

I NEED A

MIRACLE

John 7-9

Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near. John 7:2

- Hebrew name of the feast is Sukkot

Now on the last day, the **great day of the feast**, John 7:37a

- The seventh and final day of Sukkot is called *Hoshanah Rabbah*. Hoshana comes from two words **hoshah nah**, meaning "Bring us salvation, please," and rabbah, meaning great. This prayer to "bring salvation" was actually made by the priests every day of Sukkot.
- During the first six days of the feast, the priests would "place willow branches alongside the altar with the heads of the willow branches bent over the altar" to add joy to the holiday. The priests would then sound the shofar, circle the altar once, and say, "**Anah Hashem hoshiah nah. Anah Hashem hatzlichah nah** (Please, God, bring us salvation. Please, God, bring us success)."
- On Hoshanah Rabbah, "The Great Hoshanah," the priests circled the altar seven times.

Now on the last day, the **great day of the feast**, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’ ” But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 7:37-39

- *Jesus the Messiah offered the people spiritual (eternal) water during the Water Libation Ceremony of Sukkot

WHEN JESUS ATTENDED THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

He Offered Living Waters

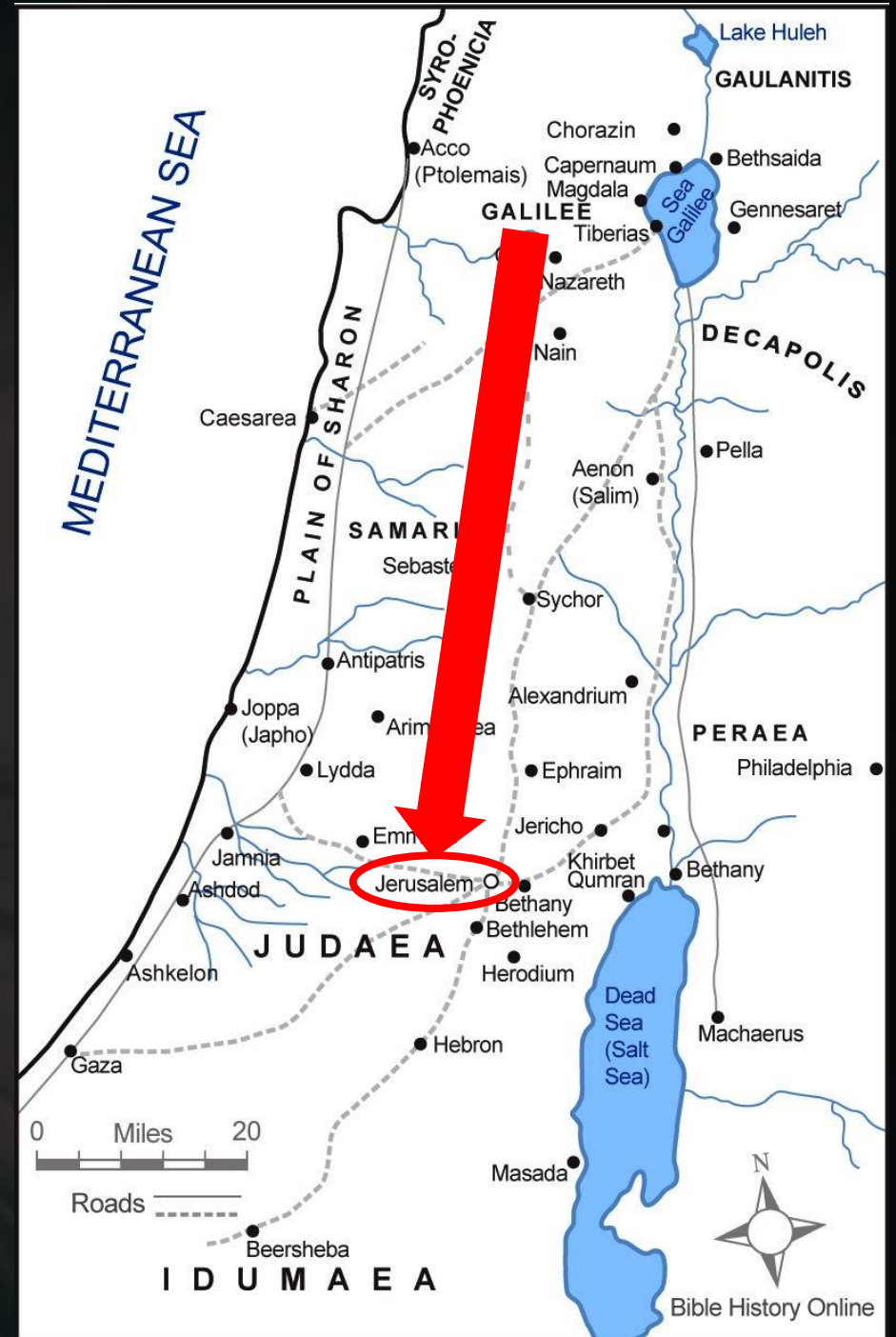
- Each day of the seven-day feast began with a water-drawing ritual (Water Libation ceremony) which was a great time of rejoicing over God's provision of water for the crops that year and of the Holy Spirit which would provide personal refreshment. A priest would take a golden pitcher and lead a musical procession to the pool of Siloam where he plunged the pitcher into the waters while reciting "Therefore, with joy you shall draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3).
- Jerusalem's sole water supply was from this pool and the Gihon Spring that feeds it. Water was precious. Yet, the priest returned to the Temple with the golden pitcher of water and began to pour it out over the altar while reciting "Hosanna, I pray, O Lord... send now prosperity!" (Psalm 118:25). The pouring of the water symbolized the pouring out of the Holy Spirit and was followed by a great silence that descended on the sanctuary as the people reflected upon the Holy Spirit—the only true refreshment for their thirsty souls.
- This ritual took place every day but on the seventh day it took on an intensity filled with excitement and anticipation. It was on that day that Jesus "stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me, and drink'" (John 7:37). In this context it was clear to the people that He was inviting them to accept Him as the one who would give them the "living waters" of salvation (John 4:10).

