

Wedding At Cana

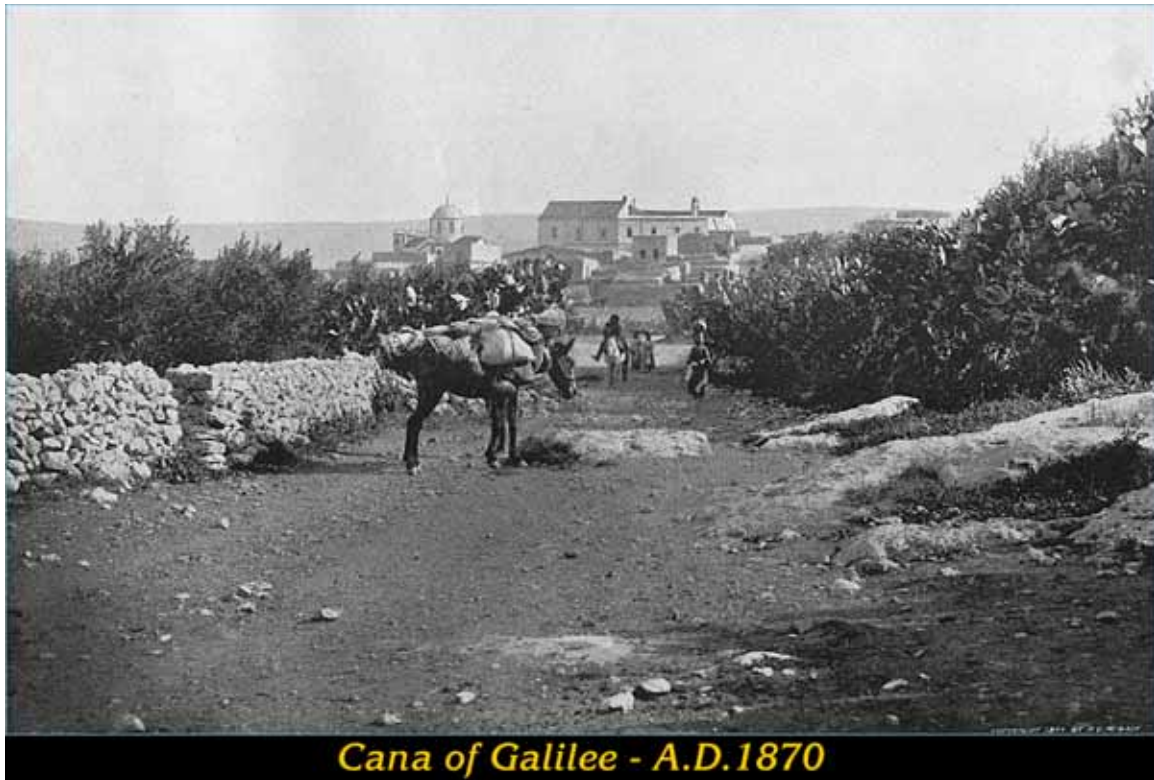
How much does God love me? Have you ever asked yourself that question? I have asked myself that question at various times throughout my life during difficult situations. It is a question that will eventually come to one's mind when the situation is dark and appears to be getting worse. When emotion swells up within and you feel like you are going to burst, the question is near. Does anyone really care? Like an automobile being pushed off a high cliff, the words finally fall from your lips or appear in your thoughts when you feel all alone. Does anyone care? Does even God care? This may seem like the wrong introduction to a study about a wedding in Cana of Galilee, but you will discover that this study answers these questions. As we come to our study, Jesus and his five new disciples have traveled for about three days since they found Philip and Nathanael. John the Baptist has several followers now.

