

# Jesus, the Son of God

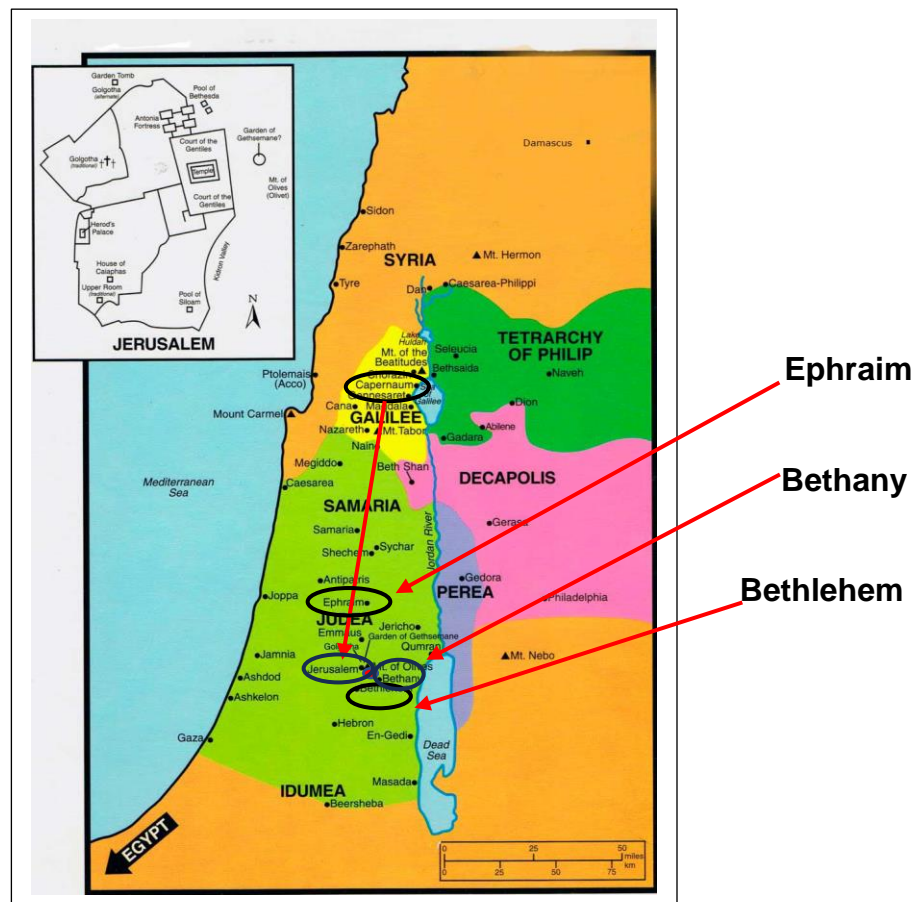
## Chapter 25-The Gospel of John

### The Gospel of John-Chapter 7

#### Introduction

#### Vs. 1-2-The Feast of Tabernacles

- After Jesus had performed the miracle of feeding the five thousand and had proclaimed Himself as “The **bread of life**,” He remained in Galilee (northern part of Israel).



[http://www.pinsdaddy.com/map-of-john-the-baptist-ministry\\_6lklrvA6boFL7y2lfycrUDq59wxXpHuAWzaWjdKdgbg/](http://www.pinsdaddy.com/map-of-john-the-baptist-ministry_6lklrvA6boFL7y2lfycrUDq59wxXpHuAWzaWjdKdgbg/)

- The **Feast of Booths** was approaching, and all the Jews would be journeying down to Judea (Jerusalem) for the celebration.
- The Feast of Booths was also known as the **Feast of Tabernacles**. The Feast of Booths began on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Tishri (the 7<sup>th</sup> month).

- The first day was to be a day of rest and a holy convocation (gathering). The seventh day was also to be a day of **rest** and a holy convocation.
- The people would make huts of boughs and live in them throughout the week. This act commemorated God's **provision** for the Israelites when He brought them out of Egypt and cared for them throughout the wilderness experience.
- The Feast of Tabernacles will be celebrated during the **Millennium** (Zechariah 14:16). This feast will be a time for all believers to remember Christ's provisions for them while on earth.

