

That You Might Believe

◆ A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN ◆



"These things are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you might have life in His name." John 20:31

A 'Tuesday Night at the Crescent' Series

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TUESDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 1994

Subject: 'The Anger of Jesus' (John 2:1-25)

- John's Gospel is written around the visit of the Saviour to the Jewish festivals;** the structures of John's Gospel are part of the message (2: 13; 5: 1; 7: 2; 10: 22; 11: 54-55; 12: 1, 12, 20; 113: 1; 18: 28; 119: 114, 31, 42.) There could be as many as two million Jews in Jerusalem, from all over the world at a time of festival. John is showing us God coming to inspect His people's worship and service.
- What did the Passover festival mean?** (2: 13) It meant a celebration of redemption and freedom from slavery. So great had the joy of redemption been after the first Passover that Moses had to restrain the people from giving! (Ex. 12; 36: 1-7.)
- What raised the anger of Jesus in the temple?** The fact that people were using the festival to make a lot of money for themselves (28: 14-6). Notice that although God's anger is very real (see Nahum 1: 2-8) it is not irrational and cruel. It is always judicial and shows the offender the full implications of the choice he or she has made. There is deliverance from God's wrath (Romans 5: 9; 1 Thess. 1: 10).
- The Jews asked what was the sign of Christ's authority to cleanse the temple:** Christ, in effect, said that the sign of His authority was His cross and resurrection (2: 19-22).
- Christ's signs produced a belief but it was not a belief to which He could commit Himself:** the people's belief was based on wonder and He could not commit Himself to them. He needed something deeper on which to build (2: 23-25).

The wrath of God is a perfection of the Divine character on which we need to meditate frequently.' (A.W. PINK)