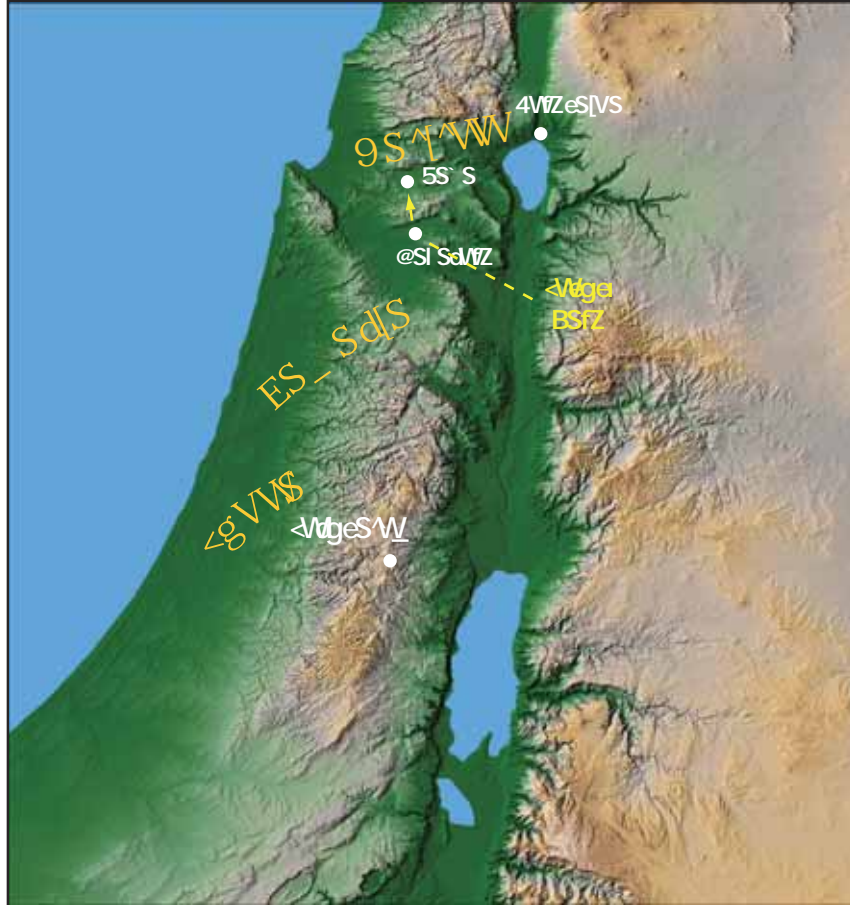
T **G** **o**. We believe that the city of Cana that Jesus and His disciples visited was located about nine miles from Jesus' boyhood town of Nazareth in Galilee.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. (NASB) John 2:1-2

Since Khirbet Cana is about a three hour walk from Nazareth, it is possible that Jesus brought His five disciples home and was invited to the wedding at Cana.

The Greek language implies that Mary, Jesus' mother, was already there when Jesus and His five disciples arrived. It appears from the passage we are studying that Jesus' mother had some type of responsibility at the wedding. So it would





be natural for her to arrive early and help with the preparations.

The typical Jewish wedding in Jesus' day was not preceded by a "live-together" arrangement. Today many young people are just living together and may decide to marry later. Some couples skip the dating part and just "hook-up." But the Jewish people in Jesus' day desired to obey God and consequently waited until marriage to engage in sexual relations.

The wedding would start when the bridegroom arrived at the bride's home with his companions at night. Both the bridegroom and bride were crowned. They would be king and queen for a week. The bridegroom would then walk with his bride to his home, along with the bride's father. They were joined by the bridegroom's companions and others who carried lanterns to provide light during the walk. The processional included singing, the throwing of grain on the ground, and other activities.

When they arrived at the bridegroom's home, the feast started. It could last as long as seven days. The feast included

speeches, dancing, skipping, prayers, music, and of course food. At the end of the feast, the bride's parents escorted her to the Nuptial Chamber where the bridegroom and bride had sexual relations. When they were finished, her parents were handed a blood stained cloth as proof that she was a virgin. Her parents would then show the wedding guests the blood on the cloth as proof that their daughter was a virgin.

This is disgusting to us today, but in Jesus' time weddings were legal contracts.

L C . The wedding contract required that the bride be a virgin. The contract often included the details of what would happen at the wedding as well as what would be provided at the feast. So it is not surprising that Jesus' mother was concerned when the wine ran out.

When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come." (NASB) John 2:3-4

