

Chapter 10 – The Feast of Dedication (Chanukah)

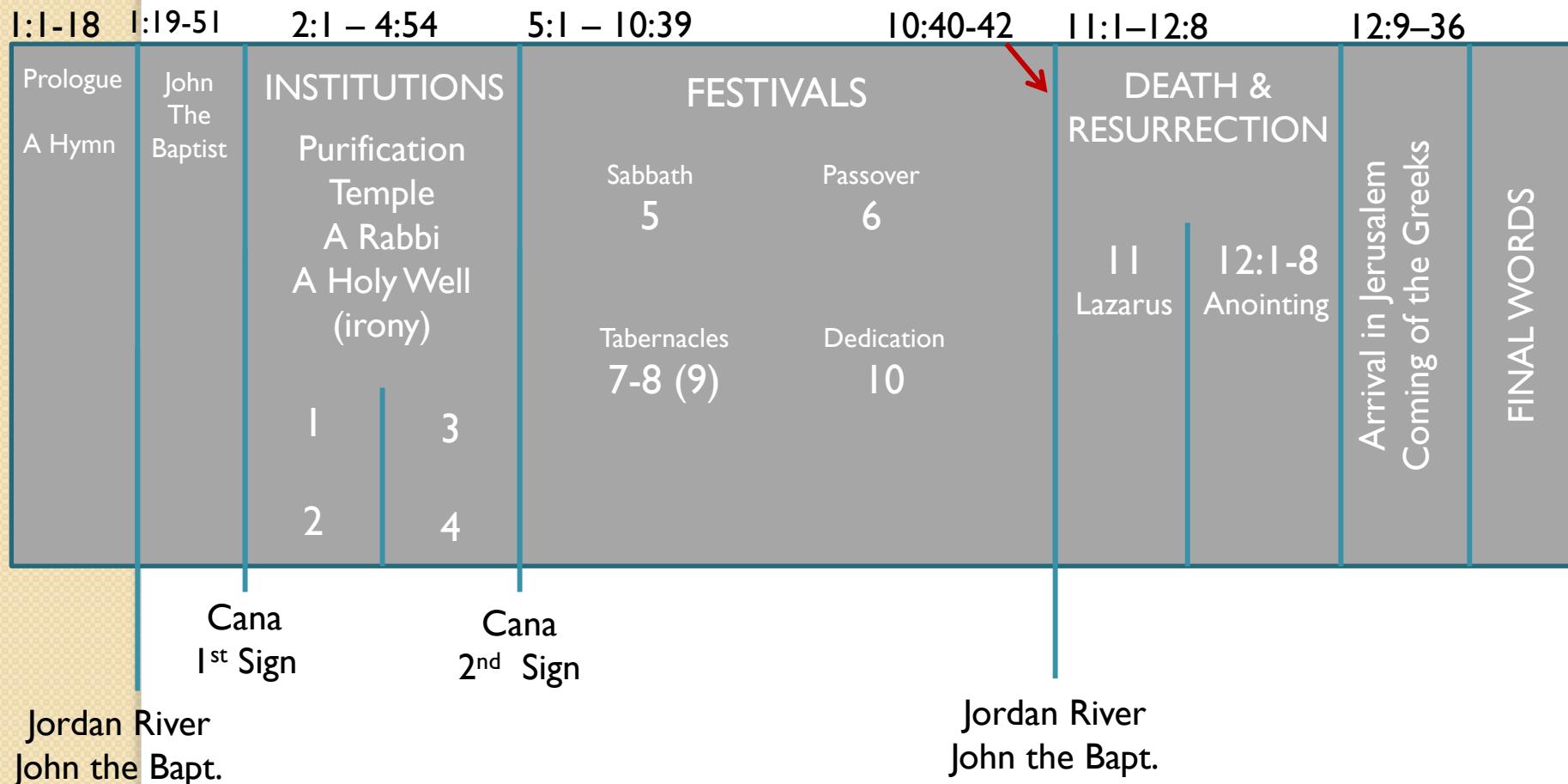


Title Page to John in the Book of Kells
(800 AD – Ireland)



Earliest Biblical Manuscript
Papyrus #52 – Part of John 7 & 8
(~125 AD – Egypt)

John 1 – 12: The Book of Signs (Jesus' Public Ministry)



