

The Gospel of John

Chapter 2, Verses 12-17

Review

- General Introduction to the Gospel of John
 - one of the five ***Johannine*** books, all of which are among the last books in the Bible to be written
 - one of the four ***gospels***, each of which is a biography of Jesus and an historical narrative of his life
 - originally written in Greek ***to Jews and Gentiles***, including but not limited to those who had already accepted Christ
 - First read within the context of ***early Christian literature***, the ***Jewish Bible*** and ***other*** religious and philosophical writing.

Review

- **Prolog (1:1-18)**
 - Jesus Christ was the Word become flesh (1:14).
 - “**Flesh**” emphasizes that Jesus was exactly what we are.
 - Word (translates the Greek, **Logos**) was what God was and did what God did from the beginning.
 - God is full of **grace** and **truth** as revealed in Jesus.
 - He is **rejected by the world**, in general.
 - But he is **the savior of all who receive him**.

Review

- **Chapter 1**

- Jesus is revealed to Israel by John the Baptist (1:19-34)
- Jesus is followed by certain of his early disciples (1:35-51)
 - Andrew, John(?), Simon (Peter), Philip, Nathanael
- They call Jesus the Lord, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the one who baptizes with Holy Spirit, the Son of God, Rabbi, Messiah, and King of Israel,
- Yet they are only beginning to understand who Jesus really is, and this lends a strong sense of irony to this narrative.

Review

- **Chapter 2, Verses 1-11**

- Jesus and his disciples attend a wedding in Cana of Galilee where Jesus' mother is also in attendance.
- The wine ran out, and Jesus mother told him of this.
- Based on his response, Jesus' mother instructs the servants to do whatever Jesus tells them.
- He tells them to fill six Jewish ceremonial jars with water, to draw some out, and take it to the master of the feast.
- The master drinks it and finds that it is high quality wine.

Discussion

- According to Chapter 2, Verse 11:
 - The changing of water into wine, as described in vv 1-10, was the first of the signs that Jesus did at Cana of Galilee.
 - It ***manifested his glory*** and his ***disciples believed him***.

Discussion

- The additional details of this story are also important:
 - It took place at a wedding
 - It took place in Cana (Nathanael's home, near Nazareth, obscure locations)
 - Jesus' mother was there
 - Her faith initiated discussion of the wine problem
 - Jesus word initiated the solution of the wine problem
 - In performing this sign, Jewish rituals were transformed
 - This sign was witnessed only by the disciples and servants

Discussion

- It is interesting and probably important to notice some of the things which can not be determined from the text:
 - Mary's motives, expectations, and feelings
 - The mechanism of the miracle:
 - When did the good wine come to exist?
 - Where was it drawn from?
 - When did the old wine run out?
 - Were the wedding guests aware that it had run out? Etc.

John 2:12-17

2:12 そののち、イエスは、その母、兄弟たち、弟子たちと一緒に、カペナウムに下って、幾日かそこにとどまられた。

2:13 さて、ユダヤ人の過越の祭が近づいたので、イエスはエルサレムに上られた。

2:14 そして牛、羊、はとを売る者や両替する者などが宮の庭にすわり込んでいるのをごらんになって、

2:15 なわでむちを造り、羊も牛もみな宮から追いだし、両替人の金を散らし、その台をひっくりかえし、

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John 2:12-17

- 12 After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.
- 13 The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
- 14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there.

John 2:12-17

- 15 And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.
- 16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade."
- 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

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- After what?

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- After what?
 - the wedding at Cana in Galilee

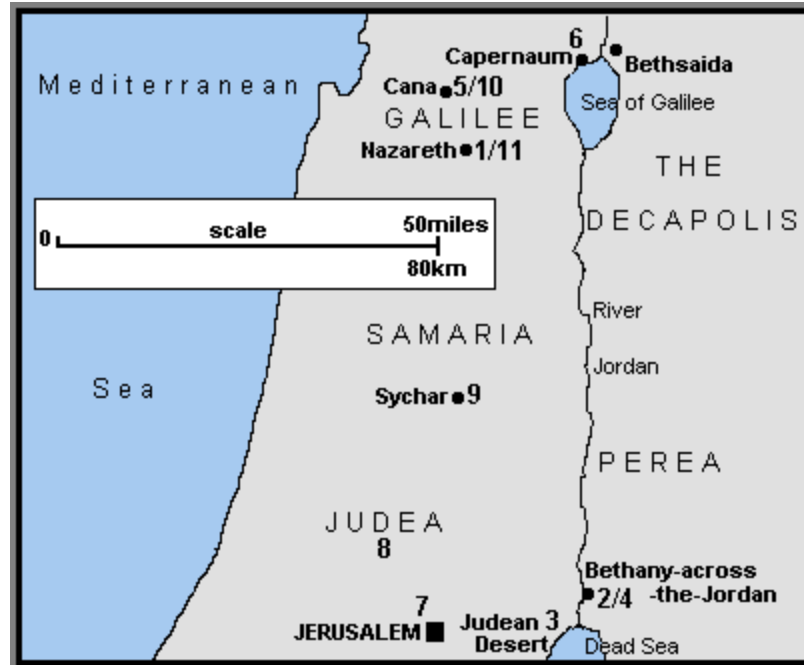
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- He = Jesus
- Capernaum
 - a city on the northwest coast of the Lake of Galilee
 - Jesus evidently lived there for a time (see Mt. 4:13, Mk. 2:1)

