

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
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The Book of John

Lesson 5 Greater things
Return pages 7& 8 only

Read John 1:19-51

Read John 2: 1-10

John 1:50. *Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.* (to me this is a blessing). I want to show you something. Keep your finger in John 1 and come to Genesis 28. Because this only shows up twice in the whole Bible. Genesis 28:10. *And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac...* Now look at this thing. It is on earth. It's top reaches to heaven. It reaches from earth to heaven. And the angels of God ascend and descend upon it and in John 1:51 Jesus said, I am Jacob's Ladder. Look *And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.*

I am standing on earth; I can reach to heaven and you can get from earth to heaven through me. Look what Jesus just said. Thou shalt be see greater things than these and He did not say, I am going to heal the blind or walk on water, or cleanse lepers. He did not even say, I am going to rise from the dead. He said, you are going to see **greater things than these** – you are going to see a way made from earth to heaven. That is the greatest thing you will ever see.

We are going to give you some notes here and these are real weighty. There are three dispensational pictures in John 1.

- The first one section is found in John 1:19-28 is typical of the Old Testament.
 - (1) Verse 19, there is mention of priests and Levites.
 - (2) Verse 19, Jerusalem is referred. It is not referred to in the other sections of John 1.
 - (3) Verse 19, Israel's spiritual condition is pictured by the ignorance and lack of discernment of the Jews. *Who art thou?* John knew. Andrew knew. Peter knew. Philip knew. Nathanael knew. How come the leaders of the nation did not know? Israel's spiritual condition is pictured by ignorance and lack of discernment of the Jews.
 - (4) Verse 21 refers to Elijah and that prophet.
 - (5) Verse 23 John is seen in the wilderness speaking of Israel's barren condition.
 - (6) Verse 26, John points out their blindness to Jehovah's presence. He says, "the Lord is standing among you. You do not know him."
 - (7) Verse 27, John bears witness to one who is coming after. So think about it – look at how those items match Israel in Old Testament times, but there is one coming after to deliver them.

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- The second section. In verses 29 to 34, we have a picture of Israel during the times of Christ's public ministry. Look how the section starts at verse 29. *The next day...* so we have the Old Testament time and now we are entering into a new day, the next day.

- (1) Verse 29 *John seeth Jesus*. God is manifest.
- (2) Verse 29 He proclaims *the Lamb* had come to die.
- (3) Verse 30 John says, *After me*; and John ends the era of the prophets. Remember the Bible said the prophets were until John. *After me...* So there is a line there.
- (4) Verse 31 says, *And I knew him not...* This represents the ignorance of the Jews when Christ appeared.
- (5) Verse 31 says, *that he should be made manifest to Israel...* He was not in the Old Testament. He was prophesied. He was written about. But he was not made manifest. He was in the gospel time.
- (6) Verse 31 *The Spirit... abode upon him*, verse 32. It is not yet time for the Spirit's indwelling. It did not say the Spirit indwelt Him; it said the Spirit abode upon him. A picture of the gospel age.
- (7) Verse 34 *this is the Son of God*. And it was as such that the nation rejected Him.
The next day, now we go from Old Testament time to the time of Christ's earthly ministry. And look how this matches up. John seeth Jesus; God is manifest. He proclaims the Lamb had come to die. He says, after me; the era of the prophets are over. He says, I knew him not; ignorance of the Jews even though Christ is there in their midst. He should be made manifest to Israel – He should be. But He was not. They could not see Him. The Spirit abode upon him but did not dwell inside him. This is the Son of God; there is the declaration but they did not receive it.

- The third section begin in verse 35 *After John stood* in verses 35 to 43, you have a picture of the church age. Look at verse 35. *Again, the next day after...* another new day.

