

# The Wedding in Cana

Here's a full breakdown of the **Wedding at Cana** in **John 2:1–12**.

## John 2:1–12 – Jesus Turns Water into Wine

### Passage Summary

Verse(s)	Summary
JN 2:1–2	Jesus, His mother, and disciples attend a wedding in Cana of Galilee.
JN 2:3	Mary tells Jesus, “They have no wine.”
JN 2:4	Jesus responds, “My hour has not yet come.”
JN 2:5	Mary tells the servants, “Do whatever He tells you.”
JN 2:6–7	Six stone water jars used for Jewish purification are filled with water.
JN 2:8–10	Water turns into wine; the master of the banquet is amazed at its quality.
JN 2:11	Jesus' first sign reveals His glory, and His disciples believe in Him.
JN 2:12	Jesus, His family, and disciples travel to Capernaum for a few days.



## Historical & Cultural Context

- **Weddings:** In Jewish culture, weddings were **week-long celebrations**. Running out of wine was a major **social embarrassment** and could dishonor the groom's family.
- **Hospitality** was a sacred duty. Providing wine wasn't just about enjoyment—it represented **joy, blessing, and covenant**.
- **Jesus' presence at a wedding** affirms the goodness of marriage and social life, marking the beginning of His public ministry not with judgment, but **joy and abundance**.



## The Six Stone Water Jars

Detail	Explanation
<b>Material</b>	Stone (not clay) – preferred for ritual purity, as stone was not subject to Levitical impurity (cf. Leviticus 11:33–36).
<b>Purpose</b>	Used for <b>Jewish purification rites</b> (handwashing before meals, washing utensils, etc.).
<b>Capacity</b>	Each held <b>20–30 gallons</b> – totaling <b>120–180 gallons</b> of water.
<b>Symbolism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Six jars</b> - The number six is one short of seven (biblical perfection), often symbolizing <b>incompleteness or imperfection</b>—perhaps pointing to the <b>inadequacy of ritual without transformation</b>.</li><li>➤ <b>Purification jars</b> - Represent the <b>old covenant system</b> of external purification; Jesus transforms them into vessels of <b>new wine</b>, symbolizing <b>internal transformation</b> and the <b>new covenant</b>.</li><li>➤ <b>Water to wine</b> - Symbolizes the <b>miraculous transformation</b> Jesus brings—taking what is ordinary and making it extraordinary, fulfilling <b>Messianic expectations</b> (cf. Amos 9:13–14, Isaiah 25:6)</li></ul>

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## Word Studies

Greek Word	English	Meaning
"Hora" (ὥρα)	"Hour" (v. 4)	Refers to Jesus' <b>appointed time</b> —especially His <b>passion, death, and glorification</b> (see JN 12:23). His hour had <b>not yet come</b> , but this miracle is a <b>preview</b> .
"Semion" (σημεῖον)	"Sign" (v. 11)	Used instead of "miracle"—a sign points beyond itself to a deeper <b>spiritual truth</b> : Jesus' divine identity and <b>glory</b> .
"Glory" (δόξα)	"Revealed His glory" (v. 11)	Indicates the manifestation of Jesus' divine <b>presence and power</b> , seen in His creative authority.

## Theological Themes

Theme	Description
New Creation	Echoes Genesis: "On the third day..." (v.1) links back to <b>creation</b> and anticipates <b>resurrection</b> . Jesus brings <b>new creation</b> through <b>abundance and joy</b> .
Transformation	Water (for cleansing) becomes wine (for celebration), reflecting the <b>new covenant</b> over the old.
Messianic Joy	Wine is a symbol of joy and <b>Messianic blessing</b> (Isaiah 25:6; Joel 3:18). Jesus is the <b>bringer of abundance</b> and true joy.
Obedience	Mary's words: "Do whatever He tells you" echoes Israel's call to obey God's word (cf. Deut. 5:27).
Faith	The miracle causes the <b>disciples to believe</b> , underscoring <b>faith through signs</b> .

## Old Testament & Messianic Fulfillment

OT Passage	Connection
Exodus 7:20	Moses turns water to blood (judgment); Jesus turns water to wine (grace). A new and better Moses.
Amos 9:13–14	Wine flowing abundantly in the Messianic age—a sign of restoration.
Isaiah 25:6	A banquet with aged wine; God's salvation tied to <b>feasting and celebration</b> .
Genesis 49:10–11	Judah's ruler washes garments in <b>wine</b> —a prophetic picture fulfilled in Jesus.

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## John's New Creation Week (John 1–2)



### John's Gospel Setup

- Opens with “**In the beginning**” (Jn 1:1) → echoes **Genesis 1**.
- Each “next day” functions like a **day of creation**, climaxing with a **wedding on the 7th day**.
- Just as **Genesis ends with Adam & Eve**, John’s “new creation week” ends with a **wedding feast** revealing the true Bridegroom.



### The Days Compared

Day	● Genesis Creation	● John's New Creation
Day 1	🌍 Light vs. darkness (Gen 1:3–5)	👤 John questioned: “Who are you?” (Jn 1:19–28). He points to the coming <b>Light</b> .
Day 2	💧 Separation of waters (Gen 1:6–8)	👤 John declares: “Behold, the <b>Lamb of God</b> ” (Jn 1:29–34). Jesus is <b>set apart</b> as sacrifice.
Day 3	🌱 Earth brings forth life (Gen 1:9–13)	🌱 Andrew & another follow Jesus (Jn 1:35–39). <b>New life</b> begins through discipleship.
Day 4	☀️🌙 Lights rule heavens (Gen 1:14–19)	★ Nathanael confesses: “You are the <b>Son of God, King of Israel</b> ” (Jn 1:43–51). Jesus revealed as the true <b>Light</b> .
Day 5	🐟 Birds & fish fill creation (Gen 1:20–23)	(Implied day in narrative flow — disciples multiply, preparing for fullness of life in Christ).
Day 6	👨👩 Humanity created (Gen 1:24–31)	Jesus gathers disciples as a <b>new humanity</b> , preparing for the union of Bridegroom & Bride.
Day 7	🛑 God rests (Gen 2:1–3) & Adam given Eve	💍 <b>Wedding at Cana</b> (Jn 2:1–11). Water jars (old covenant) → wine (new covenant). The <b>Bridegroom is revealed</b> .



### Theological Layers

- **New Adam**: First Adam received a bride → Last Adam (Jesus) begins with a wedding.
- **New Creation**: John’s “week” = symbolic creation week → Jesus inaugurates the **new creation**.
- **Sabbath Fulfillment**: 7th day wedding = preview of eternal **Sabbath rest** (Heb 4:9).
- **Covenant Shift**: Purification water → wine of joy → **New Covenant in His blood**.

#### Prophetic Arc:

- 🌍 **Genesis**: creation & first marriage → fall.
- 🔥 **Sinai**: covenant marriage → broken.
- 💍 **Cana**: new creation marriage begins.
- 🎉 **Revelation**: Wedding of the Lamb consummated.



So the “days” in John 1–2 form a **prophetic creation week**, ending with a **wedding feast** that points both back to Genesis and forward to Revelation.