


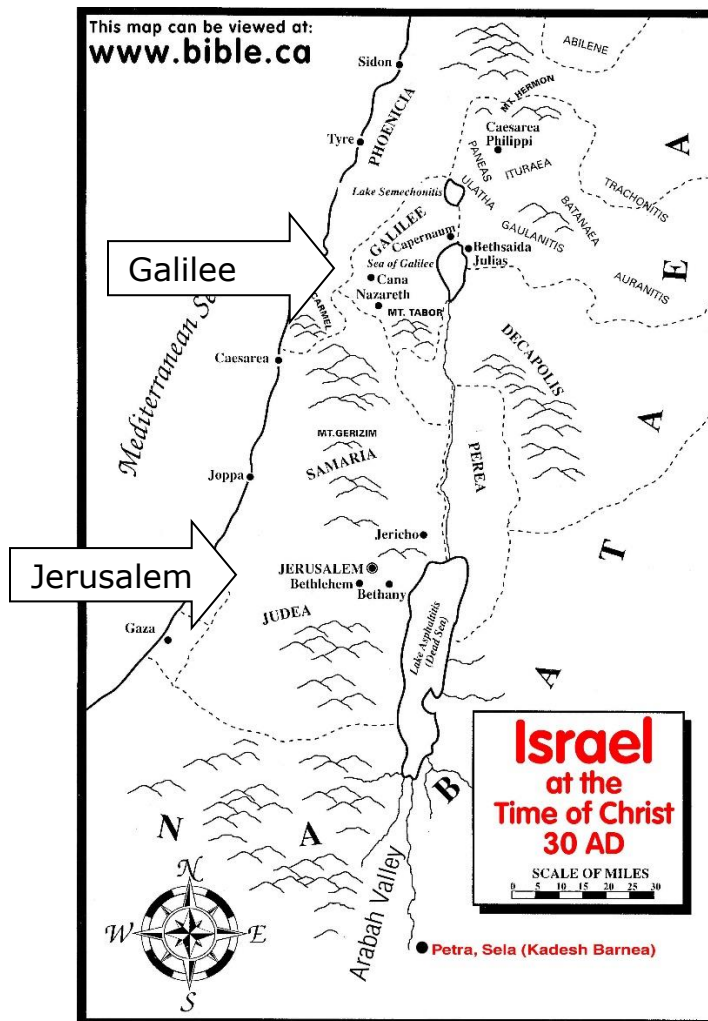
Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Jesus Goes to the Feast of Tabernacles

¹ After this, Jesus went around in Galilee, purposely staying away from Judea because the Jews there were waiting to take his life.


Q1. Why did the Jews want Jesus dead?



Lesson 11: John 7:1-36

² But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near,

Q2. What was the “Feast of the Tabernacles?”

 The Feast of Tabernacles, also called Booths, comes on the fifteenth of Tishri (September-October), the seventh month according to the Jewish (biblical) calendar. This was the third feast that required a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to worship in the Temple and to offer sacrifices and an offering to the Lord.

“Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose – in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles – and they shall not appear before the LORD empty: Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee” [Deuteronomy 16:16-17].

This is Israel’s Thanksgiving feast in which they acknowledge the Fall harvest and God’s provision for them. It is happy celebration and a time of joy and rejoicing.

This feast also remembers Israel’s deliverance from Egypt and their subsequent wandering in the wilderness for forty years. . . . [Source: <http://bible-truth.org/Feasts-Tabernacles.html>]

³ Jesus’ brothers said to him, “You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. ⁴ No one, who wants to become a public figure, acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.” ⁵ For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

Q3. Why do you think His half-brothers suggested that Jesus should “show yourself to the world”?

Q4. Do you think Jesus’ family understood the danger He would encounter from the Jewish leadership if He followed their advice?

Yes? Why?
No?

Matthew 13:54-58

⁵⁴ Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked. ⁵⁵ “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas?

⁵⁶ Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”

⁵⁷ And they took offense at him.

But Jesus said to them, “Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor.”

⁵⁸ And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

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⁶ Therefore Jesus told them, “The right time for me has not yet come; for you any time is right. ⁷ The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that what it does is evil. ⁸ You go to the Feast. I am not yet going up to this Feast, because for me the right time has not yet come.” ⁹ Having said this, he stayed in Galilee.

Q5. Verse 6: Why did Jesus tell them “for you any time is right” to travel to Judea?

Q6. Verse 7: Jesus said that “the world . . . hates me because I testify that what it does is evil”. Why does the “world” hate Him?

Lesson 11: John 7:1-36

Day 2

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¹⁰ However, after his brothers had left for the Feast, he went also, not publicly, but in secret.

Q7. It seems curious that Jesus would tell His brothers that the “right time has not yet come” and then travel secretly to Jerusalem. Is this a contradiction or a lie? Why? Or why not?

John 5:19

Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

John 6:38

For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

John 7:16 [Verse 16 is part of this lesson.]

Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me.

John 8:25-26 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)]

Then they said, “Who are you?” “I am what I have told you I was from the beginning,” replied Jesus. “There is much in you that I could speak about and condemn. But he who sent me is true and I am only speaking to this world what I myself have heard from him.”

John 15:9-15 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)]

“I have loved you just as the Father has loved me. You must go on living in my love. If you keep my commandments you will live in my love just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and live in his love. I have told you this so that you can share my joy, and that your happiness may be complete. This is my commandment: that you love each other as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this — that a man should lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I tell you to do. I shall not call you servants any longer, for a servant does not share his master’s confidence. No, I call you friends, now, because I have told you everything that I have heard from the Father.

John 17:14-17

¹³ "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. . .”

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Q8. If Jesus had travelled with His brothers, how would His entourage have acted? Would they want to announce (herald) His arrival? Do you think the human desire to ‘rub elbows’ with a celebrity is a recent phenomenon?

Acted?

Herald His arrival?

Celebrity?

¹¹ Now at the Feast the Jews were watching for him and asking, “Where is that man?”

Q9. Why were the Jews looking for Jesus?

¹² Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, “He is a good man.”

Others replied, “No, he deceives the people.”

Q10. Why did some people say Jesus was “good” and others say He was a deceiver?

Q11. Have attitudes toward Jesus changed over the past two millennia?

Yes? Why?

No?

Q12. Why is Christ Jesus such a divisive person?


¹³ But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the Jews.

Q13. Who are the “Jews”? (Do these verses reference the common Jewish believer? Or Jewish leadership?)

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Q14. Why were people fearful of “the Jews”? (What would happen if a Jew was ‘excommunicated’?)

Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Jesus Teaches at the Feast

¹⁴ Not until halfway through the Feast did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. ¹⁵ The Jews were amazed and asked, “How did this man get such learning without having studied?”

Q15. Where were the “temple Courts” located in the Jewish Temple?

Q16. To whom was Jesus directing His teaching? Who was His audience?

Lesson 11: John 7:1-36

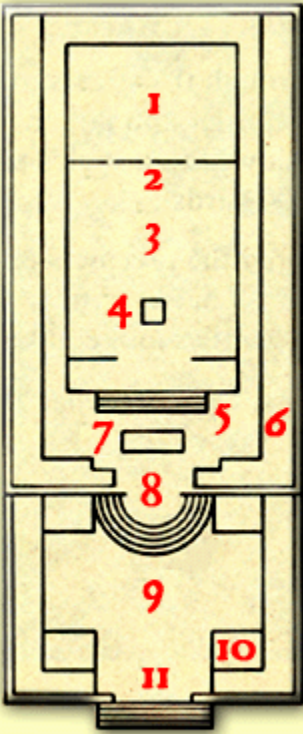
15 Jerusalem Temple

Sketch after plan of Avi-Yonah's model.


1. Holy of Holies
2. Veil (Curtain)
3. Holy Place
4. Altar of Incense
5. Court of Priests
6. Court of Israel
7. Altar of Sacrifice
8. Nicanor Gate
9. Court of Women
10. Temple Treasury
11. Gate Beautiful
12. Court of Gentiles
13. Solomon's Porch
14. Royal Porticos
15. Western Wall

14

Audience?



12
13



Source: http://www.bible-history.com/jewishtemple/JEWISH_TEMPLESchematic_Plan_of_the_Temple.htm



A depiction. Source: <https://mountjoybible.blogspot.com/2012/02/life-of-jesus-of-nazareth-continued.html>

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Q17. What did Jesus teach?

¹⁶ Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. ¹⁷ If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

Q18. Jesus states, “If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own”. The Holy Spirit has not yet been sent. How will the obedient Believer know the source of Jesus’ teachings?

Matthew 11:20 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (Phillips)]

Then Jesus began reproaching the towns where most of his miracles had taken place because their hearts were unchanged.

Matthew 12:39-40 [The Message (MSG)]

Jesus said, “You’re looking for proof, but you’re looking for the wrong kind. All you want is something to titillate your curiosity, satisfy your lust for miracles. The only proof you’re going to get is what looks like the absence of proof: Jonah-evidence. Like Jonah, three days and nights in the fish’s belly, the Son of Man will be gone three days and nights in a deep grave. . .”

John 5:36 [The Message (MSG)]

But the witness that really confirms me far exceeds John’s [the Baptist] witness. It’s the work the Father gave me to complete. These very tasks, as I go about completing them, confirm that the Father, in fact, sent me. The Father who sent me, confirmed me.”


John 10:24-28

²⁴ The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

²⁵ Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. . .”

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Day 4

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¹⁸ He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

Q19. Jesus continues, "he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth". How does a person "work for the honor" of another?

Q20. Why can Jesus say that the worker in this case "is a man of truth"?

¹⁹ Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"

Q21. How can Jesus make this accusation that "not one of you keeps the law"?

