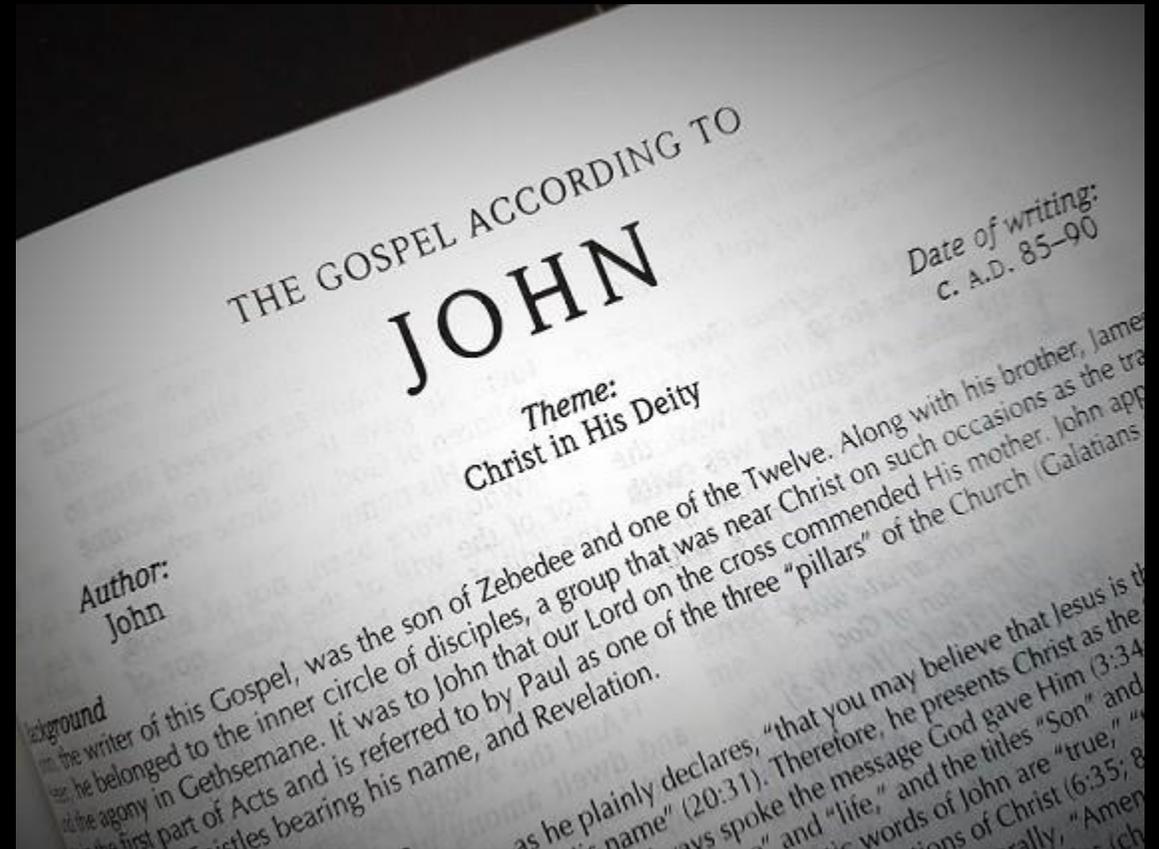


Verse by Verse

John 2



The Gospel According to John

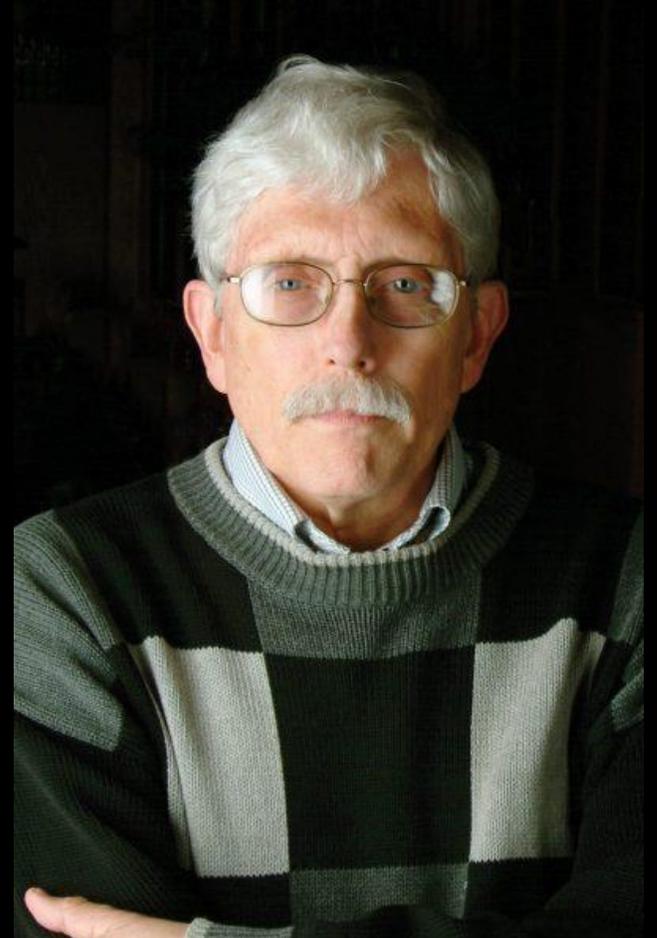
The Gospel According to **John**

- Evidence we have from the early church indicates that the **Apostle John** is the author.
- He wrote this Gospel in **Ephesus** around **85 or 90AD**.
- This book seems intentionally designed as an add-on to the other three Gospels.
- It supports the Synoptics while not imitating them.

The Gospel According to John

[John] is at one and the same time the easiest to understand and the most complex of all the Gospels ... because the author gives us the basic gospel as well as the process by which God brings every person ever born to a faith-decision.¹

*– Grant Osborne (1942 – 2018),
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School*



The Gospel According to John

- Week by week and chapter by chapter John will challenge us to believe.
- He reveals Christ as Messiah and Savior of the world, but as one that calls for our personal commitment.
- Time after time, we will have to decide what we are going to do with Jesus.
- It is a question with eternal consequences.

John 2 Introduction

John 2 Introduction

- John began his Gospel prior to creation
- Reading **John 1** is much like going back to **Genesis 1**.
- In **Genesis 2**, the creation story ends with a wedding.
- **John 2** takes us to a wedding in the village of Cana.

John 2 Introduction

- His introduction is ended; Christ's public ministry will begin here.
- While Jesus never married personally, this can be taken as a clear approval of traditional marriage.

John 2 Key Verse

John 2 Key Verse

- **John 2:11** (ESV)

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

John 2 Outline

John 2 Outline

1. The Wedding at Cana 2:1-12
2. Cleansing the Temple 2:13-22
3. Jesus Knows All People 2:23-25

1. The Wedding at Cana 2:1-12

1. The Wedding at Cana 2:1-12