- (1) Verse 35 *After John stood*. After Jesus rose from the dead the prophets no longer stand. Jesus is the one that stands now. All the prophets were until John. Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. So John in military terms, John had to step down. Stand down John.
- (2) Verses 35-36 John stood, Jesus walked. Do you see that? *After John stood*, verse 35, *Jesus as he walked...* Look, John has finished his course. He stops right there and goes no farther. Jesus steps on the scene; He is moving on. That is the church age.
- (3) Verse 36 The Christians first know Jesus as the Lamb of God. Before He is anything else to us, He is the Lamb of God. *Behold the Lamb of God*. No other understanding and no other truth until you behold the Lamb of God.
- (4) Verses 35-37 Turning from John to follow Jesus. You will see when we get to Acts 19, some of you will remember a group of disciples there that knew only John's baptism and had to be introduced to Jesus? That is how the new day works; the church age, you need to turn from John to Jesus.
- (5) Verse 39 says the tenth hour. *It was about the tenth hour*. The full measure of Israel's responsibility to the Ten Commandments had been reached. The idea here is that that set of statutes had run its course. It is not law now; it is Jesus Christ.
- (6) Verse 37 *...and they followed Jesus*.

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- (7) Verse 39...They abode with him. They believe. They follow. They abide.
 - (8) Verses 40-41. Christianity is propagated by individual efforts. One man telling another about Jesus.
 - (9) Verse 42 Believers are living stones. First Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:22.
- Now I have a question for you? Again, lets review that. Church age. Again, the next day. After John stood. (so the prophets are no longer standing.) The tenth hour - full measure of Israel's responsibility of the Ten Commandments. Turning from John to follow Jesus. John stood; his work is done. Jesus walked on! Christians first know Jesus as the Lamb of God. They follow Jesus. They abide in Christ. They propagate' Christianity by individual effort. And they are living stones. Here is my question. Do you think man wrote the Bible or do you think God put this book together?

And then... and then, Nathanael steps in and says, "oh yeah, by the way, you are the King of Israel!"

One thing we will see as we go through John when you're starting in chapter 2 up through chapter 12, in each chapter Jesus teaches a spiritual truth and the people hear a physical truth and miss what He is saying entirely. We will see that starting into the next chapters.

Chapter 2

This is one of those passages that if you are not careful, you will end up saying, I wish that was not in the Bible, because you sure get tired of every drunk and carnally minded person in the world saying, "well, Jesus turned water into wine..." It is amazing how the devil will teach people the parts of the Bible they do not need to know instead of teaching them the parts they do need to know.

The Bible says in John 2, verse 1, *And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee*; Now lets go back. Look at the first week of this ministry of the Lord. Look at John 1:19. *And this is the record of John*, We have this record of John that runs down through verse 28. Okay – so that is one day. *The next day*, John 1:29, that runs through verse 34. Then you have a day starting at verse 35, *Again the next day after...* Then in verse 43, *The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee*. So that is four days accounted for. Then in John 2, verse 1, *And the third day...* so that would be all totaled that would be the seventh day. The book of Genesis opens with In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The book of John opens with, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. Genesis 1 closes with a wedding on the seventh day. The sixth day God made man and He brought that man to Eve on the evening of that day. And this first week of "*In the beginning*" with John closes with a wedding in Cana of Galilee.

The Bible says, *and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage*. What is significant about the wording there? The mother of Jesus was there. Mary was not called to the wedding. Now whether or not she was related or it was one of Jesus' relatives and she was already there; or whether or not, she just showed up uninvited, we do not know – but it is curious how that thing is worded. You are specifically told that Jesus was called to be at the wedding; his disciples were called to be

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at the wedding, but His mother was there but without being called and without being bidden.

John 2:3 *And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.* First of all, this phrase *woman* is the way in which Jesus frequently referred to Mary or referred to His mother; and it is not a term of rudeness or of disrespect. But at the same time, the Holy Spirit is very careful through out the gospels to make sure that you know that Jesus never gave Mary a super exalted position above what she was. When He was hanging on the cross, He said to John, behold thy mother. Okay – she is his mother. When He addresses her, He says, Woman. And that is what she was, she was a woman; but Jesus never referred to her as someone who was to be exalted above any other woman. The Holy Spirit is very careful to... He almost goes so far as to make you think Jesus is being disrespectful just to head off this whole idea of exalting the mother of Jesus.