Down to Capernaum



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After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

- We do not know how long Jesus mother and brothers lived with him or how we are to understand “brothers”
- However this passage sheds some light on Jesus relationship with his family and with his disciples.

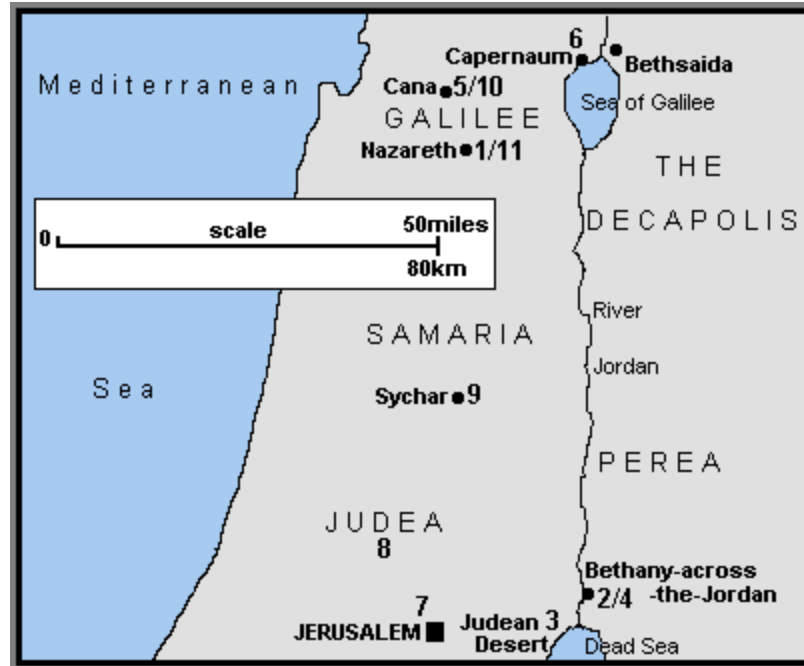
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- The next scene takes place in Jerusalem.
- In the Bible, a trip to Jerusalem is usually said to be “up”
- From Capernaum this would have been a journey of more than 100 km in a southwesterly direction.

Up to Jerusalem



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- We cannot be certain that Jesus went up to Jerusalem immediately after his stay in Capernaum described in v 12
- John does not think it important to give us this information
- John is more interested in Jesus reason for going = Passover

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- Passover was and is an annual celebration which remembers the deliverance of the Jews from Egypt
- It is celebrated on the March / April full moon (14 Nissan) followed by the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Nissan 15-22)

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- Three Passover celebrations are mentioned in John's Gospel: here and in 6:4 and 11:55ff
- In the Synoptic Gospels only the last of these is mentioned

John 2:14

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- Having come up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover of the Jews, Jesus is in the temple of the Jews at Jerusalem.
- This is arguably the most Jewish context imaginable.
- Jesus is himself the King of the Jews and their God!

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- In this most Jewish time and place, Jesus found certain Jews who were:
 - Selling oxen, sheep, and pigeons
 - Changing money

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- The money changers were, among other things perhaps, selling the (Tyrian) coins used for paying the temple tax.

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- Jesus drove all of these men out of the temple.

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- This driving out somehow involved a whip Jesus made!

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- Jesus drove all of these men out of the temple.
- He also drove out their sheep and oxen.
- This driving out somehow involved a whip Jesus made!
- He also broke up the money changing operation.

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- He wanted them (all I think) to keep commercial activity outside of the temple.

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- Psalm 69:9 begins: "For zeal for your house *has consumed* me,"
- The change in the verb tense, looks forward to the fact that the zeal on display here will end on the cross.

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- His disciple must also remember the latter part of Psalm 69.9 which reads: "***and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.***"
- Paul applies this to Christ in Romans 15:3.

Observations

- Jesus deeds and words in the temple at Jerusalem were a sign of his zeal which will end in suffering and reproach and finally death on a cross.
- They were also signs of his authority, in that nobody prevented him from casting out the animal sellers and money changers .
- These things were prophetic of the time when Christ would reign supreme and the temple would be no more.
- That these things happened on Passover was significant.