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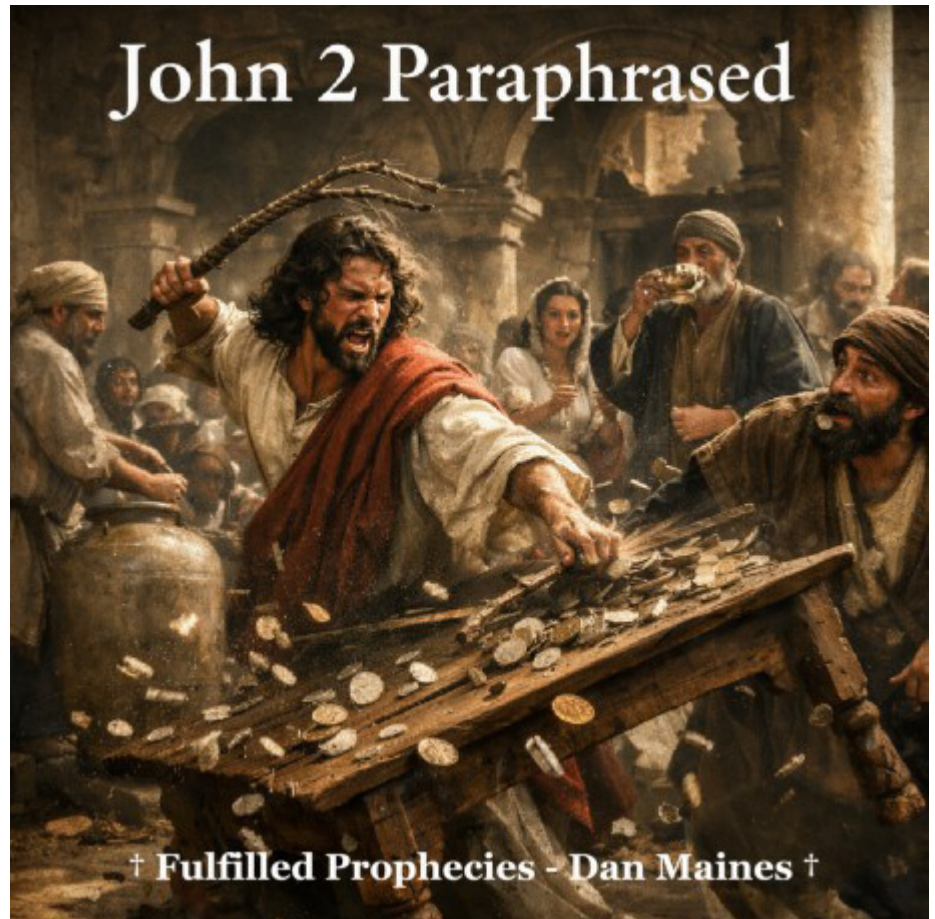
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John 2 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

John 2 Paraphrased

Introduction

† This chapter reveals the beginning of Jesus' public signs, showing His authority over creation and the temple system.

† The turning of water into wine points to the transformation from the old covenant purification to the new covenant fulfillment.

† The cleansing of the temple shows judgment coming upon the corrupt system that had replaced true worship.

John 2:1

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and Jesus' mother was there

† This places the event in a real historical setting, not symbolic fiction

† The third day echoes themes of revelation and manifestation (Exodus 19:11)

† Mary is present, showing family connection and social involvement

John 2:2

and Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding

† Jesus participates in normal life events, showing His humanity

† His disciples are already following Him early in His ministry

† This shows His work begins among the people, not isolated from them

John 2:3

When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, They have no wine

† Running out of wine would bring shame to the host in that culture

† Mary brings the need to Jesus, recognizing His ability to act

† This reflects dependence on Him for provision

John 2:4

And Jesus said to her, Woman, what does that have to do with us, My hour has not yet come

† Jesus makes clear His mission is governed by divine timing

† The phrase My hour points forward to His death and glorification (John 12:23)

† He is not acting under human pressure but according to the Father's will

John 2:5

His mother said to the servants, Whatever He says to you, do it

† This shows trust in Jesus' authority

† Obedience is the condition for witnessing His power

† This principle applies throughout His ministry

John 2:6

Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each

† These vessels represent the old covenant purification system

† The large capacity shows abundance within the old system, yet still insufficient

† The number six often represents incompleteness

John 2:7

Jesus said to them, Fill the waterpots with water, So they filled them up to the brim