### **Vs. 3-36-Jesus Attends the Feast of Tabernacles**

- Jesus was a marked man in Jerusalem. The Jews were seeking to **kill** Him for the healing of the lame man and for claiming to be God.
- Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him and apparently were trying to trick Jesus into going to Jerusalem.
- During the **middle** of the feast, Jesus appeared and began to teach in the temple.
- Vs. 30 states that the Jews could not harm Jesus since, "His time had not yet come." Jesus was very much in control of the situation.
- The unbelieving Jews would not enter the Kingdom of God because of their **unbelief**.

### **Vs. 37-53-The Last Day of the Festival**

- The last day of the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) was to be a time of rest and a holy gathering. It was this day that Jesus stood up and cried out, saying, "If anyone is **thirsty**, let him come to Me and drink."
- Jesus was referring to the **Holy Spirit** that is given to all who believe in Christ.
- The Holy Spirit would not be given until after Jesus had risen from the dead and had ascended into Heaven. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit within believers began on the day of **Pentecost** (Acts 2).
- The Jewish leaders did not believe that Jesus could be the Messiah since He came from Galilee and not from **Bethlehem** (Micah 5:2).
- The Jews did not do their research since Bethlehem was exactly where Jesus was born.
- Bethlehem was also the birthplace of King David. Bethlehem (Ephrathah-see map above) indicates the fertility of the area. Bethlehem means, "**House of Bread**" and Ephrathah means, "fruitful."
- Not only did Jesus claim to be the Bread of Life when He fed the five thousand but even the place of His birth revealed that He was the Bread of Life.

## Chapter 8

### Vs. 1-11-A Woman Caught in Adultery

- The Pharisees had brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery (Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22-26b). Both man and woman were to be stoned.
- According to their interpretation, she was to be **stoned**. However, their *traditions* did not call for stoning.
- Dwight Pentecost states that Jesus, "...Had reminded them (John 7:19, 22-23) that the Mosaic law did permit certain works on the Sabbath which the Pharisees denied in their **traditions**. The Pharisees were incensed that Jesus should put their traditions in opposition of the law; therefore, when the occasion to support their views presented itself through the discovery of this woman in sin, they brought her to Him. They hoped to show that the law was so harsh it must be **reinterpreted** and that their reinterpretation in their traditions was therefore valid. John specifically stated that the Pharisees were not concerned with righteousness of justice. They hoped to trap Christ into saying that the law was too harsh to be accepted as written and must be reinterpreted. ...They failed in their attempt to make Him acknowledge that the Mosaic Law was too stringent to be observed and to approve the Pharisaic traditional interpretation of that law." (283)

### Vs. 12-20-Jesus the Light of the World

- Jesus claimed to be the **Light of the world**. Jesus had, the previous day, claimed to be the Water of Life, now He was claiming to be the light of the world. This gave evidence that Jew and Gentile would be allowed into the Kingdom of God.
- Pentecost states, "There were two most significant features in the observance of the Feast of Tabernacles. The first was to light the golden **lampstand** so that the court might be illuminated during the evening hours of the week of Tabernacles. The second was to proceed to the **Pool of Siloam** to draw water to pour out around the altar. The lighting of the lamps signified Israel's need for light for which God was the only true source. Pouring out the water was a confession of sin and an acknowledgment of the need of cleansing. Thus Tabernacles not only looked backward to God's past provision for His people's need but also looked forward to the coming of Messiah, who would provide illumination and cleansing. In declaring Himself to be the Water of Life and the Light of the World, Christ was claiming to be Messiah, who fulfilled all that was anticipated in the Feast of Tabernacles." (285)

## **Vs. 21-59-Jesus' Characteristics**

- Jesus stated in vs. 32, "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you **free**." Jesus was telling the Pharisees that because of their unbelief, they were not followers of God.
- Vs. 57-58 is very significant in that Jesus openly admitted that He was **God**. The phrase, "I am," was God's personal name Jehovah. God used this name in Exodus 3:14 when addressing Moses. The fact that Jesus used this phrase, He was declaring Himself to be God. The Pharisees tried to stone Jesus, but Jesus left their presence.

