

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

Feb. 4, 2016

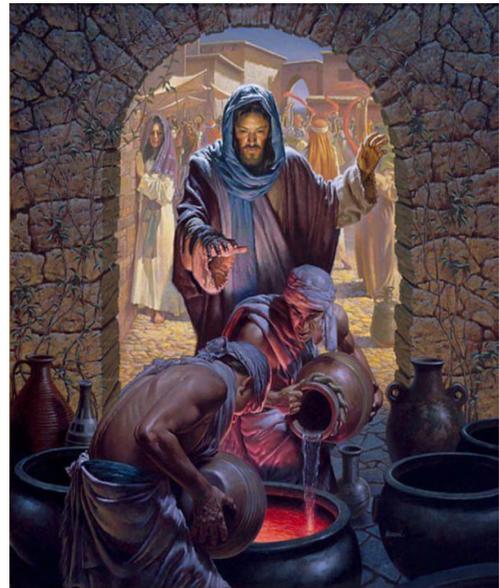
- Exodus 9:1-10:29 – Plagues 5-9.
- John 2:1-12 – Jesus’ first sign.
- Song of Solomon 1:15-17 – Appreciation of beauty.

Reflections:

1. Exodus 9:1-10:29. Moses demanded the release of the Israelites. If Pharaoh refused, Moses said, the hand of the Lord would bring a plague on their domesticated animals. With dead frogs throughout the land and with swarms of flies spreading germs, this destructive pestilence may have been anthrax. This would have been in January when cattle were led out to pasture after the Nile inundation subsided. This plague would have been economically and “religiously” distressing for the Egyptians as many animals were sacred as per god Apis or Re, and the cow which represented Hathor, the goddess of love, beauty, and joy. Hathor was depicted in the form of a woman with the head (or sometimes only the horns) of a cow. Also Khnum was a ram-god. The plague occurred as the Lord predicted: all the livestock of the Egyptians died. Pharaoh investigated Goshen to see if any of the Israelites’ animals had died. He saw that God had indeed made a distinction (9:4), he still refused to repent.



2. John 2:1-12. The significance of the miracle was explained by John as a manifestation of Christ’s glory. In contrast with the ministry of Moses who turned water into blood as a sign of God’s judgment (Ex. 7:14–24), Jesus brings joy. The sign points to Jesus as the Word in the flesh, who is the mighty Creator. Each year He turns water to wine in the agricultural and fermentation processes. Here He simply did the process immediately. The 120 gallons of fine wine were His gift to the young couple. We are told that the disciples put their faith in Him. This initial faith would be tested and developed by a progressive revelation of Jesus, the *Logos*. At this point they did not understand His death and resurrection (John 20:8–9), but they did know His power.



3. Song of Solomon 1:15-17. The New King James translators provide some help in adding the speakers (upper case): Song of Solomon 1:15 *THE BELOVED Behold, you are fair, my love! Behold, you are fair! You have dove's eyes.* ¹⁶ *THE SHULAMITE Behold, you are handsome, my beloved! Yes, pleasant! Also our bed is green.* ¹⁷ *The beams of our houses are cedar, And our rafters of fir.* He commends her beauty and tranquil character. In antiquity doves were noted for their cleanliness and tranquility. She commends his physical good looks (handsome) and “pleasant” personality. The word “pleasant” (נִיָּה) means “pleasant” or “lovely” and the combination, handsome and pleasant, was as rare then as it is now. The beams of cedars and the rafters made of firs probably do not refer to a literal building but figuratively to the pastoral setting in which they first met. This is also suggested by the verdant (green) bed (couch). The field where they fell in love and sat talking was green.



On the Glory Road,

Pastor Don