- 2:1-5 Wedding celebrations in that culture might last for several days.
- Running out of wine would be an embarrassing problem for the hosts – normally the groom's family.
- The Bible clearly condemns drunkenness, but not wine or alcohol in general.
- Drinking is a personal decision; caution is advised.

1. The Wedding at Cana 2:1-12

- **2:1-5** In English, Jesus' response sounds rude, but it wouldn't in the original.

- **John 2:4** in the NLT makes it sound better.

“Dear woman, that’s not our problem,” Jesus replied.

“My time has not yet come.”

1. The Wedding at Cana 2:1-12

- 2:5 Do whatever he tells you.
- Mary was probably a widow by this time, so she had come to rely upon Jesus in difficult situations.
- It is not obvious she is asking for a miracle, but a miracle is what they all get.

1. The Wedding at Cana 2:1-12

- And so Jesus begins the miracle-working component of his public ministry.
- Prompted by his mother, he blesses a wedding by making sure the celebration could continue.
- Mary's advice to the servants is good advice for all of us at all times.

1. The Wedding at Cana 2:1-12

Mary's words ought to ring in our ears. The Lord wants us to "do whatever he tells" us. He often doesn't describe the path that he's taking us on. He doesn't explain how he intends to deal with our problems ...

*– Tony Evans,
Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship*



1. The Wedding at Cana 2:1-12

... He simply calls us to obey his revealed Word. Only after we've obeyed will we have the opportunity to experience him at a deeper level.

*– Tony Evans,
Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship*



1. The Wedding at Cana 2:1-12

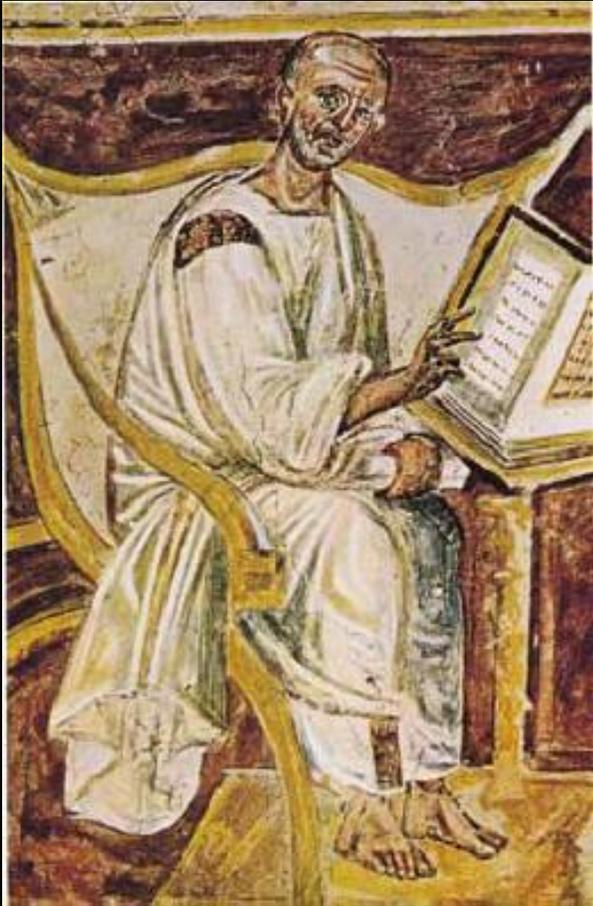
- This deeper level that Evans is speaking of has two sides to it.
 1. We get to know Jesus at a very personal level, a human being just like ourselves.
 2. We get to know him as God Almighty, subordinate and yet equal to the Father.

