

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

The Last Great Day of the Feast of Tabernacles

Last time...Jesus was at the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem in the Temple teaching...
at the center of a controversy about Who He is

This time...the last great day of the Feast of Tabernacles

We will again be in John 7

v37-38 In the last day...of the feast:

The controversy thus far was in the middle of the 7 day Feast, when Jesus arrived
in Jerusalem and went to the Temple to teach (v14-36)

The Feast of Tabernacles commemorated Israel's utter dependence upon the
Lord's protection and provision in the wilderness...
especially of water, without which man quickly dies

The 7 day feast was a time of joy and celebration, during which the Jewish people
lived in temporary shelters made of olive, myrtle, and palm branches
(Neh 8:15)

These booths were in every street and on every housetop

In the Temple, 4 huge, 75 foot candelabras/menorah lit up the Temple Mount and
the surrounding area at night as if it were daytime, a light that could be
seen for miles around in every direction.

Thousands upon thousands of Jews were on the Temple Mount (approx 37 acres),
singing songs of praise and joy for deliverance granted
(into the Promised Land after 40 years of wilderness wandering) or
anticipated (from their oppressors, the Romans);

Praise Psalms, Ps 113-118, were recited with intense emotion

Hundreds of priests would be serving in the Temple.

Each morning of the feast the High Priest, accompanied by a procession of priests
and by trumpets and the singing songs of praise unto the Lord,
went down to the Pool of Siloam (means "sent" and where Solomon son of David
was anointed king) and filled a golden pitcher with water

[Pool of Siloam lower]

[Pool of Siloam upper]

[Pool of Siloam shadowy]

[Pool of Siloam north south]

[Pool of Siloam walk]

As the sweet savor of the morning sacrifice rose from the altar of burnt offering,
the High Priest re-entered the Temple thru Water Gate on the south side.

[Herod's Temple]

There he was met by another priest bearing the drink offering of wine,
from crushed grapes gathered just before the Feast.
Through silver funnels, both priests poured their libations at the base of the altar.
The water and wine flowed from the Temple steps into the outer courts,
symbolizing the Holy Spirit poured out upon men (Is 12, Joel 2)

After the outpouring, the *Hallel* Psalms (Ps. 113-118) were sung as the priests
completed a circle around the altar. (the camp of Israel, Num 1:53)
The singing would include Psalm 118:25, "*Save now, I beseech the O Lord: O
Lord, I beseech thee, send now prosperity.*"

While this singing was taking place, the worshippers around the Temple would be
waving their olive/myrtle/palm branches and singing the praise Psalms.
This joyful noise would fill the air, continually building the excitement that
culminated in a fever pitch on the seventh day of the feast.

On the last and great day of the Feast, while the burnt offering was being offered
on the altar, and as the people hushed for this solemn moment,
the High Priest would pour out the water and the other priest the wine, to
commemorate God's miraculous, preserving gift of water out of a Rock
during their exodus from Egypt (Ex 17:1-7), while the High Priest recited
Is 12

At that moment...in that silence...Jesus stood and cried/called aloud/exclaimed to
interpret and fulfill what the priests were doing/saying and the people
were watching

If...should the person so choose of their own free will

any man...whosoever vs only some

thirst...a deeper thirst, man's thirst for God his Maker, that is not satisfied
by any material thing or any emotional experience

let him come...the way is made clear, the invitation is extended,
come by faith, let him put feet to his faith

unto Me...John 5:39, He is the fulfillment, the Substance of this
"shadow"

and drink...Is 55:1a Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters
Is 44:3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and
floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit
upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring

He that believes on Me...18 mos ago, has everlasting life (John 5:24)

as Scripture has said...Is 12
the Hebrew words “salvation” and “Yeshua” (Jesus, in Greek) are
the same

flow rivers of living water...vs dead, stagnant and polluted water,
water is life, He is the Source of Life

Is 48:21 And they thirsted not *when* he led them through the
deserts: he caused the waters to flow out of the rock
for them: he clave the rock also, and the waters
gushed out

1 John 1:1-2 That which was from the beginning, which we have
heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we
have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of
the Word of life;
(For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*,
and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal
life, which was with the Father, and was manifested
unto us