Context

- Ch. 5: Sabbath – Reinterprets the *Shabbat* from a focus on humanity's actions (keeping *Torah* and *Mishnah*) to that of God's divine actions in the world, specifically Jesus' work, "I AM working..."
- Ch. 6: Passover – Using the symbol of bread in the Passover ceremony, Jesus calls himself true spiritual food, "I AM the bread of life..."
- Ch. 7-9: Tabernacles – Appropriates two festival symbols of light and water to himself as the true light and fountain of spiritual blessings, "I AM the light of the world...before Abraham was, I AM"
- Ch. 10: Dedication – At a festival which references past leadership failures, Jesus declares himself the true spiritual leader who sanctifies God's people, "I AM the good shepherd"

Introduction

Read Ch. 10: 1 - 21

Background of the Feast of Dedication

Culture Clash: Antiochus Epiphanes vs Judas Maccabeus – 165 BC

Tied to Questions of Leadership – Ezek. 34: 2 – 10

How Were We Led Astray? What Will Happen with the Romans?



Coins from Reign of Simon Maccabeus
(135 BC)

What is a Shepherd?

- What other references does the Bible give to shepherds?

How did they spend their time? What is the desert like?



What is a Shepherd?

- What is the difference between a “good” shepherd and a “bad” shepherd according to Jesus (vv. 11 – 16)?

Why do the sheep know the shepherd’s voice?



Sheep Pen in Israel
- 1995

What is a Shepherd?

How does Jesus describe this “flock” (v.16)? Why is that important?



Shepherd's Fields Outside of Bethlehem - 1995

By whose authority does Jesus take on this position as shepherd? How does Jesus take it on (v. 17-18)?

How does the crowd react to Jesus' assertion?

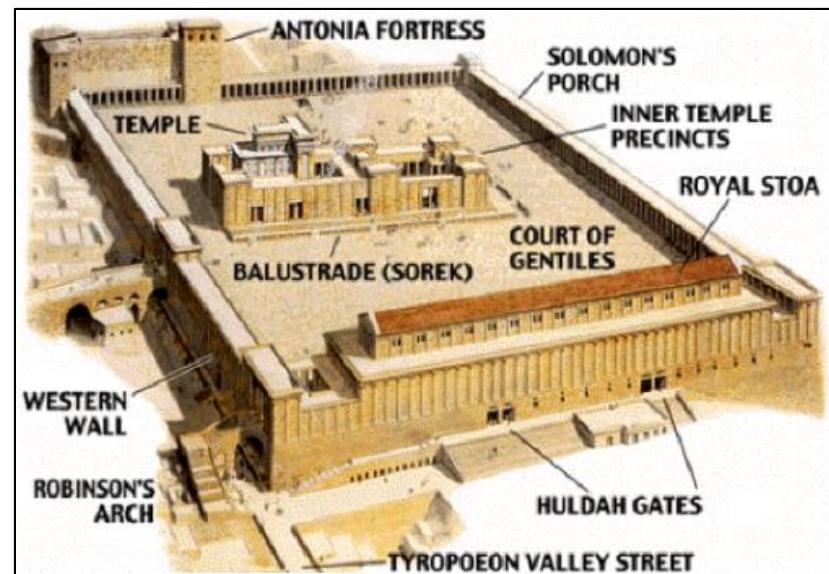
“Easy” Leadership vs God’s Leadership

Read 10: 22 – 42

What is the crowd asking of Jesus? How does he respond?

Why does Jesus tell them they don’t understand (v.26)?

What is the crowd’s reaction?



“Easy” Leadership vs God’s Leadership

Read Psalm 82: 5 - 7

Midrashic Interpretation with 3 Meanings:

- “gods” – applied to Hebrew judges; not blasphemy
- “gods” – vehicles of the word of God – *logos*
- Reference to Sinai – Jesus as judge par excellence

How would you describe the crowd’s reaction to Jesus’ interpretation? Why do they react this way?

What does Jesus do after his confrontation (v.40)?

What Does This Mean to Me?



STARING CONTEST
GO!

What makes up good spiritual leadership? What does a good shepherd provide in a desert?

How do we know the difference between “good shepherds” and “robbers and thieves”?

What is our responsibility as sheep to listen?

Who are the other “sheep” for us?