Q22. Jesus final question strips away all pretense and gets at the heart of the matter. "Why are you trying to kill me?" To whom is this question/accusation directed? And if they truthfully answered Him, what would their answer have been?

To whom?

Truthful answer?

²⁰ "You are demon-possessed," the crowd answered. "Who is trying to kill you?"

Q23. Why did the people in His audience ask, "Who is trying to kill you?"

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Q24. Why did they accuse Jesus of being “demon-possessed”?

²¹ Jesus said to them, “I did one miracle, and you are all astonished. ²² Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a child on the Sabbath. ²³ Now if a child can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the Law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing the whole man on the Sabbath? ²⁴ Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.”

Q25. What issue(s) do the Jewish leaders have with Jesus?

Q26. Does verse 23 summarize the Jewish leaders issue with Jesus – is it the fact that Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath? Or something else masked by the Sabbath healing?

Genesis 17:1-14

The Covenant of Circumcision

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. ² I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸ The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”


⁹ Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. ¹⁰ This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner — those who are not your offspring. ¹³ Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is

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to be an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

Q27. Are the Jewish leaders justified in their anger toward Jesus, who is a Jew and under Jewish law?

Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Is Jesus the Christ?

²⁵ At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill? ²⁶ Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Christ? ²⁷ But we know where this man is from; when the Christ comes, no one will know where he is from.”

Q28. In which town was Jesus born?


Q29. In which town did Jesus grow-up?

Q30. Verse 27: this is curious statement, “when the Christ comes, no one will know where he is from”. Why would some Jews have this belief?

Micah 5:2

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

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 “They [the people] at once supply a corrective answer to their own question. They know this Man [where He lived]. He is the carpenter’s son, and His mother, and [brothers], and sisters, are well known (Matthew 13:55-56). His brothers, indeed, are part of that multitude (John 7:10).

“They know that the Messiah will be of the seed and town of David [John 7:42 (↓)]; but they have no knowledge of an earthly home and earthly relations, and all their ideas are of a Being who will not be subject to the ordinary conditions of life, and whose immediate origin no man can know. God’s Anointed living among them as a man, with mother, and brothers, and sisters! This cannot be.” [©about 1880, *Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers*, edited by Charles J Ellicott. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/john/7-27.htm>]

²⁸ Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, “Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, ²⁹ but I know him because I am from him and he sent me.”

Q31. Where do the people think Jesus is from?

Q32. To whom is Jesus referring in verse 29?

Q33. If you were a Jewish religious leader, how would you have responded to Jesus’ statement, “You do not know him”?


³⁰ At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his time had not yet come.

Q34. Why did the Jews try to seize Him?

Q35. What does the phrase “his time had not yet come” mean?

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Day 6

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³¹ Still, many in the crowd put their faith in him. They said, “When the Christ comes, will he do more miraculous signs than this man?”

Q36. What is meant by “miraculous signs”?

Q37. Why did Jesus perform “miraculous signs”?

John 2:11

This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

John 11:47

Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. “What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many miraculous signs.”

John 12:37

[The Jews Continue in Their Unbelief] Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him.

³² The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.

Q38. Why would the crowd “whisper”?

Q39. Why did the chief priests and the Pharisees want to arrest him?

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³³ Jesus said, “I am with you for only a short time, and then I go to the one who sent me. ³⁴ You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come.”

Q40. What did Jesus mean in verse 34: “you will not find me . . . you cannot come”?

³⁵ The Jews said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks? ³⁶ What did he mean when he said, ‘You will look for me, but you will not find me,’ and ‘Where I am, you cannot come’?”

Q41. Why did the Jews fail to understand Jesus’ words?

Matthew 13:10-15 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (Phillips)]

At this the disciples approached [Jesus] and asked, “Why do you talk to them [the religious leaders] in parables?”

“Because you have been given the chance to understand the secrets of the kingdom of Heaven,” replied Jesus, “but they have not. For when a man has something, more is given to him till he has plenty. But if he has nothing even his nothing will be taken away from him. This is why I speak to them in these parables; because they go through life with their eyes open, but see nothing, and with their ears open, but understand nothing of what they hear. They are the living fulfilment of Isaiah’s prophecy which says: ‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; for the heart of this people has grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their heart and turn, so that I should heal them’.

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2 Corinthians 4:1-6 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (Phillips)]

[Paul wrote:] This is the ministry of the new agreement which God in his mercy has given us and nothing can daunt us. We use no hocus-pocus, no clever tricks, no dishonest manipulation of the Word of God. We speak the plain truth and so commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. If our Gospel is "veiled", the veil must be in the minds of those who are spiritually dying. The spirit of this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, and prevents the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, the image of God, from shining on them. For it is Christ Jesus the Lord whom we preach, not ourselves; we are your servants for his sake. God, who first ordered 'light to shine in darkness', has flooded our hearts with his light. We now can enlighten men only because we can give them knowledge of the glory of God, as we see it in the face of Jesus Christ.

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