## **Chapter 9**

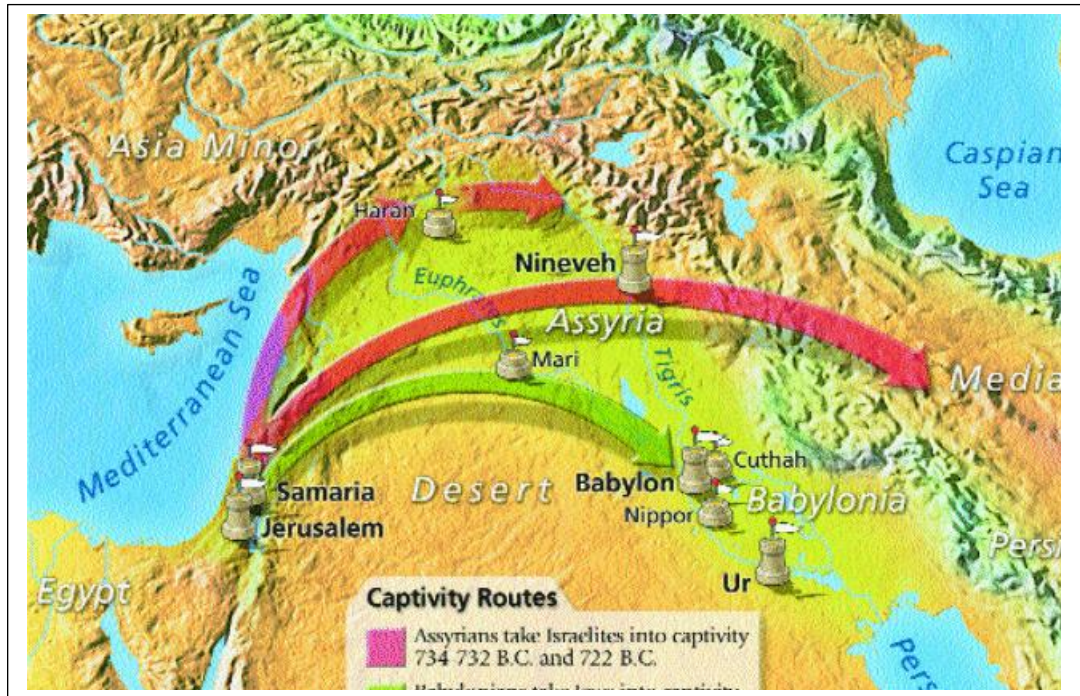
### **Vs. 1-41-Jesus Heals a Blind Man**

- Jesus healed a blind man. It is interesting to note that he was told to wash in the pool of **Siloam**. This was the very pool where the Jews were to draw water to pour around the altar during the Feast of Booths. This act demonstrated the need for the cleansing of sins.
- When Jesus gave sight to the blind man, He was trying to show the people that he was the true Light of the world. It was because of these miracles that John referred to them as "**signs**."
- It is important to read vs. 35-38. The blind man believed that Jesus was the **Messiah**, the Savior of the world.

## **Chapter 10**

### **Vs. 1-21-The Good Shepherd**

- The Jews were very familiar with the concept of the shepherd and the sheep as they applied to **God** and **Israel**.
  - Jeremiah and Ezekiel compared the evil rulers of Israel to that of wicked shepherds before the **Babylonian** captivity (see map on next page).