After a very loud celebration of singing and a very quiet moment of thanksgiving,
[read again v37-38]

That which He spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well, (John 4:3-14),
Jesus exclaims to thousands upon thousands of Jews on the Temple Mount

Jesus, on this last and great day of the Feast of Tabernacles, is proclaiming that
He is the

- (spiritual, eternal) interpretation and fulfillment of Ex 17:1-7...
which spoke of Him
- Messiah, come to reconcile all of Adam's race to God their Maker
- priest of God
- satisfaction of every person's deepest and greatest yearning
- Source of Life, everlasting life
- God of Israel, the LORD JEHOVAH
- salvation of His people, and all people
- Holy One of Israel in the midst of them

The High Priest performing a solemn ritual (words and deed),
The crowd silent,
All “broken” by Jesus’ loud, bold proclamation,
 imagine the horror and outrage of the priests.

But, what they did not know was that the LORD their Rock was in their
 very midst!

Now, in John’s Gospel recorded about 60 years later, a parenthetical thought,
 an explanation, added

v39 spake He of the Spirit:

 The living water to flow out of a person who believes in Jesus is...
 the Holy Spirit, the “quickening” promise of the Father

Followers/disciples/believers in Jesus Christ have a 3-fold relationship with
 God the Holy Spirit, Who was sent by the Father (John 14:26) and the Son
 (John 15:26) after Jesus suffered, died, was buried, rose from the dead on
 the 3rd day, and ascended back to the Father

1. *para*: with...convicting, guiding
 John 14:16-17 abide *with* you, dwells *with* you and be *in* you
2. *en*: in...quickening/making alive that which was dead
 John 14:17
3. *epi*: upon...empowering to be a witness of Jesus Christ
 Acts 1:8 Holy Ghost is come *upon* you
 Acts 2:1-4
 Joel 2:28-32

v40-43 The Prophet...Christ...out of Galilee...a division:

 The reaction of the thousands upon thousands of Jews who

- participated in the rejoicing of the celebration
- sang Ps 113-118
- waved their palm branches as the High Priest and his procession
 paraded by
- fell somber as the High Priest poured water out of the golden pitcher
 and recited Is 12
- heard Jesus cry out

was...divided (of course)

Many said, Truly, this is The Prophet
The...singular and exclusive
Prophet...of Deut 18:15-19

Others said, This is the Messiah/Christ

But some said contemptuously in their unbelief,
“What?!! Can any good thing come out of Galilee (Nazareth)?
Gentile-infested
Don’t you guys know Scripture (Micah 5:2)?
The Messiah/Christ is of the line of David, from Bethlehem (in Judah).”

I have questions:

Have the contemptuous unbelievers forgotten how trouble wicked old king
Herod was about the visitors from the east inquiring about
where to find the King of the Jews, born recently...and how
troubled they were because Herod was troubled?

Have they forgotten Herod’s subsequent massacre of the innocents of
Bethlehem a little over 30 years ago?

Did the chief priests and scribes who told Herod of Micah’s prophesy ever
investigate the after-effects of Herod’s massacre in Bethlehem?

Why did the chief priests and scribes not know the history of Jesus,
i.e. born in Bethlehem and worshipped by the wise men who
inquired of Herod?

Why did these guys in v42 not speak up earlier in v27?

In the moment of v37-43, where are the voices of

- Jesus’ mother
- Jesus’ brethren
- Jesus’ disciples

to bear witness of Jesus’ history in Bethlehem?

It seems the escape to Egypt and the return to Nazareth were not “public”
histories, but a family history

We cannot find in Scripture where Jesus used His birth in Bethlehem,
in fulfillment of Micah 5:2, as evidence that He was the Messiah
He did use the testimony of His Father, the testimony of John the Baptist, and the
works/words His Father gave Him to speak/do

There is a silence of unspoken truth...there is a division over the spoken truth

Luke 12:51 peace on earth? No, rather division

Matt 10:34 not peace but a sword

As it is to this day

v44-46 taken Him...no man laid hands on:

v30-32 again, on the last and great day of the Feast of the Tabernacles in response to what Jesus cried out

The desire of His enemies to arrest and kill Him is further inflamed

But...evil is restrained from taking matters into their own hands

Again...and always...God is in complete control

The Jews (hostile religious leaders) want to know why the Temple guards have again come back empty-handed

Answer: No man has ever spoken like this Man!