And he says to her, *Woman, what have I to do with thee?* Now, His answer is simply this. I am not here to fulfill or to grant your wishes or your desires. You have raised me to manhood. I was subject unto you when I was twelve years old. I was subject unto you when I was a child because that is what the law required of me. But I am a grown man now and I am not living under your commands or your dictates. Jesus is not subject to Mary at this point. He is the Son of God. He is the Lamb of God. He is the Saviour of the world. She commands him as if He was still a little boy, “hey Son, go clean your room...” And He says, respectfully “Whoa, wait a minute... I’m the Saviour now; you are a woman. And what have to do with thee? You do not give the orders. I give the orders. I give the instructions. I am in charge now.” He is not being disrespectful, but He is establishing the proper and the due order here.

And then He makes this statement, *mine hour is not yet come.* And Jesus uses that term very, very often in the gospels, in John in particular, in reference to what? What is the reference to mine hour? His death. Look at John 7:30. *Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.* John 8:20. *These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.* John 12:23. *And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.* Verse 27, same chapter. *Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.* John 13:1. (Do you see the theme – it is a common theme running through John.) *Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father...* John 17:1. *...Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:* So there would come an hour when Jesus Christ would become the servant of all and take the lowest place. But He says to Mary, his mother – “Woman, this is not the hour. The hour has not come for me to be in subjection to mankind. I am the Word. I am the Light. I am God Almighty and you may be my mother in a physical sense but you are a spiritual sense a woman and I am not subject unto you. I am the Lord. That is what He is establishing here.

Mary understands and turns in John 2:5 and says the words that every religion should embrace. *His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.* Mary said, “do what Jesus tells you to do!” What did Jesus tell you to do? “Follow me! Believe on me! Trust me! Come unto me!” you must put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ because Mary said to do whatever Jesus tells you to do. Mary shows up four other times in

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our bible, after this time, yet never says a word. Mary shows up at the cross John 19, Mary shows up in the upper room Acts 1, Mary still in the house on the day of Pentecost Acts 2, Mary is praying with the others in the house for Peter Acts 12. The last recorded words of Mary were "*Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.*"

John 2:6. *And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.* (A firkin is about 9 gallons) *Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.* Do you know what has always amazed me about this story? Why is everybody there taking orders from Jesus? There is a governor of the feast. There is a bridegroom. His family must be there. There is a big enough crowd where they have emptied barrels of wine and now they are needing more. All of a sudden, Jesus walks on the scene and starts giving orders "hey – "you, over here. You guys, grab some water... you fellows, get some out of those pots and give it to the governor... He just walks in and takes charge. You know why? He is God.

John 2: 9 *When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.*

First of all, this really did happen. Verse 11 says *This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory;* The Jews had not seen a miracle since Daniel 6 with the lions' den. From Daniel 6 to John 2 is 450 years. And all of a sudden this man steps into a wedding and performs a miracle. Jesus really did turn this water into wine. This is a real literal, actual miracle.

Before we discuss the wine issue, we want to talk about what the lesson pictures and how it relates to us. The bible pictures us as earthen vessels. What is sitting there in that room are earthen vessels. First of all, there is nobody in that room that would think of taking a drink out of those water-pots. Then the Bible tells you that these water pots were for purifying. That means – The people are walking into this wedding feast. If their hands or arms were dirty, they would stick them in the water pots. Wash them down. These are the washbasins sitting at the doorway. They might have cleaned the silverware the plates. Not only are they earthen vessels but, what is inside them is defiled, not clean. So how in the world are you going to satisfy anybody's thirst by reaching into an earthen vessel and hauling out something dirty, something contaminated, not only the contamination of one person, but everyone collectively who has come that way has added their own little bit of contamination to it. What a picture of your life and mine.

