



# Chapter 7

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- Jesus goes to the Feast of Tabernacles in Secret
- Jesus teaches in the temple
- Prophecy of the Holy Spirit ("Living Waters")
- Divided Response

## John 7

# Context

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- **Passover** is the backdrop in Chapter 5-6 (April)
- **Feast of Tabernacles** (5 days after Day of Atonement and lasting 7 days) is the backdrop for Chapter 7-10 (**October**)
- There is a gap of 6 months between Chapter 6 & 7 (v.1 “After these things Jesus walked in Galilee...”). The Synoptic Gospels record that Jesus went to Tyre & Sidon (Syro-Phoenician woman’s daughter), Decapolis (demoniac exorcism); feeding of the 4,000; **primarily to teach the Twelve (discipleship)** and tell them about His coming death and resurrection. Then He returns to Jerusalem again in Chapter 7.
- Background of **Chapter 4** (Samaritan woman at the well) and **Chapter 7** are the same metaphor of Living Water.

# John 7:1-9 – Scripture

- <sup>1</sup> After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the **Jews sought to kill Him**. <sup>2</sup> Now the Jews' **Feast of Tabernacles** was at hand. <sup>3</sup> His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. <sup>4</sup> For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." <sup>5</sup> **For even His brothers did not believe in Him**.
- <sup>6</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "**My time has not yet come**, but your time is always ready. <sup>7</sup> **The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil**. <sup>8</sup> You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for **My time has not yet fully come**." <sup>9</sup> When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.

# Feast of Tabernacles

(or Booths)

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- Thanksgiving for the harvest – Exodus 23:16; 34:22
  - Time to Commemorate Exodus – Lev. 23:39-44; Deut. 16:13-15
  - Consisted of an elaborate ritual on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem. People built and lived in shelters (booths) made of branches as their ancestors did after leaving Egypt.
  - The Priest with a golden pitcher would take water from the Pool of Siloam & pour it in a basin at one side of the sacrificial alter to commemorate water from the Rock (Ex. 17; Num. 20:10-11). On the other side was a basin of wine. Water is what is needed for the harvest, and wine is a symbol of the harvest.
  - These elaborate rituals are **the background for Jesus saying the powerful statement in John 7:37. He is the LIVING WATER!**
  - Feast of Tabernacles will again be celebrated in the Millennial Kingdom (Zech. 14:16-19)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYva4mu0KHw> – 3 min
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYva4mu0KHw> – 9 min

## John 7:1-6

# Divine Timetable (to the Cross)

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- The unbelieving world thinks history is just a series of random events, while the Bible portrays history as the perfect and purposeful fulfilling of God's divine and sovereign timetable.
- 3-5 – **Jesus' brothers challenged Him to perform miracles** (similar to what Satan did in the wilderness temptations) on the grand stage of Jerusalem, and declare Himself the Messiah as He claimed to be, "if" He could do these things (unbelief).
- V.5 says "**even His brothers did not believe in Him**", consistent with Mark 3:21; 31-34 when they thought He had lost His mind.
- V.6 – Jesus states that He determines the timetable, and "**My time has not come yet.**" (similar to John 2:4 "My hour has not yet come"). His ultimate time would not come for 6 months until Passover.

# John 7:10-24 – Jesus Teaches

- <sup>10</sup> But when His brothers had gone up, then **He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.** <sup>11</sup> Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, “Where is He?” <sup>12</sup> And there was **much complaining** among the people concerning Him. **Some said, “He is good”; others said, “No, on the contrary, He deceives the people.”** <sup>13</sup> However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.
- <sup>14</sup> Now about the middle of the feast **Jesus went up into the temple and taught.** <sup>15</sup> And the Jews marveled, saying, **“How does this Man know letters, having never studied?”**
- <sup>16</sup> Jesus answered them and said, **“My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.** <sup>17</sup> **If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine,** whether it is from God or *whether I speak on My own authority.* <sup>18</sup> He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. <sup>19</sup> Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?”
- <sup>20</sup> **The people answered and said, “You have a demon.** Who is seeking to kill You?”
- <sup>21</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, “I did one work, and you all marvel. <sup>22</sup> Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. <sup>23</sup> If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? <sup>24</sup> **Do not judge according to appearance,** but judge with righteous judgment.”

## John 7:10-13

# Divine Timetable – 3 Groups

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- Jesus goes in secret in the middle of the week
- Assumption is that the Father has signaled Jesus in some way that this is the time. **He leaves Galilee for the last time before the Cross.**
- V.11 – **“The Jews”** – always refers to the Jewish leaders in opposition to Jesus.
- V.20 – **“The Crowd”** – pilgrims from Galilee and other areas.
- V.25 – **“The People of Jerusalem”**
- V.12 – Some said **“He is good”** – Jesus is not just a good man. He claims to be the incarnate, eternal God in human flesh.
- This is still the response of many people today.

