrection, and his ascension in such a way that the stories he gives to us reveal the glory of Christ in fullness. This story begins a section in John’s Gospel often called the Book of Signs, signs that reveal his glory (2:1-12:50). And this “SIGN” is at the VERY BEGINNING of Jesus’ public ministry, the beginning of his miracles, the beginning of his teaching, the beginning of his preaching, the VERY days he begins to announcement that the Kingdom of God has come. So I believe this sign has a special place to announce the coming of the Messiah and his kingdom. We could also call this the “Messianic Age.” With this in mind, I have 3 truths of the glory of Christ in the Messianic Age: 1) The Messianic Age Finds Fulfilment in the Messiah; 2) The Messianic Age is the Fulfilment of the Old Covenant With Israel; and 3) The Messianic Age Enjoys the Abundant Blessings of God.

1. The Messianic Age Finds fulfillment in the Messiah. Look at vv. 3-4: “**When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’ 4 And Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.’**” Before getting to my point, let’s think about the story. Two days after Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael (on the third day), these new disciples accompany Jesus and his family to a wedding in Cana (remember Nathanael is from Cana). I think we can assume with certainty that this must be a friend of Jesus’ family because of his ability to invite his disciples as well as Mary’s particular interest in the wine running out). (Also, we might assume that Joseph has already passed since he is not mentioned. Remember Jesus’ saying to John while on the cross, “*Behold your mother.*” And, this may explain Mary’s reliance on Jesus as the firstborn son of the family.)

Now, weddings in that culture could last up to a week. And at some point, the wine ran out. It was the responsibility of the bridegroom to make sure all the wedding supplies (especially the wine) did not run out. Now, wine in their day was diluted with water and less potent than our wine today (similar alcoholic content of beer). This was a big problem and would come with social embarrassment for the bridegroom and even a possible lawsuit (It was a big deal to run out of wine). So, Mary, concerned for the reputation of her friends, goes to Jesus with the problem . . . “*We are out of wine.*” And Jesus says to her: “**Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.**” Now, we may find this address of “*woman, what does this have to do with me and you*” as a bit offensive, but in that culture, this was not the case. This was not a sexist or rude remark; nor was it degrading to Mary (more about this in a moment). And then Jesus says, my “*time*” or my “*hour*” has not yet come. This is one of the keys to understanding our text. What does Jesus mean by “my hour (time) is not yet?” What do you think?

Well, I first think of the Cross. In John 12:27 Jesus says, “**Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this**

**hour.**” Jesus speaks these words right before he goes to the cross. Over and over in the Book of John he refers to the “hour” of Jesus as his death on the cross. Brothers and sisters, this is why Jesus came. Jesus came for this hour! He came into this world to lay down his life as a sacrifice for sinners. He came as the fulfillment of All God’s Promises pictured in the animal sacrifices of Israel. This is why we are here today! We are here because God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son for us, for this “**HOUR.**”

And in these words of Jesus in the middle of a wedding, Jesus begins his public ministry, announcing, in an informal “rebuke” of his mother, that this is why he had come. And there is more! John also refers to the “hour” of Jesus as his GLORIFICATION. In John 12:28 (following what we just read) he prays to the Father, “**Father, glorify your name.**” In John 12:23, concerning the “hour” of the cross he says, “**The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.**” In other words, the cross and his sacrificial death is not the end. He will rise again and God will glorify him further as he will ascend to heaven. But the glory does not come without the cross! As Heb. 1:3 says, “**after making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high . . .**”

So, in these words Jesus is announcing the coming of the Messianic Kingdom with HIM as the center of this kingdom, which finds its central point in his death . . . AND resurrection . . . AND ascension. And what are the effects of this “hour”? Well, ALL the promises of God to Israel find their fulfillment in the Kingdom of the Son, in the AGE of the MESSIAH. And here we are today! I think of Jesus’ words to the woman at the well in John 4:23: “**But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.**” Or in John 5:25: “**Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.**” And in vv. 28-29: “**Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.**”

Brothers and sisters in this wedding and this “sign” we see the beginning of Jesus’ ministry and his particular work as the Messiah. In this first “sign” we see the Kingdom of the Son beginning to be fulfilled. And today, we still live in this kingdom! And it will not finish until sin, the devil, and death have been defeated forever. This will happen at his coming. And then, he will turn the kingdom over to the Father. But, in the meantime, we live NOW in the age of the Messiah and his kingdom.

