JOHN 2

The Good Wine and the True Temple

a wedding in Cana, a whip in the temple, and a Lord who knows what is in man

> *"This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him."*
> JOHN 2:11

A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

Where we are in John

1. John 1 ended with a promise: “you will see greater things than these” (1:50).

2. The chapter has two settings and two moods.

3. The Old Testament background matters.



The Good Wine Kept Until Now

A wedding about to be shamed, a mother's word, six jars of water — and the first of His signs

JOHN 2:11

This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

DAVID GUZIK

Welcome at a party; the servants obeyed to the full; the best is yet to come.

R.C. SPROUL

Signs point; "Woman" is respect; Mary's greatest sermon; real wine, no drunkenness.

C.H. SPURGEON

Gospel benefits come with a gospel precept; we fill, He turns.

MATTHEW HENRY

An obscure corner; delays of mercy are not denials; the law's water to blood.

σημεῖον
SĒMEION · "SIGN"

John never calls Jesus' miracles terata (wonders) on their own; his word is sēmeion, a sign — a mark that points beyond itself.

The old order and the new

JOHN 2	WHAT WAS THERE	WHAT JESUS GIVES
WASHING	**six stone waterpots for** Jewish purification (v6)	**the good wine** kept until now (v10)
THE HOUSE	**a temple forty-six years** in building (v20)	**the temple of His body,** raised in three days (vv19, 21)
THE SIGN	**"What sign do You** show us?" (v18)	**"when He was raised** from the dead" (v22)
BELIEVING	**believed, observing His signs;** He did not entrust Himself (vv23–24)	**believed the Scripture and** the word Jesus had spoken (v22)

Read across each row: what Jesus found in place, and what He gives instead — Himself, in every case.

Zeal for Your House

Passover in Jerusalem — oxen, doves and money tables driven out of the Father's house

JOHN 2:14

And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables.

DAVID GUZIK

The Gentiles' only place spoiled; a whip made slowly, not in a flash.

R.C. SPROUL

Two cleansings; the whip for animals; God is particular about worship.

C.H. SPURGEON

No Spurgeon sermon on these verses could be sourced.

MATTHEW HENRY

Sinners prepare their own scourges; discretion must govern zeal.

