

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

Feb. 13, 2016

- Exodus 30-32 – Instructions about the tabernacle service (30-31); Golden Calf (32).
- John 6:1-14 – Jesus feeds 5,000.
- Song of Solomon 4:4-8 – More praise from Solomon regarding his bride on the wedding night.

Commentary:

1. Exodus 30-32. Note the two words in the story of Golden Calf—‘the calf and the dancing.’

There in the midst, perhaps on some pedestal, was the shameful copy of the Egyptian Apis; and whirling round it in mad circles, working themselves into frenzy by rapid motion and frantic shouts, were the people, — men and women, mingled in the licentious dance, who, six short weeks before, had sworn to the Covenant. Their bestial deity in the centre, and they compassing it with wild partying. Note the strange, irresistible fascination of idolatry.



Clearly the personal influence of Moses was the only barrier against it. The people thought that he had disappeared, and, if so, Yahweh had disappeared with him. Moderns wonder at the rank idolatry because modern forms of idolatry are far more sophisticated (e.g., celebrities, wealth, and the world). Note the breaches of the commands of God. Note Aaron’s proclamation of ‘a feast to the Lord.’ Note Aaron’s lack of faithfulness to the Lord as he compromised with the people of God by giving them what they wanted instead of what they needed: **TOTAL TRUTH ABOUT GOD!**

2. John 6:1-14. Seeing this miraculous sign (σημεῖα), the people recalled Moses’ prediction that a Prophet like him would arise (Deut. 18:15). Moses had fed the people. Moses had led them out of bondage. Jesus had fed the people.

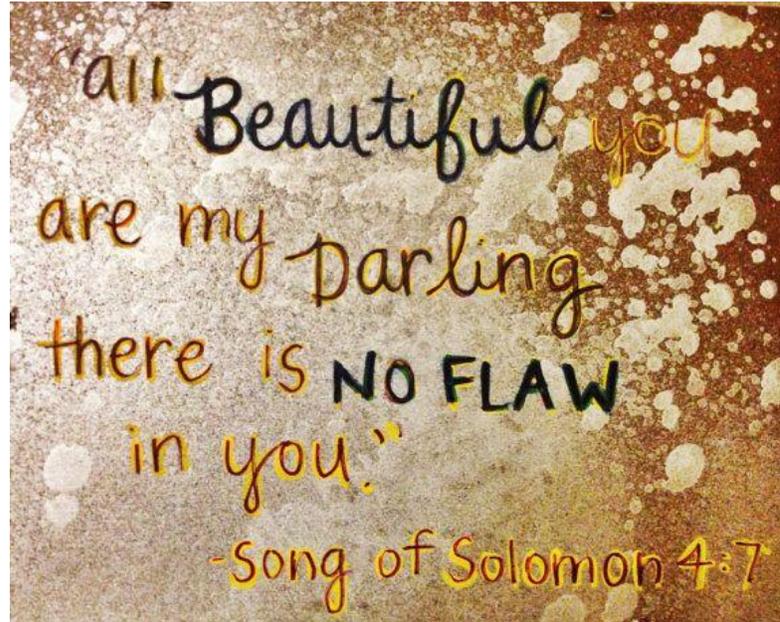
Jesus could lead the people out of the hated Roman bondage. The people saw His sign, but they did not perceive its meaning. They wanted to seize Him and make Him King. This marks the highpoint of Jesus’ popularity and a great temptation for Him. Could He have the kingdom without the Cross? No. Jesus’ kingdom would be given to Him by the Father (cf. Ps. 2:7–12; Dan. 7:13–14). It will not come from this world (John 18:36). The path of the Father’s will lies in another direction. Before He can be the reigning Lion of Judah, He must be the



Lamb who bears the sin of the world (1:29). Apparently in the crowd there were political activists who were set on revolutionary king-making actions. Jesus did not need an earthly crown, and He certainly did not come to lead a military expedition. So instead of acceding to their desires, He headed for the hills and left them with their unfulfilled political expectations. There is little doubt that later hostility was a result of His rejection of their wishes to make Him king. They totally missed the heart of Jesus's ministry and so lost out on God's matchless grace, and perhaps forever!

3. Song of Solomon 4:4-8. By comparing her **neck** to the tower, Solomon was emphasizing her queenly bearing and appearance as awesome and majestic as King David's tower. He compares her breasts to fawns as to their softness, not color or form. Looking on the soft coat of a little fawn makes a person want to stroke it. Solomon wanted his bride to know that her soft and gentle beauty had kindled his desire for her and he wished to express that desire with his caresses. Moreover, a mountain of myrrh or a hill of frankincense would have been greatly valued. To Solomon, therefore, his bride's breasts were attractive and of great value to him. To him, she had no flaw. She was perfect in appearance. Solomon praised eight parts

of his bride's body: her eyes, hair, teeth, lips, mouth, temples, neck, and breasts. Recall that the daughters of Jerusalem did not seem to regard the beloved as a beautiful woman—she was not fair-skinned, a preeminent sign of beauty in the ancient world. Yet in her lover's eyes she was beautiful, even though she did not meet the objective standards of beauty in her society. In other words, though few people in any age meet their own particular culture's standard of beauty, a woman is beautiful in the eyes of her



lover simply because he loves her. Every husband who genuinely loves his wife can say, "To me you are beautiful and there is no flaw in you." The fact that Solomon called her my bride five times confirms that chapter 4 depicts their wedding night.

On the Glory Road,

Pastor Don