WHEN JESUS ATTENDED THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

He Proclaimed Eternal Light

- Another fascinating ceremony associated with the Feast of Tabernacles involved lights. Each afternoon four huge menorahs illuminated the court of the Temple and the pious men would dance before the lamps with burning torches in their hands. It is said that the light from these menorahs was so bright it penetrated every courtyard in Jerusalem. This festivity would last all night until dawn.
- The light of the menorahs had two meanings: the first was symbolizing the Glory of God that had filled the first Temple (1 Kings 8:10-11). The second was anticipating the “Great Light” who would soon come and bring light to those who were spiritually dead and dwelling in darkness (Isaiah 9:2).
- Perhaps it was during the light celebration, or when the lights were extinguished on the eighth day, that Jesus said for all to hear, “I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (John 8:12). The crowd understood that Jesus was proclaiming that He is the Great Light who Isaiah said would come, and is God in the flesh—the Glory of the Temple (John 1:14).

As John chapter 9 begins,
Jesus is in Jerusalem
sometime between **Feast of
Tabernacles** (Sukkot –
September/October,
mentioned in John 7 and 8)
and **Feast of Dedication**
(Hanukkah –
November/December,
mentioned in John 10)



As He [Jesus] passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” John 9:1-2

- A common belief was that sin caused health issues. This theme is seen especially in the Book of Job.
- This is the ONLY miracle in which the person Jesus healed was born with the disease.