Here I am an earthen vessel and not only am I dirty on the inside and there is nothing inside me that would satisfy anyone's thirst, but I have the accumulated uncleanness of everybody from Adam to the present. Look at what Jesus says. He does not say, empty the water pots. Scrub them down. Sanitize them and then put some clean water in them. If you check the miracles in the Bible, God does not work that way. There is bitter water at Mara. (Exodus 15:23) What does He do? He throws a tree in there. There is death in the pot (2 Kings 4:40) and poisoned vines. What does He do? He throws some meal in there. My life is full of sin, I am dead in trespasses and sins. Ephesians 2:1 What does He do? He throws the Holy Spirit in there! The Lord does not reform; He brings life into a place of death. There is an axe head at the bottom of the lake.(2 Kings 6:5) What does He do? He does not drain the lake. He throws a stick in there. The world is filled with

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violence. What does He do? He builds an ark. God's method of salvation is not get rid of the drugs, the drinking, the cussing, get rid of the bad temper. Clean that house and sweep it. (Luke 11:25,26) What did the Lord say? What good is that going to do for you? Seven devils worse than the one you sent out are going to come in – it is not a matter of cleaning up the vessel. It is a matter of the Lord adding something to the vessel to make it pure.

Now, from the same vessel, what Jesus had those men pour into that vessel has cleansed and sanctified and purified what was in it and now they are drawing out of that same earthen vessel, not something nasty that you would spit out of your mouth, but something that you would taste and say, "Wow, this is better than the wine we were drinking!" And the governor says, "I cannot believe it." Usually the good comes first and the bad comes later. When Jesus steps on the scene all of a sudden you realize, there had not been any good yet..

Look at Ephesians 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.* We were spotted. We were wrinkled. We were blemished. What did the Lord do? He did not use spot remover and clean us up. He added the word which washed us and brought sanctification and brought cleansing.

Now, what does religion do? Religion says scrub that pot. Religion says pour out that old dirty water. Religion says sanitize that vessel and then we will put some clean water in it. Jesus says, no need for that. What I am going to put in there will make everything in there clean. You have dirty water and the Lord adds this clean water and what the Lord added cleaned up what was in there that was dirty. So those guys took it out and they drank good wine from an old vessel that had been sanctified by the Lord. Do you know what I am as a saved person? I do not have a new vessel yet. I am still living in the same old vessel. The Lord put something inside me so that now when this well of water springing up in me flows out, somebody can get a drink! Somebody can get something that is good and something that is helpful. So, it is a beautiful picture at what the Lord does when He saves us.

Notes

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book of John**Lesson 5****Read John 1:19-51****Read John 2: 1-10**

name_____

1. The are three dispensational sections in these verses, can you explain each of them?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. Who is Jacob's Ladder?
3. Why is He called Jacob's ladder?
4. Give three Old Testament places where God cleaned something up?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
5. Explain this statement " *Woman, what have I to do with thee?*" Was the Lord being rude?
6. What is an earthen vessel?
7. What did Jesus mean when He said mine hour is not yet come?
8. Please give us the Chapters and verses where Mary was mentioned after this miracle in Cana.

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- a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
9. What are Mary's famous last words in the bible?
 10. What is the significance of Nathanael statement regarding Jesus being the King of Israel?
 11. How does the Lord bring about sanctification and cleansing in our lives?
 12. How come the leaders of the nation did not know who Jesus was?
 13. What is the significance of Jesus walking and John standing?
 14. How do we know for sure that the wine that Jesus created at Cana was not an intoxicating beverage? (extra credit if you answer correctly, no point off if answered incorrectly)
 15. What will we learn from studying John Chapter 2 through John Chapter 12 according to this lesson?

True/false

- Turning over a new leaf, and cleaning myself up is pleasing to God
- Jesus and God are the same
- There are saints in heaven that hold a higher ranking position in God's order than Jesus



Scripture Memorization; (write these on the back on the sheet, Must be in KJV)
John 1:50,51; Ephesians 5:25.

any questions?