**John IX Jesus and the Feast of Tabernacles John 7-8**

Review: John 6 Jesus the Second Moses/Jesus fulfills the Passover

1. Jesus greater than/ Lord of the Sabbath Jn 5:1-18

2. Passover points to Jesus Jn 6:1-70

3. Booths/Tabernacles point to Jesus. Jn 7:1-9:41

4. Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) points to Jesus. Jn 10

John 6:1-15 Jesus Feeds 10,000+. Sign #4

Theme: Jesus the second Moses/antitype to Moses and Jesus fulfills the Passover.

People’s response: 6:14 “Surely this is the prophet like you (Moses)” (cf Deuteronomy 18:15-19).

What did Moses do? 1. Gave them bread (sign #4), 2. part the Red Sea (sign #5), 3. gave water (Jesus will in John 7:38). Jesus will do all these things.

Sign #5 Jn 6:16-24 Jesus walks on the water as a parallel to Moses parting the water.

John 6:25-71 Jesus explains the meaning of the miracles. He uses his miracle to explain who he is.

Are you greater than Moses who gave us bread? Jesus: Moses did not really give you bread. It came from heaven. I give the true bread that comes from heaven.

v. 35 I am the bread of life. This is the first of his seven “I AM” statements.

I, I AM, *ego eimi* recalling Exodus 3:14

Not I have the bread of life.

Not I offer the bread of life.

Not I bring the bread of life.

I AM the bread of life. The thing we need to eat is Jesus!

v. 53-59 You must eat my flesh and drink my blood.

What would it mean for you to “eat the flesh of Jesus?” or to “drink the blood of Jesus.”

It is about an unbelievably deep participation in Christ.

John 7 & 8 Jesus and the Feast of Tabernacles

John 7:1-13

Jesus in Galilee, as the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem are trying to kill him.

His unbelieving brothers: If you really want to start a movement, you better go to Jerusalem to show yourself.

Jesus comes under the radar to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. Also known as the Feast of Booths. *Sukkot* (lit. tabernacle) in Hebrew. He stays away from open confrontation because “my time has not yet here.” (7:6)

This was the favorite festival for most Jews. It was known as “the feast.” Like we say “the holidays.” It came in Sept/Oct. It was a harvest festival and a celebration of the Jews dwelling with God in the wilderness. They went away from the town and built a temporary “booth” made of palm branches to camp in for seven days to celebrate and remember God living among his people.

It is one of the three feasts commanded by the Lord that all males

should annually attend (Lev 23:33-43, Deut 16:13-15) and what Josephus calls the “most holy and most eminent” of the three feasts of the Hebrews

1. Harvest Festival (Fall Harvest)

2. A remembrance of wilderness wandering—of living in intimate fellowship with God.

Jesus fulfills Tabernacles in several ways. I am tabernacling with my people (John 1:14 The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us)

John 7:14-24

v. 14 Jesus arrives on about the fourth day of the festival. People were amazed at his teaching!

The Tabernacle discourses include many claims of Jesus

Jn 7:16-19 “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. Response: You are demon-possessed.

Jesus to skeptics: If you do not believe me, just try doing what I say. Tell me if it does not work. Jesus appeals to reason here.

Christianity works!!! Ex: studying with David Alfaro, whose life is a mess right now. David: Do God’s will to find whether Jesus’ teaching comes from God.

What about you. Are you willing to do what Jesus says? Even if you are not sure!

v. 19, 22 contrasts to Moses again. Moses gave you the law. I am one like Moses, but you are trying to kill me!

v. 20 Response of the crowd: You are demon-possessed! (maybe they do not know what the Pharisees are planning)

v. 22 Even Moses said to circumcise on the Sabbath!

(He is looking back to the controversy the last time he was in Jerusalem when he healed the man at Bethsaida)

John 7:37-43

7:37-38 On the last and greatest day of the festival. This is the eighth day.

v. 37-38 I am the source of living water.

John 7:37 If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.

Q: How encouraging is that? Streams of living water. Flowing out…

v. 39 He is talking about the Holy Spirit (which could not be sent until Jesus died and raised.

Jesus is drawing their attention to the Miracle of Moses bringing water from a rock.

 Note, the context is Feast of Booths with its water theme. An important part of Tabernacles for us is the water-pouring ceremony.

During the Feast of Tabernacles a priest marched in procession from the Temple to the Pool of Siloam. He filled a golden pitcher with water from the Pool of Siloam, after which he recited Isaiah 12:3. ”With joy, you will draw water from the well of salvation.” With a solemn procession from the Pool of Siloam. (which is where the man born blind had to wash). Then the crowd marched with the priest and the pitcher, passing through the Water Gate (this is why it had that name) to the temple (which was dedicated on the last day of Tabernacles) carrying myrtle and willow twigs, tied to a palm branch in the right hand, and a citron or lemon in the left. They sang the praise Psalms 113-118. On the 7th day they did this seven times. The water was poured out at the altar of burnt offering. The water was a symbol of the Holy Spirit, drawing attention to the Messianic age.

Jesus: The Water Ceremony at Tabernacles is about me.

This was prophesied in Zechariah and Ezekiel.

