

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

The Book of John

Lesson 6

Return pages 6 & 7 only

Read John 2: 1-11

First Samuel 1:9 says, *So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.* Do you remember that? Hannah praying? And Eli marked her mouth and says in 1 Samuel 1:13-15, Eli thought she had been drunken. She had drunk but she was not drunken. So drunk is simply the past tense of drink. Drunken is to be overcome with alcohol. So with the cross reference, if you look at John 2:10, when men have well drunk, that does not mean they are intoxicated, that just means they had a sufficient amount to drink.

Let us discuss this wine and alcohol subject. We will be turning to Leviticus 10, Proverbs 20, Proverbs 23, Proverbs 31, Isaiah 65 and Deuteronomy 32. First let me give you the real simple answer to this and then we will run the real complicated answer. The simple answer, in verse 9, *When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine...*; now listen. If I make grapes into wine, grapes ferment. If I make watermelon into wine, watermelon ferments. There are all kinds of wine because fruits will ferment. Water will not ferment. (Fermenting is a process whereby when that fruit decays it turns to alcohol and you can get drunk off of it or get intoxicated.) But water will not ferment! So if Jesus made wine out of water, He was not making an alcoholic fermented drink. So that is the simple answer.

Now let's run the references and get the complicated answers.

(1) Would Jesus violate the word of God? The answer is no. Leviticus 10:8-11 *And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying, Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations: And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean; And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.* So wine and strong drink are identified in Leviticus 10 as being unholy and unclean. I just cannot comprehend how anyone would believe that Jesus Christ would engage in an activity that was connected with being unholy and being unclean, especially when God gave that command to Aaron the High Priest and Jesus Christ as we know from scripture is the great High Priest.

(2) Proverbs 20:1 *Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.* Was Jesus a deceiver? No. Is intoxicating wine a deceiver? Why would Jesus Christ be joined to darkness? Why would Jesus Christ be joined to Belial? Why would that which is clean be joined to that which is unclean? The Lord God in a body of flesh is not going to say in Proverbs 20, do not be deceived by wine; do not be deceived by intoxicants – and then deceive a bunch of people by giving it to them, especially when they have already been drinking. That is in complete violation of His word!

(3) Proverbs 23:31-32 *Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.* Now, I know who the serpent is; and it is not Jesus. Why would Jesus be giving

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someone something that would bite them like a **serpent**? Why would Jesus be giving someone something that they were told not to even *look upon*?

(4) Proverbs 31:4-7 *It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.* Lets look at this passage as Christians. What does the book of Revelation say we are? We are kings and priests unto God. Look at verse 4. *it is not for kings to drink wine...* So there you go – just cross reference Revelation 1:6 with Proverbs 31:4 and there is the answer. Is Jesus declared in John 1 as the King of the Jews? Then He is not giving out fermented wine, is He? It is not for princes to drink strong drink. Is God your Father? Is He King of Kings? Then you are a prince, So strong drink is not for you!

Look at verse 5 Why would Jesus be giving men something that would cause them to forget the law and pervert judgment? (Proverbs 31:5) He would not do that.

Now, lets see who does get a drink? Who is entitled to a drink?

(1) *Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish...*(Proverbs 31:6) Is anybody at this wedding ready to perish? How about the application to Christians? ...*whosoever believeth on him shall not PERISH, but have everlasting life.* So Christians are not included.

(2) *...and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.* Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Rejoice evermore. (Philippines 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16) Wine is what you use if you do not have Jesus. I have been at funerals, and hear someone say, "I just want to get out of here and go get drunk." If this is the only life and you have nothing to look forward too, I do not blame you – I would go get drunk too. So Christians are not included. You know Jesus Christ and hope of everlasting life, you could rejoice in the Lord knowing that there is eternal life beyond this one.

(3) Then it says in Proverbs 31:7. *Let him drink, and forget his poverty...* I am heir of God and a joint-heir with Christ.

(4) *...and remember his misery no more.* That is not the kind of Christian I want to be around! So whenever I meet a Christian that says, "I do not think it is wrong to drink. I think it is okay to drink a little bit..." I just figure that they are dead or perverted or they are a miserable Christian.