Spiritual Blindness

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Ephesians 2:1-2

- Physical blindness is an illustration of spiritual blindness

Jesus answered, “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

John 9:3

- Not all struggles/problems/diseases in this life are caused by sin.
- And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:9

Jesus said, “We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.” John 9:4-5

- Day = time allotted for Jesus to do God’s will on earth
- Night = time of Jesus’ death

When He [Jesus] had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). John 9:6-7a

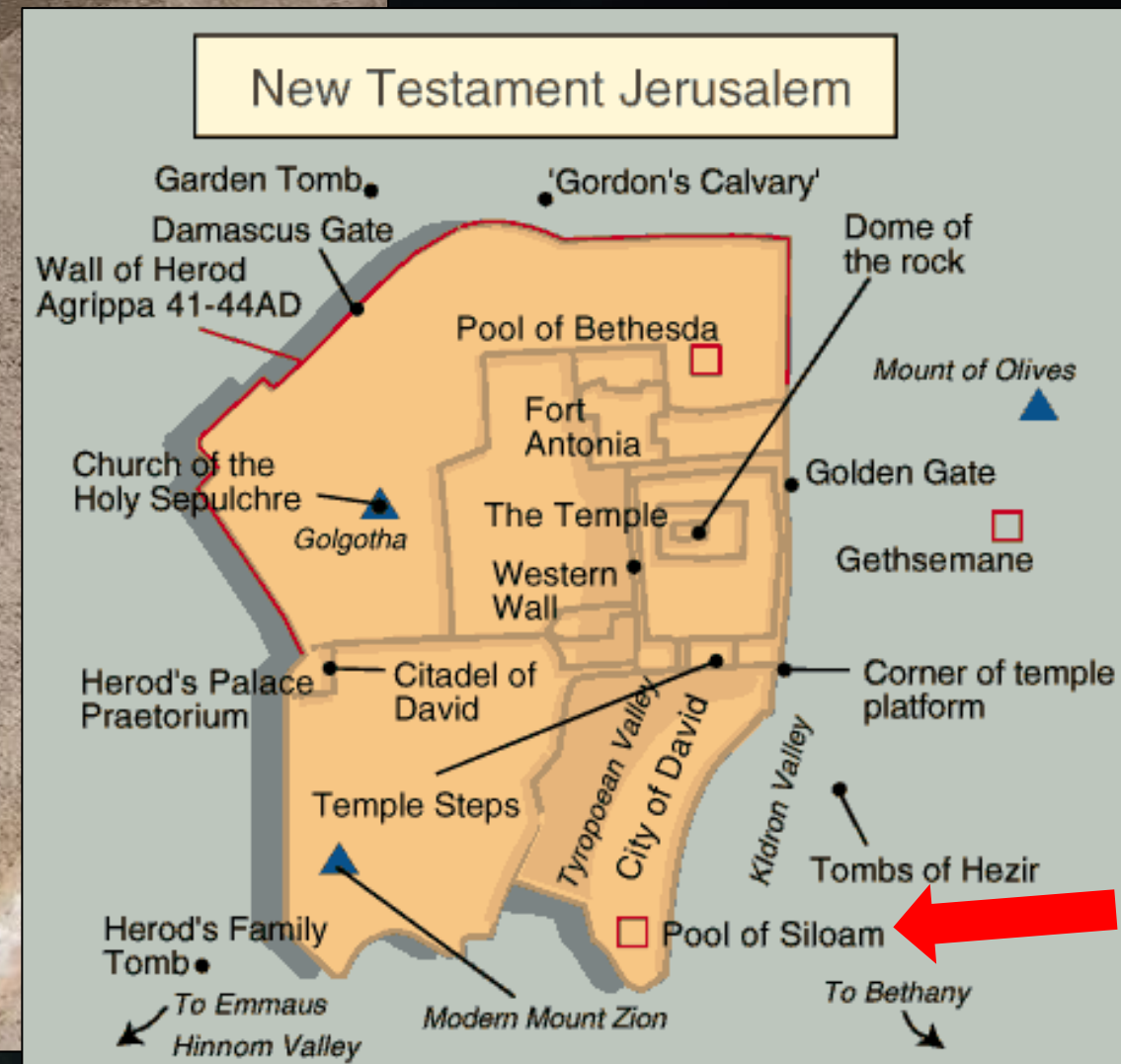
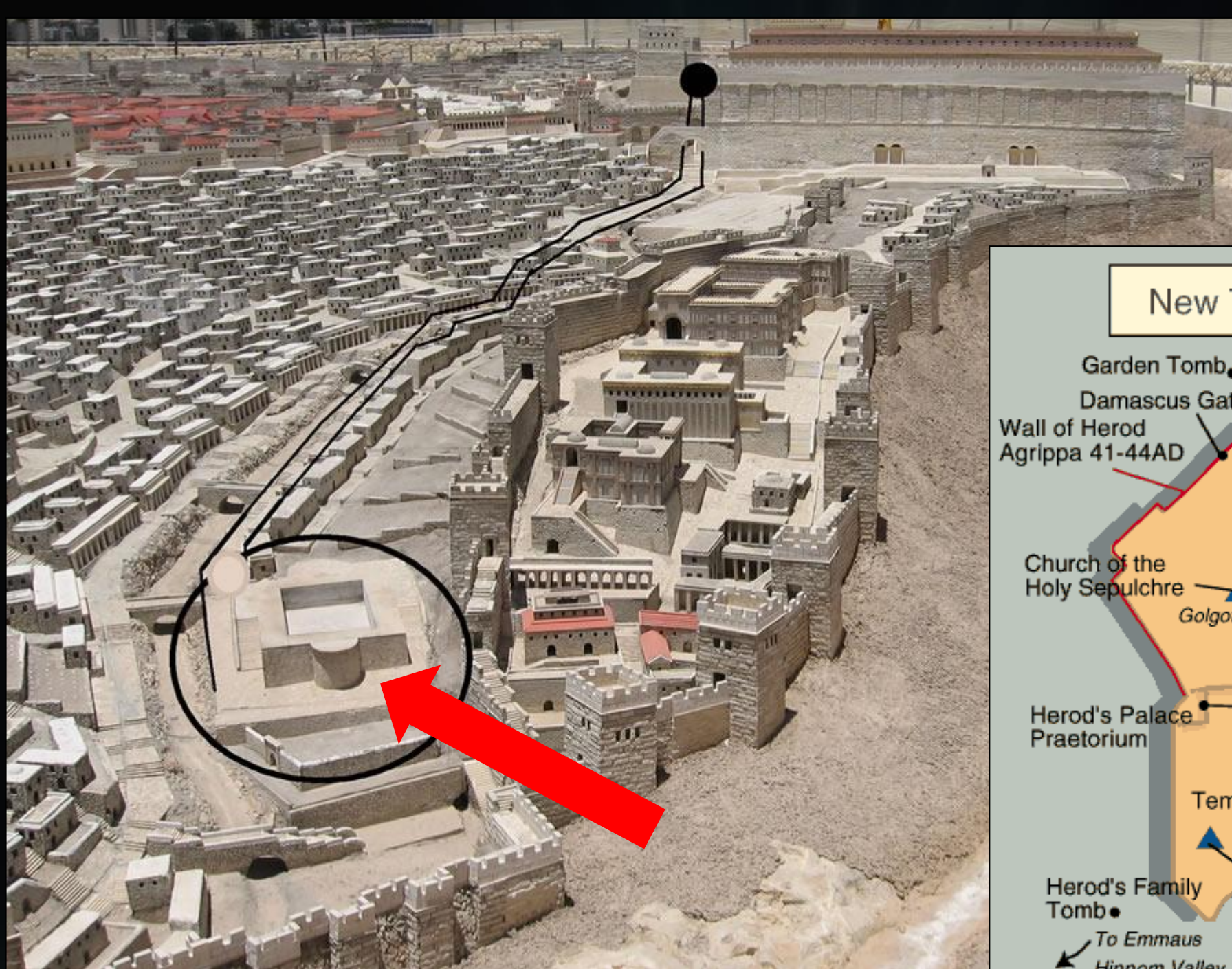
- When you become a disciple of Jesus, you are sent by Jesus as He was sent by the Father.
- The reader should not miss the close connection between obedience or effectual believing and experiencing the powerful work of God. - Gerald L. Borchert