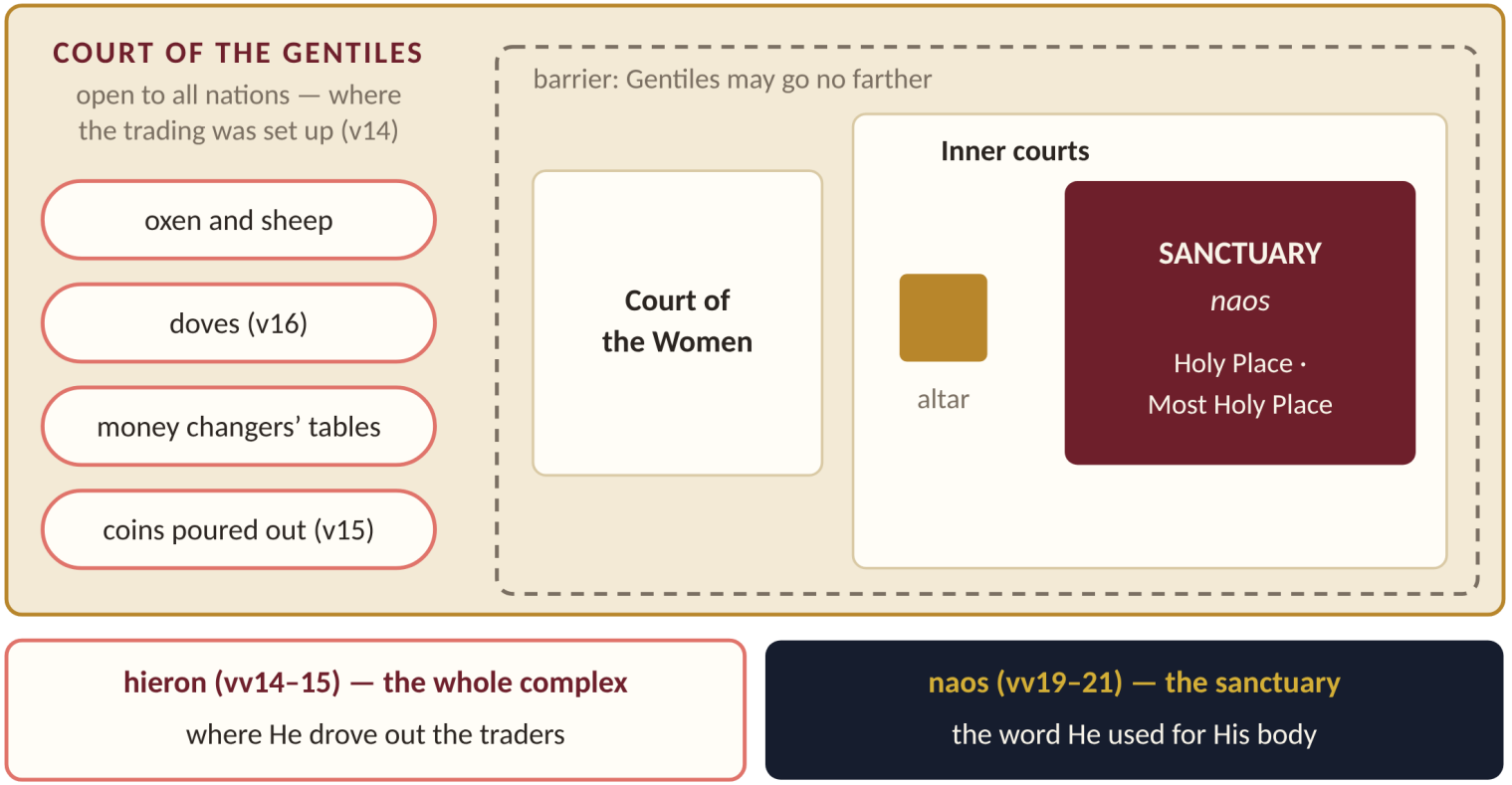
φραγέλλιον … κολλυβιστῶν

PHRAGELLION … KOLLYBISTŌN · "WHIP … MONEY CHANGERS"

Phragellion is a Latin loanword (flagellum), found only here in the New Testament — and Jesus makes it Himself, "of cords" (schoinia, G4979, rushes or ropes).

Hieron and naos

THE TEMPLE MOUNT · A SIMPLE PLAN (NOT TO SCALE)



The trading filled the outer Court of the Gentiles (the hieron); when Jesus said "destroy this temple," He used naos, the sanctuary itself — and meant His body.

Destroy This Temple

The demand for a sign, and the sign He gives: His body destroyed and raised in three days

JOHN 2:18

The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?"

DAVID GUZIK

The leaders fulfil the prophecy they oppose; the Trinity raises Him.

R.C. SPROUL

The supreme sign is the resurrection; Christ is the temple.

C.H. SPURGEON

No Spurgeon sermon on these verses could be sourced.

MATTHEW HENRY

Literal where Scripture is figurative; His body the true temple.

ναός

NAOS · "TEMPLE, SANCTUARY"

Verses 14–15 use hieron (G2411), the whole temple area with its courts and porches.

He Knew What Was in Man

Many believed because of the signs — but Jesus did not entrust Himself to them

JOHN 2:24

But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men,

DAVID GUZIK

Thin, superficial belief; He sees the worst and the image of God.

R.C. SPROUL

A carryover into chapter 3; He knew what was in Nicodemus.

C.H. SPURGEON

No Spurgeon sermon on these verses could be sourced.

MATTHEW HENRY

No confidence in shallow converts; He knew what was in man.

ἐπίστευσαν … οὐκ ἐπίστευεν αὐτὸν

EPISTEUSAN … OUK EPISTEUEN HAUTON · "BELIEVED … DID NOT ENTRUST HIMSELF"

John plays on one verb, pisteuō.

What to carry from this chapter

1

A sign is a signpost.

John calls miracles sēmeia.

2

Moses turned water to blood; Jesus turned water to wine.

Guzik: the first showed that “the Law results in death”; the second that “the New Covenant is better than the Old Covenant.”

3

The jars were for washing.

Six stone waterpots “for the Jewish custom of purification” (v. 6), twenty or thirty gallons each — up to about 180 gallons.

4

“Whatever He says to you, do it.”

Mary’s last recorded words in John point away from herself.

More to carry

5

We fill; He turns.

Spurgeon: “The servants fill the waterpots: the Master turns the water into wine.”

6

The best is kept for last.

The world serves its best first and its worst last; Christ reverses it.

7

Zeal with a whip He took time to make.

Jesus braided the cords Himself (phragellion, only here).

8

The market was in the Gentiles’ court.

The one place the nations could pray had become a stockyard and a bank.

Talk it through

1. Where in my life has “the wine run out” — a marriage, a family, a job, a recovery — and have I simply told Jesus, “They have no wine”?

2. What has Jesus told me to do that I am doing halfway? What would filling the waterpots “to the brim” look like this week?

3. The world serves its best wine first and its worst last. Where have I tasted that in my own life — and where have I seen Jesus keep the good wine until now?

4. If my body is a temple of God, what tables need overturning — what has turned His house into a place of business?

5. Jesus pointed to His resurrection as the sign. How does the empty tomb answer the question I keep asking God — “What sign do You show us?”

CLOSING

John 2 opens with a party saved and closes with a crowd not trusted. In between, Jesus replaces the water of washing with the best wine and the temple of stone with His own body, destroyed and raised. He knows what is in every man — and He still keeps the good wine for those who do whatever He says.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the John study page.