1. The Wedding at Cana 2:1-12

- The end result of this event is found in our key verse.
- **John 2:11** (ESV)

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

1. The Wedding at Cana 2:1-12



*He who made the wine at this wedding does the same thing every year in the vines. As the water which the servants put into the water-pots was turned into wine by the Lord, so that which the clouds pour down is turned into wine by the same Lord.*³

– Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430)

Miraculous Signs in John 1 – 12

Miraculous Signs in John 1 – 12

1. Water into wine **2:1-12** (“the first of his signs”)
2. Healing an official’s son **4:46-54** (“the second sign”)
3. Healing a paralytic **5:1-15**
4. Feeding the 5000 **6:5-14**
5. Walking on water **6:16-24**
6. Healing the blind man **9:1-7**
7. Raising Lazarus from the dead **11:1-45**

2. Cleansing the Temple 2:13-22

2. Cleansing the Temple 2:13-22

- 2:13 Jesus went up to Jerusalem
- As a devout Jewish man, Jesus would have gone to Jerusalem whenever possible for major festivals.
- The Synoptics only show Jesus going there once during his public ministry – in his final days.
- They skip over the other times, which poses a question for us.

2. Cleansing the Temple 2:13-22

- Did Jesus carry out this temple cleansing early in his ministry as in John or later as in the other Gospels?
 1. The Gospels need not be perfectly chronological. Early readers would not have demanded that.
 2. Still, in this case, if we examine the text around the two versions, they both may be accurate.
- In other words, Jesus probably cleansed the temple twice.

2. Cleansing the Temple 2:13-22

- 2:17 Zeal for your house will consume me
- The disciples are reminded of Psalm 69:9.
- These activities would have taken place in what was known as the Court of the Gentiles.
- Jesus understood the purpose of the temple better than the religious leaders of that day.

2. Cleansing the Temple 2:13-22

- Isaiah 56:7 (ESV)

⁶ “And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants ...

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer; ...
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.”

2. Cleansing the Temple 2:13-22

*By selling sacrificial animals and setting up their currency exchange in the court of the gentiles, the outer area of the temple, the merchants in effect had torpedoed gentile worship in the only place where it was possible.*⁴

– Andreas Köstenberger, Midwest Baptist Theological Seminary



2. Cleansing the Temple 2:13-22

- 2:18 What sign do you show us for doing these things?
- John's Gospel is full of signs, but Jesus never does a sign just for the asking.
- His own resurrection will prove to be the ultimate sign, but even then, not all will believe.

2. Cleansing the Temple 2:13-22

- There are a few points that we can take away from this incident.
 1. Though not a priest or Levite, Jesus had the authority to take charge of activities in the temple.
 2. He begins speaking of his death and resurrection at this early stage.
 3. We need to ask ourselves what we might be doing to help or hinder others from coming to know God.

2. Cleansing the Temple 2:13-22

- The religious leaders were technically meeting the letter of the law by offering the sacrifices.
- Where they erred was in the true intention behind those rules and regulations.

2. Cleansing the Temple 2:13-22

- They hindered devout Jews by distorting God's character and creating a wrong picture.
- They hindered Gentiles by occupying their place of worship, and so impeding their access to God.

2. Cleansing the Temple 2:13-22

- We can ask ourselves the following questions to see if we are ever guilty of the same thing.
 1. Does what I am doing encourage or detract from the spiritual growth of other believers?
 2. Does what I am doing inspire or impede an unbeliever's access to God?

2. Cleansing the Temple 2:13-22

- Let's make it our goal to be a blessing to both categories of people.
 1. Our brothers and sisters in Christ need encouragement. Let's give it to them.
 2. Those who don't know Christ need to see him. Let's allow them to see him in us.
- Be a stepping stone rather than a stumbling block.

