

"JESUS CHRIST - A MAN APPROVED OF GOD (Acts 2:22)" Miracle #1 - Water into Wine (John 2:1-4,5-8,9-11)

Dear Reader, there are church charlatans seeking to be approved of men, by fraudulently attempting miracles, wonders and signs, by turning the things of God into men's party tricks.

In attempting to be like the most high, these same are exposed for what they are (<u>Isaiah 14:14</u>) ... little realising that study to **rightly divide** the word, is the way to be approved of God (<u>2 Timothy 2:15</u>). "Oh! But I study the word!" they say ... with negligible understanding, that the emphasis is on 'rightly dividing'. Oh yes! They are studying ... 'the Greek', their church constitutions, men's commentaries ... not the word, indeed the words of God, thereby becoming vain in their imaginations (<u>Romans 1:21</u>; <u>2 Corinthians 10:5</u>).

It is fitting that Christ's first miracle was with water.

Countless are the mentions of water and Christ ... with Christ being the water and the water being Christ ... the two terms being **synonymous** ... the following are a few examples ...

- 1. In Christ's **creation**, Christ creates water (<u>Genesis 1:2</u>).
- 2. Christ says for those who **thirst** to come unto him (John 4:13-14).
- 3. The human body can't go without water for more than **three** days ... an interesting number do you think? (<u>Matthew 27:63</u>)
- 4. The human **body** is ninety-five percent water. Man will die without the physical, and indeed, without the spiritual water of Christ.
- 5. Christ, the water of **life** (<u>Revelation 21:6</u>), gives the water of the **word** (<u>Ephesians 5:26</u>).
- 6. Christ is the **Rock** in the desert out of which comes water both **physical** and **spiritual** (1 Corinthians 10:4)
- 7. Christ **walks** on the water (Matthew 14:25)
- 8. In hell, there is no Christ but there is **immense heat** and **thirst** (<u>Luke</u> 16:24)

The significance of water into wine at the Cana wedding.

- **1.** Christ reinforces he created water, by demonstrating his **power** over water (Genesis 1:2)
- **2.** Christ can turn the water into the **last good wine** ... the physical into the spiritual.
- **3.** Christ can turn water into **blood** (Exodus 7:19)
- **4.** Indeed, to the knowledgeable at the wedding, this demonstration would remind them that water was 'equivalent' to blood with the of healing Naaman's **leprosy** (2Kings 5:14). Water, wine or blood, can all be used to show that Christ was God manifest (1 Timothy 3:16).
- **5.** While water can nourish the body and wash it, it is only 'the new wine' that can cleanse from sin (1 Corinthians 11:25). The wedding at Cana showed the arrival and commencement, of the new dispensation from, that of physical washing of water to that of the **spiritual washing of the new wine**.
- **6.** Being hard of seeing and hearing (Mark 4:12), Christ reaches out to Israel via their bodies, with the miracle of the physical wine drink, in order to get their attention. He leaves the food miracles till later (Matthew 14:21; Matthew 15:38). We must remember Christ gave them more physical miracles per square foot than all the rest of the world put together.

Indeed, he heals, feeds, clothes, raises their dead and delivers from devils ... all physical ... to get a foot in the door, for two things ... firstly, to show himself approved unto God, and secondly, to **show himself approved?/accepted by men**. However, material blessings never permanently assured Israel, with his end being the cross (Matthew 27:25)

- **7.** The **waterpots** used to purify the **flesh** (<u>John 2:6</u>) were now to be used by Jesus to signify the **salvation of the soul**, though temporary while Christ was on earth, was only to be achieved by, and indeed, through him.
- **8.** This **good** wine, the **new** wine, the **last** wine, was only to be found in the **fresh** pressings (Matthew 26:29), and was not of the curse of the old fermented wine (Habakkuk 2:15), thereby signifying the purpose of Christ's pure blood (Deuteronomy 32:14)
- **9.** Christ's first miracle is only mentioned in the Book of John and not the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. The reason being is this, that while the other three are about the **history** of Christ as the Son of man and the Son of God, John's gospel has more of the **mystery** ... with Christ as the "I AM THAT I AM" (<u>John 8:28</u>). It is therefore appropriate to have his first miracle introduced to the world from this aspect.

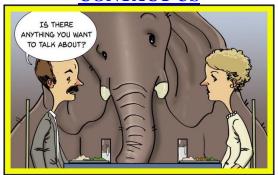
Yes, Christ showed himself approved unto God, indeed his temporary acceptance by Israel, with this miracle ... but wait ... there is this added emphasis ... there is this 'double' quality of his eternal "I AM"-ness only found in John's account ... a sort of double Deity as it were ... "This miracle is being performed, not only by God manifest in the flesh ... it really is the "I AM" God in the flesh!"

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