<http://www.christians-standing-with-israel.org/babylonian-exile-captivity-jerusalem-map.html>

- Jeremiah 50:6 “My people have been lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray and caused them to roam on the mountains...”
- Jeremiah 23:1-2- “Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the **sheep** of my pasture!”
- Ezekiel 34:1-10- “...Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of **themselves!** Should not shepherds take care of the flock?’”
- Jeremiah 34:11-16- “...I myself will **search** for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. ...I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land.”
- Christ showed that He was the true **Shepherd**. He was the true Shepherd because of the way He had come to the fold as recorded in the Old Testament.
  - Pentecost states, “The Scriptures had revealed where Messiah would be born (Micah 5:2), when He would be born (Daniel 9:24-27), the circumstances of His birth (Isaiah 7:14), the ministry which the true Shepherd would perform (61:1-2), miracles which He would perform to **authenticate** Himself (35:5-6), and the way in which He would be presented to the nation through a forerunner (Malachi 3:1)-(294).

- In this discourse, Christ was comparing Himself with the false attitudes and teachings of the **Pharisees**.
- Vs. 14 is important in understanding why some did not believe in Jesus and others did. Those who were of the **fold** recognized His voice and responded.
- Vs. 16 was an indication that salvation would be extended to the **Gentiles**.

### Vs. 22-39-The Feast of Lights

- Three months after the Feast of Booths (7:2), Jesus had been ministering throughout Perea (east of the Jordan River-see map above) after which He attended the Feast of Dedication.



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- This feast was sometimes referred to as the Feast of Lights, or **Hanukkah**. This date falls near the winter solstice, Dec. 22. Judas Maccabeus instituted this feast in 165 B.C. in commemoration of the cleansing and reopening of the **Temple**.



This occurred after the Syrian ruler Antiochus Epiphanes had desecrated the temple in 168 B.C. (Ryrie).

- Vs. 26-27 is a restatement why some rejected Christ's word and others did not. ["But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep].
- Vs. 28-29 is a powerful statement affirming **eternal security** (one can never lose their salvation).
- Vs. 30 is another indication that Jesus and the Father are **one** (two of the three parts of the Trinity).
  - Because Jesus declared Himself to be one with the Father, the Jews picked up stones to **stone** Him (Leviticus 24:13-16).
- Vs. 40 indicates that Jesus eluded their grasp. His time had not yet come to die. Jesus left to go back into **Perea** for another 3 months.

## Ch. 11

### Vs. 1-44- The Raising of Lazarus from the Dead



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- Bethany was a town just outside of Jerusalem (see map above). Lazarus had apparently been a very influential man considering the amount of people at his home. Jesus had deliberately **delayed** so that Lazarus would die. Jesus' intent was to perform a miracle so that He would be glorified, and the people would believe that He was the Messiah.
- Vs. 11 indicates that Lazarus had fallen **asleep**. Though the disciples thought that Lazarus was sleeping, Jesus meant that Lazarus had died but would be resurrected (1 Thessalonians 4:14).
- Vs. 8 indicates the disciples were surprised that Jesus was willing to go back to the Jerusalem area since the Jews had tried to **stone** Him three months prior.
- Vs. 16 gives us an interesting insight into Thomas' character. Thomas **encouraged** his fellow disciples to go to Jerusalem with Jesus and be martyred with Him.
- Jesus states in Vs. 25-26 that He is the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in Him, they will never die. Jesus was referring to **spiritual** death. While the body dies, it will be resurrected at the rapture.
- The raising of Lazarus (vs. 43-44) must have been an astonishing **miracle** considering how tightly he must have been bound.

### Vs. 45-48-Many Followers of Jesus

- The Pharisees showed their true motivation toward Jesus in vs. 48. Since so many people believed in Jesus, the Jews were afraid that the Romans would destroy the Temple and the Jewish nation since such a following would appear to be an act of **treason** against the Roman Empire.
- Jesus left Bethany and went to the wilderness into a city called **Ephraim**. Ephraim was about 10 miles northeast of Jerusalem (see map above).