2. Cleansing the Temple 2:13-22

- Let's not miss the end result of incident.
- **John 2:22** (ESV)

When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

3. Jesus Knows All People 2:23-25

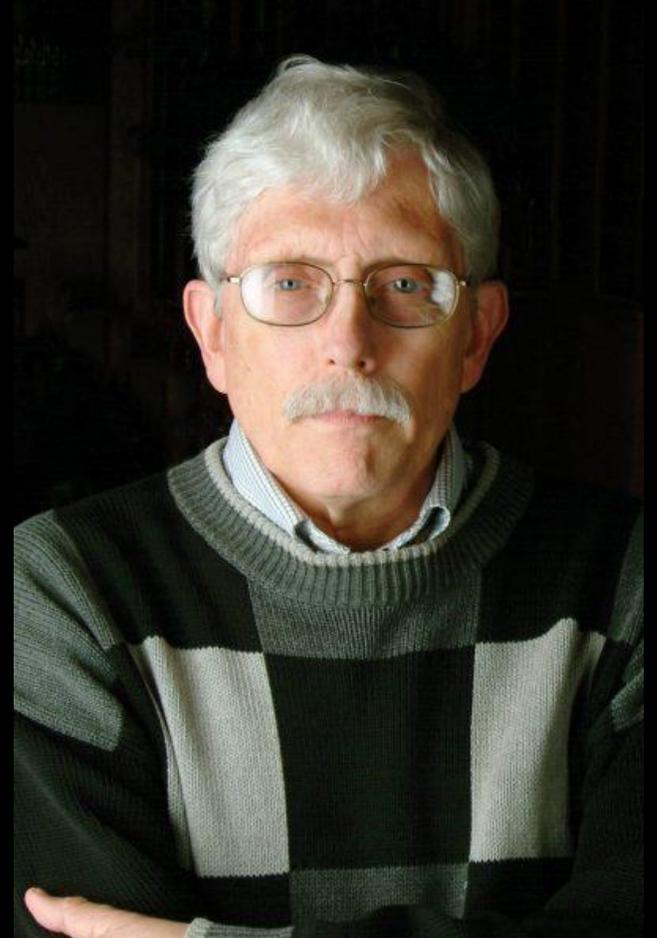
3. Jesus Knows All People 2:23-25

- Jesus evidently did perform some miracles works on this trip to Jerusalem.
- John, for whatever reason does not record them.
- His point is Jesus that knew better than to entrust himself to everyone.
- He knew the genuine from the superficial believers.

The Gospel According to John

True faith centers on who Jesus is and not just on what he does; their belief was little more than astonishment at the stupendous miracles. We can see three levels of faith in John— unbelief (the leaders), partial faith (here and 6: 66), and true faith.⁵

*— Grant Osborne (1942 – 2018),
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School*



3. Jesus Knows All People 2:23-25

- It is well worth examining ourselves to see where we really stand.
- 2 Corinthians 13:5 (ESV)

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

John 2 What We Just Read

John 2 What We Just Read

1. The Wedding at Cana 2:1-12
2. Cleansing the Temple 2:13-22
3. Jesus Knows All People 2:23-25

John 2 Key Verse

John 2 Key Verse

- John 2:11 (ESV)

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

John 2 Key Points

1. We need to be ready, as Mary encouraged the servants, to do whatever Jesus tells us.
2. Obedience with an unknown outcome is often a key step to greater intimacy with God.
3. Decide to be a blessing, both to other believers and to those who don't yet know Christ.
4. Test the sincerity of your faith. Not everyone who believes at the same level.

John 2 A Prayer

John 2 A Prayer

- Gracious Father,
- Thank you for giving us the perfect Savior in the person of Jesus Christ your Son.
- Help us to always be ready to obey him, even when we are not sure where obedience will lead.
- And allow us, through this process to develop greater intimacy with you.

John 2 A Prayer

- Then Father, when we look at the religious leaders, we realize that we may be in that position today in relation to others.
- Help us to always be an encouragement to those who need to grow in their faith. Help us further to make it easier for those who don't know you to come to know you personally.

John 2 A Prayer

- Help us to be stepping stones rather than stumbling blocks to other people's faith.
- In Christ our Lord,
- Amen

John 2 References

1. Osborne, Grant R. *John Verse by Verse* (Osborne New Testament Commentaries) (Kindle Locations 111-114). Lexham Press. Kindle Edition.
2. Evans, Tony. *The Tony Evans Bible Commentary*. B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.
3. Köstenberger, Andreas, 2013. *Encountering John: The Gospel in Historical, Literary, and Theological Perspective*, Second Edition. Baker Academic, 59.
4. Köstenberger, Andreas, *Encountering John*, 62.
5. Osborne, Grant R. *John Verse by Verse*. Locations 1340-1342.