(5) Isaiah 65:8. There is Biblical proof that all wine is not intoxicating beverage. The biblical use of the word wine. *Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all.* Now, you can do a number of things with grapes. You can eat them. You can dry them and they turn into raisins. You can squeeze them or crush them and drink the juice or you can squeeze them or crush them and allow the juice to ferment and then drink it. Now, according to the Bible, the juice in that grape while it is still in the cluster is referred to as new wine that grape in that cluster is not fermented.

(6) Deuteronomy 32: 14 *Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape. ...the pure blood of the grape.* So you have a couple of things in your Bible. You have unleavened bread and you have leavened bread. What is leaven in bread? It is a corrupting agent. What is fermentation in wine? It is a corrupting agent. Jesus Christ is not peddling corruption; He is peddling purity. So if Jesus gave anybody wine in John 2, it would have been pure wine (Deuteronomy 32); it would have been new wine (Isaiah 65). It would not have been corrupted and ferment wine.

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(7) Habakkuk 2:15 *Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!* Now if the Bible says, Woe to the man that putteth the bottle to his neighbors lips, do you really think Jesus did that? The law says in several places not to give intoxicating beverages to people unless they are getting ready to die? Jesus would not of violated the law by giving intoxicating beverages to people celebrating at a wedding!" This is a public miracle – the first miracle in 450 years.

Now, we have three lessons, in this passage, for Israel and a fourth lesson that applies to the church.

Number one. By working a miracle, Jesus is identified as that Prophet like unto Moses. We read those verses in the last chapter about that Prophet and about the Deuteronomy reference to the Prophet like unto Moses – Let me read this to you from Exodus 7:19. *And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone.* So in Exodus 7, here is a stone pot with water in it and you put a dipper in there and pull it put and you have red blood in there instead. This man Jesus walks into this wedding at Cana of Galilee and says, "pour some clear water in there." And they pour some clear water in there and they reach a dipper in there and what do they pull out? The pure blood of the grape. Now this made somebody scratch their head and say, wait a minute... wait a minute... I remember something about that in the Bible, about somebody turning water into blood."

Secondly. Jesus held the scepter of Judah, subduing all nations. What does that have to do with this miracle? Look at Genesis 49 and Revelation 14 and Isaiah 63. The first miracle Jesus wrought had to do with blood – the pure blood of the grape! Jesus was the lion of what tribe? Judah. Genesis 49:9-11 *Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?* So you have a lion coming out of Judah. The prophecy of Judah has to do with a lion crouched down (Calvary), rising up (Second Coming.) What follows the rising up? Sceptre. The Kingdom. *The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: ...the blood of grapes,* connected with what?

The lion out of Judah rising up to rule; rising up to subdue His enemies. So Jesus walks on the scene and Nathanael says, I know who you are. You are the King of Israel. And Jesus says, "Come on down to this wedding and I'll show you something." And He turns water into blood, the pure blood of the grape, matching Moses. He turns water into the pure blood of the grape matching the prophecy of the lion, the one holding the sceptre that should come out of Judah.

Revelation 14:18. *And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.* So here is this angel that comes. Look at figure God is using. I want you to come down, I want you to swing a sickle and I want you to gather up all these clusters of grapes. Where were the people gathered in Revelation? They gathered in Armageddon. Armageddon is a valley; mountains on either side. What is going to happen in the valley of Megiddo? Blood is going to flow.

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Isaiah 63:1-3. *Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.* Jesus Christ's second coming is connected to blood; and the reference to that blood have to do with clusters and vines and grapes and somebody treading grapes. The first miracle that He works, proving He is God Almighty, has to do with a marriage and following that marriage there is this picture blood..