Zech 14:6-9 and 16-17 “Living water will flow out from Jerusalem…”

A remnant from all nations will celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

They will celebrate having an intimate relationship with God. They will celebrate Jesus who “tabernacled among us.” They will celebrate the Holy Spirit—living water that flows from them to eternal life.

Also Ezek 47:1-11 As in the Water Ceremony, water will flow from the threshold of the Temple, making everything in the land live—springing up to eternal life.

Jesus made this statement on the last day of Tabernacles—the day that the Jews did NOT actually do the water ceremony. I am replacing the Water Ceremony.

Jesus said, “as the Scripture has said (v. 38). This is probably a reference to Joel 3:18.

Joel 3:18 “In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water. A fountain will flow out of the Lord’s house [ie. the Tabernacle], and will water the valley of acacias. v. 30 Judah will be inhabited forever and Jerusalem through all generations. Their bloodguilt which I have not pardoned, I will pardon”

Jesus fulfills this expectation.

Jesus: The Messianic age has come. The new Moses is here

Jesus said this on the eighth day of the Tabernacles—the eighth day when they do not do the water ceremony.

See the response 7:40-43. v. 40 Surely this is the Prophet (the one like Moses in Deut 18:17)

7:41 Some even begin to think he is the Messiah? John to reader: What about you?

John 8:12-20

John 8:12 [Not only am I the source of true, living water], I am the light of the world. 2nd I AM statement of Jesus.

Not I have light

Not I bring light

Not I show the light.

No. I AM the light. Jesus is claiming to be God.

Again, this has a direct reference to the Feast of Tabernacles. Specifically the Illumination of the Temple.

**The Illumination of the Temple**

The two major ceremonies of the Feast of Tabernacles were the water procession and the illumination of the Temple. Most commentators maintain that the setting of Jesus’ self-proclamation as the Light of the World is the nightly illumination of the Court of Women that took place during the Feast of Tabernacles.

The meaning of the illumination of the Temple was similar to that of the pouring of the water. The light shining out of the Temple into the darkness around was seen ‘as a symbol not only of the Shekinah (God’s glory manifested in the Most Holy above the ark) which once filled the Temple, but also of the ‘great light’ that ‘the people that walked in darkness’ were to see, and which was to shine ‘upon them that dwell in the land of the shadow of death’ (Isa 9:2).

It was in the context of this illumination ceremony that Jesus said: “I am the light of the world’ he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).

By proclaiming Himself as the light of the world, Christ revealed Himself to be the fulfillment of the Messianic pillar of fire that guided the Israelites through the wilderness.

The figure of living water typifies Christ as the Savior, while that of the Light represents Jesus as the Revealer of God’s will for mankind.

Jesus said: ‘I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness” (John 12:46).

Through Jesus we can become “sons of light” John 12:36)

What does this mean to you. Before Jesus came into your life, all was darkness. You were not living by the truth. You were living in darkness. But Jesus came into your life. Jesus is the light!!!

More on Jesus as the light of the world in John 9. As Jesus proved himself to be the Bread of Live by working a sign, so Jesus proves himself to be the Light of the World by working a sign.

John 8:27-30 When you have lifted up the Son of Man (look at the irony!!!) they you will know that I am the one I claim to be.

Again, I, I AM or I AM HE

Lifted up in the sense of lifted up on the cross.

Lifted up in the sense of the resurrection and God lifting Jesus in the ascension.

When WE lift up the Son of man, then the world will know that Jesus is God.

Q: Have you been lifting up Jesus? To whom? How?

Notice v. 30 Many put their faith in him. What about you?

John 8:31-48 True disciples of Jesus.

v. 31 Many believed, but belief alone is not enough.

We need to be disciples—to hold to his teachings.

Q: Have you been holding to his teachings?

Have you been clinging on to his teaching as of great value?

Have you been obeying his teachings?

If so, then you are his disciple and guess what: You will understand the truth and be set free.

v. 33 Hey! We are in the right religion. How dare you challenge our salvation!!!

v. 34 Do you sin?...... Then, unless you are a disciple you are a slave.

We will skip the debate that they have with Jesus in v. 37-43

v. 44 Here is the bottom line, if you do not hold to my teaching, then your father is Satan. How can you know this is true?

8:46 Sinless “Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?” I thought not, so why not believe in me?

Response v. 48 A Samaritan and Demon-possessed. (In other words, no, we cannot prove you guilty of sin)

That is a big wow! Jesus lived a sinless life. Talk about a miracle!!!

Walking on water, feeding 5000, healing the paralytic at Bethsaida, healing the man born blind… That’s cool, but Jesus lived a sinless life.

Jesus is God!!!!

We are just getting started.

John 8:49-59 I AM statement #3.

8:51 If anyone keeps my word, he will never see death. (I am greater than Abraham)

v. 52 Response: That confirms it. You are demon-possessed! (unless it is true)

v. 53 You have already claimed to be greater than Moses, are you now claiming to be greater than Abraham?

v. 56. Yes. Your “father” Abraham believed in me. (Heb 11:13, 18)

8:58 Before Abraham was born, I AM. (claims to be God)

v. 59 Response: Picked up stones to stone him.

Q: What about you. Do you believe that Jesus is God? What will you do in response to Jesus?