Application: There is a difference between the people of God and the people of this “world.” I believe by calling Mary “woman” Jesus begins to distinguish his position as the Messiah, as the Son of God. Now, he was always a good son (the best son) to Mary, but at this wedding Jesus establishes himself as the first “brother” of a spiritual family. In Matt. 12:46-50 we read: “**While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside,**

asking to speak to him. But he replied to the man who told him, **“Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?”** And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, **“Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”** Mary was concerned with the wine running out. Jesus was more concerned with what He came to do as the Messiah. Today, you (and I) are part of the family of God if we do the will of God, namely to follow the Lord Jesus with all our heart soul mind and strength and obey his commands.

(Extra Picture: John’s use of a 7-day week culminating in the Sabbath: the day of the wedding and the miracle. With the coming of Jesus, the people of God can finally find rest!)

2. The Messianic Age is the fulfillment of the old covenant with Israel. Let’s continue through the story in vv. 5-10: **“His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”** (Apply this briefly.) **“Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. When 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 and 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.”**

I believe that in this “sign” John wants to show us that in Jesus, the old has passed, the new has come. In this miracle we find six stone water jars used for Jewish rites of purification. In the covenant with Moses God gave Israel laws and rules to follow concerning ritual cleansing of the body. And these stone jars were used for that purpose. Stone jars would keep the water more clean than other types of containers. And Jesus tells the servants to fill these jars with water and then the miracle happens (mystery). They take the jars of water, turned to wine, to the master of the feast. I believe this pictures that the ritual demands of the Mosaic law were being replaced by the “NEW” Messianic provision by Jesus.

As Jesus himself says in Matt. 5:17: **“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”** I think of Jesus words from Mark 2:22: **“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.”** Did you know that most of the NT is spent teaching and explaining this truth. The Messiah has come! As Heb. 1:1 says **“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.”** Today, Jesus is the true prophet, the true priest, the true king! All God’s promises in the OT find their fulfillment in Him!

3. The Messianic Age Enjoys the Abundant Blessings of God. In this story we see that the bridegroom fails to provide enough wine for the guests. But, what does Jesus do? He provides all

the wine necessary for the rest of the wedding. At some point during the wedding, the wine runs out, and Jesus doesn't merely turn a few glasses or few jugs into wine. He gives wine in abundance. These six purification jars were HUGE! Each one contained around 8 to 9 gallons. So, we are looking at upwards of 50 gallons of wine. And we know that at this point during the wedding, the great majority of drinking had already taken place (v. 10) as many were drunk. At this point the master of ceremonies didn't really care what kind of wine was provided as long as it were provided! The people doing the majority of the drinking wouldn't care either, as long as there was wine! Even at our small gatherings for dinner of around 100 people, we get by with 7 or 8 gallons of tea (plenty)! But, here Jesus provides more than 50 gallons: AN ABUNDANCE! And, this wine, I am sure, would have been the best tasting wine ever known to mankind!

What a beautiful picture! Today, in the New Covenant, in the age of the Messiah, in the days of his kingdom, we enjoy the abundant blessings of God. In the OT, wine in abundance describes the days of abundance coming with the Messiah. In Jer. 31:12-14: **“They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the LORD.”** Joel 3:18: **“And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the streambeds of Judah shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the LORD and water the Valley of Shittim.”** Amos 9:13-14: **“The mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.”**

Brothers and sisters, today, Jesus IS the TRUE bridegroom. As the Church WE are the BRIDE of Christ. And IN HIM ALL the blessings of God flow down to us. As your husband the Lord Jesus provides all your needs for life and godliness in this world! **“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”** (1:14). Today, if you are a Christian, consider what abundant blessings you have in Christ! Eph. 1: **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. 5 In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he LAVISHED upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his**

**purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory”** (Eph. 1:3-14). Brothers and sisters, Today, by the power of the Holy Spirit we have been given the BEST wine in ABUNDANCE!

Application: What is the purpose of these signs? . . . ***“That you might believe.”*** (John 20:31). Do you believe this gospel we preach? And if so, what are you doing to proclaim Jesus and his works! (to your family, to your friends, to this world). If we are Christians, we are like John. We proclaim to the world the glory of the Son and his kingdom! How is it going?

Application: Miracles always point to something more. The miracles of the Bible are given for many reasons, mainly to bring glory to God. But, they also picture the miracle of salvation. We must never forget that as Jesus turned the water to wine, so God takes our hearts of stone and turns them to hearts of living flesh.

Application: Obey the commands of Christ! As Mary tells the servants to “do whatever he tells you,” Are you doing everything he tells you to do?

Today, I hope these truths help us to see the glory of Christ and his kingdom in the age of the Messiah.