Jesus' Seven Miracles in the Gospel of John

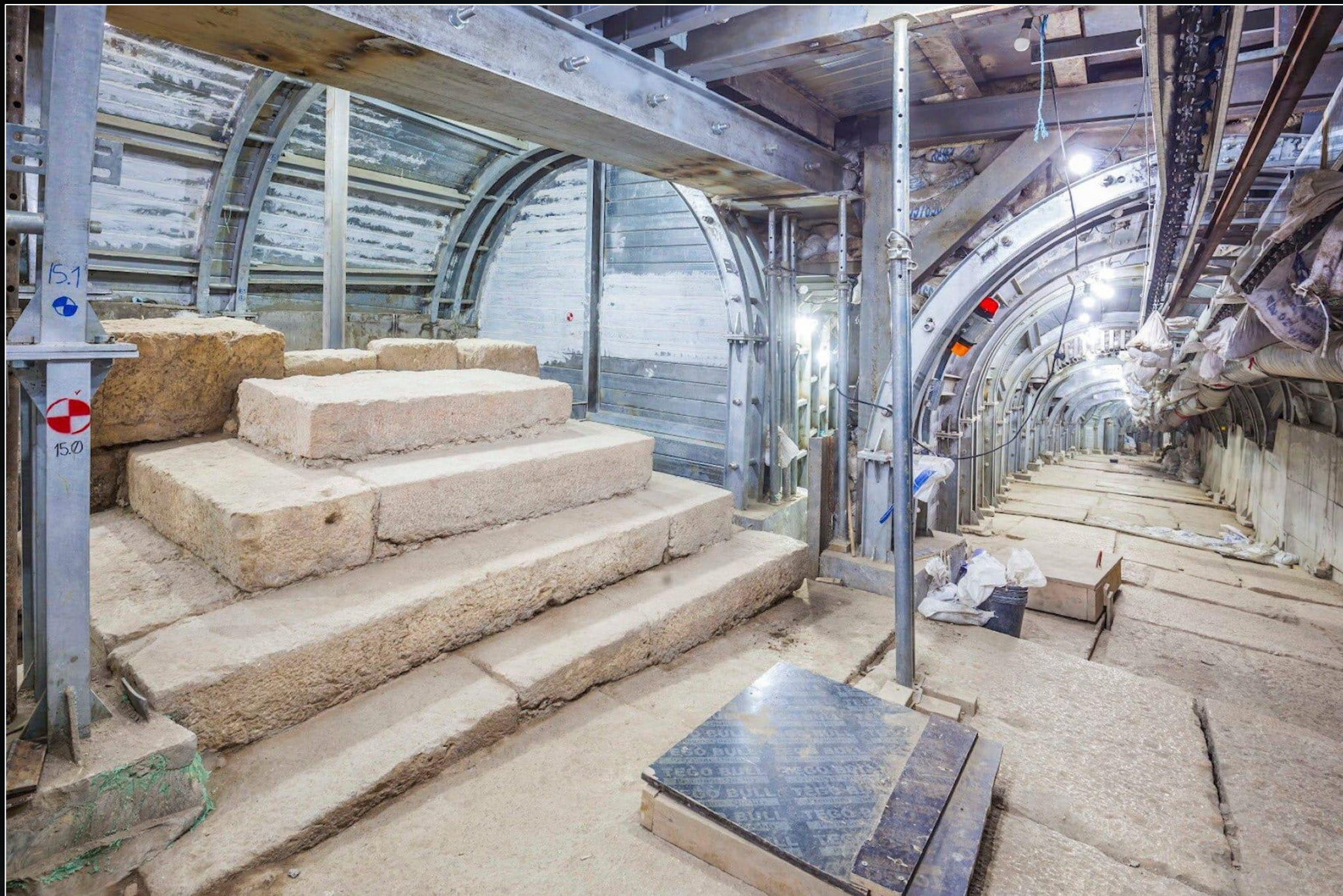
1. Changing water into wine in Cana (John 2:1–11)
2. Healing an official's son in Capernaum (4:46–54)
3. Healing an invalid at the Pool of Bethesda (5:1–18)
4. Feeding the 5,000 near the Sea of Galilee (6:5–14)
5. Walking on the water of the Sea of Galilee (6:16–21)
6. **Healing a blind man in Jerusalem (9:1–7)**
7. Raising dead Lazarus in Bethany (11:1–45)