Thirdly. Jesus (we're just looking at the pictures here) This pictures Jesus miraculously delivering Israel and Judah from the nations round about them. Let us go to a Bible story you may not be too familiar with. Second Kings 3. Jehoram is reigning in verse 1 and he is evil. 2 Kings 3:4. And Mesha king of Moab, he is paying tribute to the king of Israel 2 Kings 3:6 Jehoram went out of Samaria and numbered Israel and sent to Jehoshaphat and said the king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to battle? And Jehoshaphat agrees to do so. And they asked these prophets if they should go and it is just not a good idea all together. But you get down to 2 Kings 3:13, *And Elisha said unto the king of Israel, What have I to do with thee?* Now, where did you hear that phrase before? *What have I to do with thee? get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother. And the king of Israel said unto him, Nay: for the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab.* He said, "look, the twelve tribes... we are going to get swallowed up by the Moabites here! We are surrounded! *And Elisha said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee. But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him. And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Make this valley full of ditches. For thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts.* So they went out and dug these ditches and there is this fight. (2 Kings 3:13)

2 Kings 3:21. *And when all the Moabites heard that the kings were come up to fight against them, they gathered all that were able to put on armour, and upward, and stood in the border. And they rose up early in the morning, and the sun shone upon the water, and the Moabites saw the water on the other side as red as blood: And they said, This is blood: the kings are surely slain, and they have smitten one another: now therefore, Moab, to the spoil. And when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose up and smote the Moabites, so that they fled before them: but they went forward smiting the Moabites, even in their country. And they beat down the cities,.....* Here is a case where Israel is surrounded by their enemies; and they are really not right with God and they have these false prophets going on there deceiving them, but Elisha says, *what have I to do with thee?* But they decide to go ahead and obey him anyway. And they prepare these water pots, these ditches and they are filled with water. And the next thing you know this water takes on the characteristic of blood! Just like those water pots in John 2 took on the characteristic of the blood of the grape, took on the characteristic of wine! And it does not matter, if it is really wine or if it is just water and they think it is wine! And it does not matter if it's really water in the ditches or if its really blood or if its water and they just think it's blood – the fact of the matter is God wrought a miracle to

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deliver His people from their enemies in Second Kings 3 and that miracle seems to be a foreshadowing of this miracle here in John 2.

There are numerous connections running into this miracle. Why is this the first miracle He did? There are all kinds of feelers that run back from here that links – that run back from into the Old Testament in the different events.

Now, in this hour, the Father is glorified in the Son. Jesus manifested His glory as a result of working this miracle. Look at verse John 2:11 *This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.* Now, keep your finger right there and come to Matthew 26:26 *And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.* Now, when was the Father glorified in the Son? He said “my hour is not yet come.” Then He works this miracle. At the end of the miracle the Bible says, “Jesus *manifested forth his glory.*” When Jesus prays to the Father and says, the hour is come, glorify thy son.” So what is He doing in this miracle? He is foreshadowing the shedding of His blood that a man could drink and be satisfied thereby. You say, “*was it literal blood in the upper room?*” No it was not! “Was it literal fermented wine in John 2? It certainly was not fermented! But what happened here? “Woman, you do not understand – my hour is not yet come...” “What hour?” “The hour when I shed my blood!” “What happens when you shed your blood?” Well, the Father is glorified. And if anybody will drink my blood, they can live forever! So Jesus turns this water into the pure blood of the grape; people drink it and they are satisfied. And the Bible says, “well, this is the beginning of miracles. This is a manifestation – this is a picture of what Jesus is going to do.

Finally on this section think about the setting, Cana was a little town near Nazareth and it was almost 100% Gentile. Cana was a Gentile community outside the Jewish village of Nazareth – odd? Not at all, Jesus is just more than just the Saviour of the Jew; He was the Saviour of all men! He came to prove it.

Notes

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The Book of John

Lesson 6

Read John 2: 1-11

Name _____

1. Whose is permitted to drink intoxicating beverages according to this lesson?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

2. Give me seven reason why a Christian is not to be drinking alcoholic beverages
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.

3. Give us four places in scripture where is proves that Jesus did not turn the water into an intoxicating beverage.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

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4. Using 1 Samuel explain why the term "well drunk" does not mean intoxicated.

5. What is meant by the term "new wine"?

6. What is the purest for of the grape juice called?

7. Compare Exodus 7:19 with Deuteronomy 32:14 and show the similarities

8. How many lessons do we learn from these passages of scripture?
briefly explain each of them.

True/false

- If you call yourself a Christian you should never drink any intoxicating beverages.
- Jesus is the Saviour of all men.
- Jesus never broke any of the Law.



Scripture Memorization; (write these on the back on the sheet, Must be in KJV)
Habakkuk 2:15; Proverbs 23:31,32; Proverbs 20:1

any questions?