

The New Age

Introduction

John chapter 2 begins a new sub-section of chapters 1-12, one in which the emphasis is on the 'New Age' of salvation, ushered in by the coming of Jesus, the Messiah. The section begins and ends with a 'sign' performed in Cana of Galilee (John 2vs11; 4vs54). These signs, together with those performed in Jerusalem (John 2vs23) reveal Jesus' glory and ought to lead to faith in Him. However, such is the nature of the human heart, that nothing short of new birth is required if anyone is to see and enter the kingdom of God. As we shall see, the section is rich with imagery and Old Testament allusion, all of which point to the fact that Jesus is indeed the Life giving King of God's new Kingdom.

Study Questions

These questions help you to see clearly what the text is saying. This is a vital first step towards understanding what the section means. The questions should be answered from the text itself.

Read John 2vs 1-25. Answer the following questions:

1. How does Jesus respond to Mary's request for his involvement?
(Hint: note what Jesus says (a) to Mary (b) about 'His time')

2. What role does Jesus fulfil by providing wine for the wedding?

3. What does the creation of wine out of water reveal about Jesus?
(John 2vs11)

4. What response did this produce from the disciples? (John 2vs11)

5. How should we interpret Jesus' cleansing of the temple? (John 2vs17)

6. What authority does Jesus have for His cleansing of the temple? (John 2vs19)

7. What is the temple to which Jesus refers?

8. Why did Jesus not entrust Himself to those who 'believed' in Him in Jerusalem? (John 2vs25)

Think it Through

1. Read Amos 9vs13-15, Isaiah 25vs6-8 and Joel 2vs18-32. What light do these chapters cast on Jesus' action in creating wine? With whom should Jesus be identified in these Old Testament promises?

2. Read 2 Samuel 7vs11b-13. How does this relate to Jesus own words in John 2vs19?