Healing Blindness in the Bible

- The Old Testament contains no story of the giving of sight to the blind.
- When we examine the ministry of Jesus, **there are more instances of the healing of blind people than any other type of miracle** (Matthew 9:27–31; 12:22; 15:30; 21:14; Mark 8:22–26; 10:46–52; Luke 7:21; John 9:1–41).
- The only New Testament example outside the Gospels is the encounter between Ananias and Saul of Tarsus in Acts 9.







Pool of Siloam in the model of Jerusalem

It marks the end of Hezekiah's Tunnel, constructed by the Judean king around 700 BC to bring water from the Gihon spring in the Kidron Valley to the Pool of Shiloach (Siloam) in the City of David (2 Kings 20:20, 2 Chronicles 32:30).

-Jewish New Testament Commentary













So he [the man blind since birth]
went away [to the Pool of Siloam]
and washed, and came back seeing.

John 9:7b

Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, "Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?" Others were saying, "This is he," still others were saying, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the one." John 9:8-9

So they were saying to him, “How then were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash’; so I went away and washed, and I received sight.” They said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.”

John 9:10-12

They brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind. Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

John 9:13-14

- Jesus placed clay (mud with saliva) on the man's eyes. Interestingly man was made from this same substance—the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). Jesus probably used the clay as an aid to develop the man's faith, not as a medicine. Jesus' making of clay broke the Rabbinic regulations against kneading clay on the Sabbath.

Jesus' miracle healings performed on the Sabbath

- Drives out an evil spirit (Mark 1:21-28)
- Heals Peter's mother-in-law (Mark 1:29-31, Matthew 8:14-15, Luke 4:38-39)
- Healing of a shriveled hand (Mark 3:1-6, Matthew 12:9-14, Luke 6:6-11)
- Invalid's healing by the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-18)
- Cure of a blind man (John 9:1-16)
- Curing a woman crippled for 18 years (Luke 13:10-17)
- Healing a man with dropsy (Luke 14:1-6)

Why did Jesus choose to heal on the Sabbath?

Jesus was not violating the law of God when He healed on the Sabbath. He was surely acting against the Pharisaical *interpretation* of the law and against their particular rules. But the Holy One of God, who came to fulfill the law (Matthew 5:17), did not violate the law. **The basic reason that Jesus healed on the Sabbath was that people needed His help. Need knows no calendar.**

Jesus healed on the Sabbath in order to reveal the hypocrisy of the Pharisees' religion. In three passages where Jesus' healing led to a confrontation, Jesus references how the Jews "worked" on the Sabbath by taking care of their animals, and that work was sanctioned by the Pharisees. In an agrarian society, animal care was a major part of a normal day. Jesus points out their willingness to work on the Sabbath to help an animal: "Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water?" (Luke 13:15), and He rightly calls out their hypocrisy for denying aid to "a daughter of Abraham" (verse 16). If religious rules allow for helping animals on the Sabbath, then it should definitely allow for helping people.

When Jesus healed on the Sabbath, He was also challenging the religious leaders with the question of doing good or evil on the Sabbath: "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" (Mark 3:4). The leaders remained silent and refused to answer. His healing gave them the answer. Doing good and saving life is lawful, even on the Sabbath. Using the Sabbath rule to do evil or to kill is an ungodly perversion of the law.