† Full obedience is shown, leaving no room for doubt

† Filling to the brim removes any suspicion of trickery

† This prepares for a complete transformation

John 2:8

And He said to them, Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter, So they took it to him

† The servants act in faith without knowing the outcome

† The miracle occurs between the filling and the drawing

† This reflects unseen transformation by Christ

John 2:9

When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from, but the servants who had drawn the water knew, the headwaiter called the bridegroom

† The transformation is complete, not partial

† Those who serve witness what others do not

† This shows hidden revelation given to the faithful

John 2:10

and said to him, Every man serves the good wine first, and

when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine, but you have kept the good wine until now

† The best is saved for last, showing the superiority of what Christ brings

† This contrasts the old covenant with the new

† The fulfilled kingdom brings what was better all along (Hebrews 8:6)

John 2:11

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

† This is the first public sign revealing His identity

† His glory is not political but divine

† Faith grows through witnessing His works

John 2:12

After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother and His brothers and His disciples, and they stayed there a few days

† Movement between regions shows the spread of His ministry

† His family remains connected to Him at this stage

† This sets up His broader mission in Galilee

John 2:13

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem

† Passover connects to deliverance and covenant themes

† Jesus enters Jerusalem as the true Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7)

† This timing is intentional and prophetic

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

† The temple had become a marketplace instead of a place of worship

† This reflects corruption within the religious system

† The leaders had turned worship into profit

John 2:15

And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables

† Jesus acts with authority and righteous judgment

† This is not uncontrolled anger but purposeful action

† It foreshadows the coming destruction of that system in AD 70

John 2:16

and to those who were selling the doves He said, Take these things away, stop making My Father's house a place of business

† He identifies the temple as His Father's house, claiming divine authority

† Worship had been replaced with commerce

† This exposes the failure of Israel's leadership

John 2:17

His disciples remembered that it was written, Zeal for Your house will consume me

† This fulfills Psalm 69:9

† His zeal is tied to judgment and restoration

† Scripture confirms His actions as righteous

John 2:18

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

† They demand proof instead of recognizing truth

† Their focus is on authority, not repentance

† This shows their hardened condition

John 2:19

Jesus answered them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up

† He speaks of His body, not the physical building

† This points to His death and resurrection

† The true temple is Christ Himself (John 1:14)

John 2:20

The Jews then said, It took forty six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days

† They misunderstand His words literally

† This reveals their blindness to spiritual truth

† They are focused on the physical structure

John 2:21

But He was speaking of the temple of His body

† Jesus replaces the temple system entirely

† Access to God is now through Him alone

† This is the shift from old covenant to fulfilled reality

John 2:22

So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken

† Understanding comes after fulfillment

† Faith is strengthened through fulfilled prophecy

† This aligns with the fulfilled perspective of all prophecy

John 2:23

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing

† Belief based on signs is often shallow

† Many are drawn by miracles rather than truth

† This sets up a contrast in the next verse

John 2:24

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

† Jesus discerns true faith from superficial belief

† He is not deceived by outward responses

† His knowledge is complete and divine

John 2:25

and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man

† He knows the heart completely (Jeremiah 17:10)

† This confirms His divine nature

† True faith is inward, not just outward response

Historical References

† Josephus records the corruption and commercial activity within the temple before its destruction, showing this was a real issue

† Eusebius notes that Jesus' actions foreshadowed the coming judgment on Jerusalem in AD 70

† Irenaeus affirms that Christ replaced the temple system as the true dwelling of God

† Clement of Alexandria taught that Christ's miracles revealed deeper spiritual transformation beyond physical acts

How it applies to us today

† We must recognize that Jesus has already fulfilled the temple system, we don't return to shadows

† True worship is not tied to buildings but to Christ Himself (John 4:21-24)

† We must examine our hearts, because He knows what is in us

† Obedience brings revelation, just like the servants who followed His command

† The fulfilled reality means we live in the better covenant now, not waiting for it

Q & A Appendix

Q: What does the water turning into wine represent

A: It represents the transformation from the old covenant purification to the new covenant fulfillment (Hebrews 8:6)

Q: Why did Jesus cleanse the temple

A: Because it had become corrupt and was under judgment (Malachi 3:1-3)

Q: What is the temple Jesus spoke about

A: His body, showing He replaced the physical temple (John 1:14)

Q: Why didn't Jesus trust those who believed in Him

A: Because their belief was based on signs, not true faith (John 6:26)

Q: What does this chapter show about fulfillment

A: It shows the transition from the old system to the fulfilled reality in Christ (Colossians 2:16-17)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† John 2

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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