

John 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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,

Analysis

The governor tastes the water 'that was made wine' without knowing its origin. The text specifies 'the servants which drew the water knew.' This creates an epistemological divide—those who obey and serve understand what those in authority may miss. The water had genuinely become wine; this was transformation, not merely addition or mixture. The miracle is complete and public yet the source remains hidden except to those directly involved.

Historical Context

This transformation (water to wine) is qualitatively different from later multiplication miracles. It demonstrates Christ's creative power, changing one substance into another—appropriate for the Logos through whom all things were made (John 1:3). The knowledge gap between servants and governor pictures how humble faith sees what proud authority cannot.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What role does humble service play in understanding spiritual reality?
2. How does the transformation (not just improvement) of water to wine picture regeneration?

Interlinear Text

ώς δὲ ἐγεύσατο ὁ ἀρχιτρίκλινος ὁ ὕδωρ
When but had tasted which the governor of the feast which the water
G5613 G1161 G1089 G3588 G755 G3588 G5204

οἶνον γεγενημένον καὶ οὐκ ἤδεισαν πόθεν ἐστίν ὁ
wine that was made and not knew whence it was which
G3631 G1096 G2532 G3756 G1492 G4159 G2076 G3588

δὲ διάκονοι ἤδεισαν ὁ ἡντληκότες ὁ ὕδωρ
but the servants knew which drew which the water
G1161 G1249 G1492 G3588 G501 G3588 G5204

φωνεῖ ὁ νυμφίον ὁ ἀρχιτρίκλινος
called which the bridegroom which the governor of the feast
G5455 G3588 G3566 G3588 G755

Additional Cross-References

John 4:46 (Creation): So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

John 7:17 (Parallel theme): If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.