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## Chapter 12

### Vs. 1-8-Jesus' Anointing

- Six days before the Jewish Passover, Jesus came back to Bethany and stayed with Lazarus, Mary and Martha. Mary took a costly **perfume** and anointed the feet of Jesus.
- Though Mary was probably not aware of the significance, her act signified the **burial** of Jesus.
- Because of the miracle of Lazarus, the Jews were also planning to put him to death (vs. 10).

### Vs. 12-19-The Triumphal Entry

- This is one of the most amazing fulfillments of Old Testament **Prophecy**. To understand the significance, read Luke 19:41-42.
- To further understand the fulfillment of this prophecy it is necessary to read Daniel 9:24-27. When Daniel made this prophecy, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had already captured the people of Israel (see map above). The date was **538 B.C.**, 67 years after Daniel had been taken from Palestine. Daniel predicted that a decree would be given for the Israelites to return to their homeland and rebuild Jerusalem. This was fulfilled in **445 B.C.** when Artaxerxes Longimanus issued a decree for Jerusalem to be rebuilt.
- Daniel prophesied that there would be 69 weeks and the Messiah would be **killed**. Jewish culture had weeks of days (7 days); weeks of weeks (49 weeks); weeks of months (49 months); and weeks of years (49 years). This prophecy referred to weeks of years. There would be 69 weeks of years or **483** years before the Messiah would be killed. Artaxerxes gave the edict to rebuild Jerusalem on March 5, 444 B.C. The Passion week, Christ's entry into Jerusalem, was on March 30, 33 A.D. Daniel's 49 weeks of years would equal 173,855 days. This was the exact day that Christ entered Jerusalem on the **Donkey** (Walvoord 226-228).
- Therefore, Jesus states in Luke, "...If you had **known** in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes." Jesus knew the exact time of Daniel's prophecy. As a result, He would not allow the Jews to take and kill him before this specific date.

## **Summary**

When one comes to faith in Jesus Christ, He opens their heart to see the truths of God's Word. The Water of Life, the Bread of Life, and the Light of the world is free to all who accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

God's word can be trusted down to the smallest detail. Christ did not come to the earth without significant meaning. Christ's words are true and faithful. As we grow in the Lord and study His word, the Holy Spirit will begin to guide our thoughts and actions. Our faith in Christ will grow as we see the fulfillment of Christ's words in our life.

## Discussion Questions

### Chapter 25

1. The Feast of Booths was to be a time of reflection about God's provision during the wandering years of the Jews.
  - a. Do you have a time in your day, week, etc. that you spend to reflect upon God's provisions? Why can this be easy to neglect?
  - b. Do you think the Jews ever observed the Feast of Booths without reflecting upon God's provisions?
  - c. Read Psalm 63:6-7. How did David's meditation influence his attitude?
  
2. The Jewish leaders did not think Jesus fulfilled Micah 5:2 and therefore could not be the Messiah. Unfortunately, they were misinformed.
  - a. Jesus said, in John 8:32, "...You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Why is it sometimes easier to jump to conclusions without first finding the facts?
  - b. How often would you say arguments arise from misunderstandings?
  - c. Can you think of a time when an argument erupted over misinformation? What was the result?
  
3. It appears the Jewish leaders were trying to reinterpret God's laws by establishing rules and regulations.
  - a. Do we want to reinterpret any of God's laws (laws about love, giving, pure living)?
  - b. What is a natural tendency for those trying to cover up a sin?
  - c. Why does sin make it hard to follow God's laws? What are some remedies for conquering sin?
  
4. Jesus states that He is the good shepherd.
  - a. What are the characteristics of a shepherd?
  - b. What qualified Jesus to be our shepherd?
  - c. Why is it sometimes hard to trust Jesus when He promises to be our good shepherd?
  
5. It appears that Jesus deliberately waited to come to Lazarus until after he died. Mary and Martha were very disappointed that Jesus had not come earlier.
  - a. Why do you think God sometimes will wait to answer a prayer?
  - b. Have you ever been disappointed in God when He did not answer a prayer? Explain.
  - c. In Lazarus' situation, how was the miracle greater after his death? Can we apply this to our unanswered prayers? Explain.