

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 2:12-22

A New Temple

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¹²After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother and His brothers and His disciples; and they stayed there a few days.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵And 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; ¹⁶and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a house of merchandise."

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¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "*Zeal for Your house will consume me.*" ¹⁸The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" ²¹But He was speaking of the temple of His body. ²²So 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.

John 2:12-22

1 EVENT OR 2?

1. Most natural reading of the text favors two separate events
2. John's account has a unique focus on Jesus' Judean ministry
3. If two events, there would be 2-3 years between them
4. The argument that like events = same event is weak

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BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

1. The Passover

- A yearly celebration of the Israelites deliverance from slavery in Egypt through God's substitutional provision of the blood of a lamb in place of the first born.
- The Requirements for celebrating Passover required all males to make a sacrifice in Jerusalem (Deut. 16)

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¹Observe the month of Abib and celebrate the Passover to the Lord your God, for in the month of Abib the Lord your God brought you out of Egypt by night. ²You shall sacrifice the Passover to the Lord your God from the flock and the herd, in the place where the Lord chooses to establish His name...

⁵You are *not* allowed to sacrifice the Passover in any of your towns which the Lord your God is giving you; ⁶but only at the place where the Lord your God chooses to establish His name, you shall sacrifice the Passover...

¹⁶all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which the Lord chooses."

Deuteronomy 16:1-2, 5-6, 16

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- For those with a long journey to Jerusalem are allowed to exchange money for an animal to Sacrifice (Deut. 14:22-27)

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THE FOCUS OF THE ACTION

1. The Focus of the Action

- The focus in clearing out the temple complex is *locative* and not moral or ethical

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THEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ACTION

1. John aligns Jesus with the pattern of the suffering servant in the Old Testament, who would experience the ultimate fatal affliction
2. Jesus understood his body to fulfill the *function* and *purpose* of the temple: the housing of God's glory and the ultimate sacrifice.

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