The awestruck Temple police speak a profound, undeniable Truth

v47-49 Are ye also deceived...believed on Him:

The Jews (hostile rulers) react to that simple truth with

- indignation
- intimidation
- manipulation
- condemnation

Who talks like that?

Who turns on his own?

The devil

The Jews are children of the devil...as Jesus will so say in the next confrontation with them

“Are you deceived too, like most of these silly people?

Have any of the nation’s leaders believed on that man?

No one is the Christ unless we say he is the Christ...

and we have said quite clearly that that man is NOT the Christ.

All these silly, unlearned, ignorant people do not know the Law and are cursed.”

Wow!

The Jews do not believe Jesus is the Son of God and the Bible is the Word of God

The self-righteous Jews think as contemptible and pathetic the people who do, and march into “no man’s land” – judging their hearts

The Jews made themselves the judge of Truth, rather than allowing the Word of God to be the judge of Truth.

The Jews, who taught the Law, condemned their students.

The Jews, the shepherds of the people, beat the sheep rather than fed and tended the sheep

Woe!

There is nothing new under the sun.

The Church is afflicted by self-righteous, gain-seeking false teachers who

- not believe Jesus is the Son of God and the Bible is the Word of God and think as contemptible and pathetic the people who do, judging their hearts
- have made themselves the judge of Truth instead of the infallible/inerrant/inspired Word of God
- teach their opinions and traditions instead of the Word of God
- beat the flock vs fed and tended the flock

The division about Jesus reaches into the ranks of their goon squad...

and into their own ranks

Someone does stand up to the vicious rulers...one of their own

v50-51 Nicodemus...Does our Law judge:

Nic objects to the words spoken in v47-49

No longer coming alone under the cover of darkness (Ch 3),
he is standing alone in the light of Truth

“Speaking of the Law, does not our Law call for fairness and mercy and truth?

Does not the Law tell us judges to be fair and to investigate before rendering judgment?”

He could not hold his peace...yet he did not (dared not?) witness of Jesus...

v52 Art thou also of Galilee:

The Jews turned on one of their own just as they had turned on the Temple guards
and the people they were called to serve

Again, who speaks like this and turns on his own?

The devil

The rulers of Israel are children of the devil

With Micah 5:2 as their “proof text” (v42) and bristling with anger,

“Are you also from Galilee, a follower of that man you almost defended.
Search and look (into the Law) – no prophet comes out of Galilee.”

Time out!

No prophets from Galilee?

Jonah was from Gath

Elijah was from Tishbeh

Perhaps Nahum was...Caper-nahum (village of Nahum)

Perhaps Hosea was also from Galilee

Nic it seems objected, and righteously so
With blind fury and contempt, the Jews “shut down” Nic as they had the
Temple guards

They had decreed death for Jesus
They have made a pre-conceived ideas about Jesus...because of envy
They have made no effort to determine the truth about Him
Their search of Scripture was dishonest, looking for what they believed
and wanted to see, vs honest, looking for what God says
They, the learned and powerful, are the ones who are ignorant and
deceived

His objection came to nothing, Nic is “shouted down” and the sneering growl of
the Jews closed people’s hearts to Jesus

Application

v37b-38

Who do you say Jesus is?
Are you thirsty down deep in your being with a thirst that has not and cannot be satisfied
by any thing or any experience?
Will you come to Jesus for the satisfaction of that thirst?
He is the Source of Life, everlasting Life
The Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, quickens...
makes alive that which was dead

v39

The relationship with the Holy Spirit is 3-fold
1. with
2. in
3. upon
Is your relationship with the Holy Spirit such?
Luke 11:13 **how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to
them that ask him?**

v46

Not Moses or David or Samuel or Solomon or...
Not Gamaliel or any Rabbi or any scribe (Luke 4:32)
Not Mohammed or Confucius or Ghandi or Lenin or the Pope or any mortal man

v52b

“Search and look”
The inspired/inerrant/infalible Scripture, with readiness of mind (Acts 17:11)
Release pre-conceived ideas...they are blinding