## John 7:14-24

# Jesus Bold & Shocking Claims

- Jesus claimed to be the **Son of God** and the only **Saviour** of the world
  - Jesus claimed **He came from heaven** and existed eternally
  - Jesus claimed to be the **determiner of everyone's eternal destiny**
  - Jesus claimed to be the **source of everlasting life**
  - Jesus claimed to be the **only way to God**
  - Jesus claimed to have the **right to be honored and worshipped** as God
  - Jesus claimed to have the **power to give life and raise the dead**
  - Jesus claimed to be the **prophesied Messiah** of the Old Testament
  - Jesus claimed to be the **Judge of all mankind**
  - Jesus claimed to be **without sin**
  - Jesus claimed to have **authority in Heaven and Earth**
  - Jesus claimed to have the **authority to forgive sin**
  - Jesus claimed to have the **power to answer prayer**
  - Jesus claimed to be **alive before Abraham was born**
  - Jesus claimed He would be **seated at the right hand of God** and would reign as King forever
- Jesus was either God or he was the biggest Blasphemer to ever live.
  - The reason the people killed Him was not because of what He did, it because of what He taught...His Words.
  - People who just acknowledge Jesus as a "good man" don't know anything about Jesus.



## John 7:14-24

# Jesus Teaches in the Temple

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- At the end of Chapter 6 said “there are some of you do not believe”, then Chapter 7 opens with His own brothers not believing
- The claim that polarized the people was **His claim to be God**
- Remember John 1:1:10-11 “His own did not receive Him”
- Jesus enters the temple fearlessly amidst the hostility and began to teach, astonishing the Jewish authorities with His supernatural knowledge of scripture. (like His Apostles later in **Acts 4:13**)
  - **“How does this Man know letters, having never studied?”**
- Jesus’ reply that His doctrine came directly from God and not from any human teaching was stunning!

## John 7:17

# The Key to having the Truth Revealed

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- “If anyone wills (chooses/seek) to do His will (God’s will), he shall know concerning the doctrine (you will find), whether it is from God or *whether I speak on My own authority.*”
- If you want the Truth, choose to do God’s will and He will reveal it to you.
- Spiritual Blindness is lifted.
- Accepting Jesus’ claims is never just an intellectual decision...you must trust and obey what He says too to receive these promises.

## John 7:17

# Other Scripture on Finding the Truth

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- **Deut. 4:29** “But from there you will **seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him** if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”
- **1 Chron. 28:9** “...**If you seek Him, He will be found by you**; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.
- **Jer. 29:13** “And **you will seek Me and find Me**, when you search for Me with all your heart.
- **Matt. 7:7** “Ask, and it will be given to you; **seek, and you will find**; knock, and it will be opened to you.

## John 7:18

# Characteristics of False Teachers

**“He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.”**

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- Jesus defends His truth by saying False teachers:
  - **Speak from Them their own authority (not God’s)**
  - **Seek their own Glory (not God’s)**
  - **Mark 12:38-44** “Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in **long robes**, *love* greetings in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup> the **best seats** in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, <sup>40</sup> who **devour widows’ houses**, and for a pretense **make long prayers**... **Matt 7:15-20** Beware of false teachers... **Rom 16:18** by **smooth words and flattering speech** deceive the hearts of the simple. Also **2 Peter 2:3; Matt 6:2**
- Jesus did not seek glory for Himself, but for His Father

## John 7:19-20

# Jesus Accuses Pharisees of Not Keeping the Law and of Seeking to Kill Him

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- Jesus knew they sought to kill Him and therefore accuses them of not keeping the very law they were entrusted to teach and follow (do not murder).
- V.20 – The crowd thinks Jesus must have a demon to think such a thing. But this is exactly what the Pharisees would say later, that Jesus has a demon – Mark 3:22; John 8:48-52

## John 7:21-24

# You Perform Circumcision on the Sabbath - Why Can't I heal on the Sabbath?

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- **“I did one deed and you marvel”** – refers to Jesus’ healing of the cripple man at the pool (John 5:2-9 where Jesus earlier defended this healing on the Sabbath because of His equality with the Father)
- Jesus notes in parenthesis (v.22) that circumcision of a child on the 8<sup>th</sup> day predated Moses (**Gen. 17:10-14; Rom 4:9-12**)
- Jesus argues from the Lessor to the Greater – if the 8<sup>th</sup> day happened to fall on the Sabbath the Jews would circumcise the baby anyway – it took precedence over the Law of Moses.
- Therefore, how could they object to Jesus healing a man on Sabbath?
- **John 15:24** – **“If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.”** (Think about the implications of this...)