Another reason Jesus healed on the Sabbath was to remind people of why God instituted the Sabbath day of rest. The Sabbath was meant to benefit people as much as to glorify God: "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27). The Sabbath helped people recuperate (mentally and physically) after a week of work and redirect their focus from the daily routine to God. Jesus' healing on the Sabbath was therefore very much compatible with God's purpose for the Sabbath. - <https://www.gotquestions.org/heal-on-the-Sabbath.html>

Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, "He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet." John 9:15-17

The Jews then did not believe it of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." John 9:18-21

What is the cost of publicly following Jesus?

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews [who rejected Yeshua]; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ [Messiah], he was to be put out of the synagogue [excommunicated]. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." John 9:22-23

So a second time they called the man who had been [born] blind, and said to him, “Give glory to God [swear an oath]; we know that this man is a sinner.” John 9:24

- “Give glory to God” cannot mean that Jesus’ opponents were urging the man to praise God for the healing. It was a common Jewish oath which called on the man to speak the truth. – New Bible Commentary

Q: What if what you claim to “know” about Jesus is wrong?

He then answered, “Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” John 9:25

*There is great spiritual power in a personal testimony of meeting Jesus.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

-Amazing Grace by John Newton (1773)

So they said to him, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” He answered them, “I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?” They reviled him and said, “You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from.” John 9:26-29

The man answered and said to them, “Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?” So they put him out. John 9:30-34

- The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. James 5:16b

Is Jesus calling you to faith?

Jesus heard that they had put him [formerly blind man] out [excommunicated], and finding him, He said, “Do you believe (πιστεύω *pisteuō*) in the Son of Man?” He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” John 9:35-36

Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.” And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him.

John 9:37-38

- “Faith involves an act of the will, based on information.”

– Bible Knowledge Commentary

- Yeshua meets the newly outcast formerly blind man, who has exchanged exclusion from the world of seeing for exclusion from society, and brings him to faith in himself as Messiah. Clearly the man was ready to believe. – Jewish New Testament Commentary

WHEN JESUS ATTENDED THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

He Affirmed Who He Was

- The eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles was called the “Last Good Day.” It was a Sabbath day, designed for rest and reflection on all that had been celebrated during the previous seven-day festival. On this day Jesus came to the Temple and healed a blind man by anointing his eyes with clay and then sending him to the pool of Siloam to wash (John 9:7).
- With this miracle Jesus validated everything He had said and done during Sukkot (Feast of Booths). By doing the impossible, He proved He was God in the flesh—the true dispenser of the Holy Spirit and the only source of light and life.

And Jesus said, “For judgment [helping people understand spiritual truth] I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.” Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.” John 9:39-41

- The blind who come to sight are those who, admitting their helplessness and inability, trust Jesus for salvation. Those who see and become blind are those whose self-trust and pride blinds them to the wonders of Jesus. He does not condemn them by making them blind; they blind themselves by rejecting Him and Satan contributes to that blinding. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

Prophecy regarding the Messiah...

“Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah.” Isaiah 35:5-6

Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and report to John [the Baptizer] what you hear and see: the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.” Matthew 11:4-5

*The 2 recorded miracles Jesus performed in Jerusalem in the book of John were at the Pools of Bethesda and the Pool of Siloam. He healed the lame man and the blind man.

Praying for Miracles at First Melissa

- Salvations of family members and friends
- Healing of marriages and broken relationships
- Healing of illness and sickness
- Creating and deepening connections among the Body of Christ
- Raising up the next generation of faithful followers of Jesus
- Church construction loan paid off
- Expansion of our church property
- Upgrades to our existing church facilities and campus
- Construction of new church facilities
- Expansion of ministry opportunities

Steps in a “Was Blind But Now I See” Miracle

- Remember that Jesus takes the initiative and reaches out to us when we are hurting and in need
- See that Jesus cares about us despite our unbelief
- Remember that Jesus is calling us primarily to eternal salvation and secondarily to earthly healing
- Understand that following Yeshua as Savior may have social or relational costs
- Notice that the Messiah is a patient and gracious teacher
- Be willing to say “I believe” to the Savior when He calls