# John 7:25-31

- <sup>25</sup> Now some of them from Jerusalem said, “Is this not He whom **they seek to kill?** <sup>26</sup> But look! **He speaks boldly**, and they say nothing to Him. **Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ?** <sup>27</sup> However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from.”
- <sup>28</sup> Then **Jesus cried out**, as He taught in the temple, saying, “You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. <sup>29</sup> But I know Him, for **I am from Him, and He sent Me.**”
- <sup>30</sup> Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because **His hour had not yet come.** <sup>31</sup> **And many of the people believed in Him**, and said, “When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this *Man* has done?”

## John 7:25-36

# Bold Claims of Deity; Confusion & Division

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- V.26 - Jesus speaks **BOLDLY**, a characteristic of the Spirit-filled church (**Acts 4:31; 9:27-28; 13:46; 14:3; 19:8**, etc.)
- Leaders said nothing – may have been they feared losing a debate with Him, and they may have also feared a riot.
- V.28-29 – Jesus makes another claim to deity “**I am from Him**”
- V.30 – The leaders sought to take Him, but didn’t – no human reason is given, but maybe they feared the crowd would protect Him. But there was also a divine reason given...“**His hour had not yet come**”
- The Sovereign timing of Christ’s death is a repeated theme



## John 7:31; 34

# Crowds Ask Could this be the Christ ?

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- V.31 - <sup>31</sup> And many of the people believed in Him, and said, “When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this *Man* has done?”
  - These people had true faith but incomplete facts and inaccurate info.
  - **Salvation is not based on a perfect understanding of theology, but on a personal relationship with Christ.**
- V.34 “**You will seek Me and not find Me.**” – 2 meanings
  - 1) They cannot go with Him immediately to heaven – John 13:33, and
  - 2) **if you reject Jesus, you will die in your sins (Isa. 55:6; 2 Cor. 6:2; Heb 4:7)**

# John 7:37-39

- **37** On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “**If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**”
- **39** **But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**

John 7:37-39

# The Gospel Invitation has 3 Critical Parts:

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## The requires the Free Will of Man

- 1. Thirst** - Recognize your need for spiritual life;
- 2. Come** - to Jesus as the only source of life
- 3. Drink** – Receive Him by Faith & sincere Repentance

## John 7:37-39

# The Invitation & The Great Prophecy of the Holy Spirit

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- This is an invitation to salvation using a water metaphor, which was a major feature of the Feast of Tabernacles (water and light ceremonies).
- Feast of Tabernacles commemorated God's miraculous provision of water and light during the wilderness wandering (**Ex. 17:6; Deut 8:15; Neh 9:15; Isa 47:21; 55:1**), & also anticipated the messianic age of the pouring out of the Spirit (**Isa 12:3; 44:3-4; 49:10**).
- **Jesus fulfills the Feast rites.**

## John 7:37-39 – Living Water

# Old Testament References

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- **Ex. 17:6** “ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall **strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.**”
- **Deut 8:15** “who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, *in which were* fiery serpents and scorpions and **thirsty land where there was no water**; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock;
- **Neh. 9:15** “You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger, And **brought them water out of the rock for their thirst**, And told them to go in to possess the land Which You had sworn to give them.
- **Isa 55:1** **Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters**
- **Isaiah 12:3** With joy you will **draw water from the wells of salvation**
- **Isaiah 44:3-4** For I will **pour water on the thirsty** land, and streams on the dry ground; I will **pour out my Spirit** on your offspring,
- **Isaiah 49:10** **They will neither hunger nor thirst**, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat down on them. He who has compassion on them **will guide them and lead them beside springs of water**.
- **1 Cor 10:4** and all drank the same spiritual drink. **For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.**

## John 7:37-39

# The Invitation & The Great Prophecy of the Holy Spirit

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- V.38 **“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”**
- V.38 “as the scripture has said...” – Jesus was not referring to an exact quote, but to many passages such as: **Ezek 47:1-9; Zech 13:1**
- **V.39 – This is a perfect connection to the previous passage where Jesus just spoke of His departure. Later in John 14-16 Jesus tells us the Holy Spirit will come as a direct result of His ascension after the resurrection**
- Feast of Tabernacles had a “water drawing” ceremony that partially served as a symbol of the Holy Spirit, and they would read Isaiah 12:3 “Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”
- John is saying here that the source of the Holy Spirit is Jesus Himself, once He is “Glorified” (died, risen, ascended)

## John 7:37-53

# The Responses - DIVISION

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- Recurring theme in John is that **Jesus “DIVIDES”** (v.43; Matt. 10:34-36)
- Some Believed He was the “Prophet like Moses” (**Deut. 18:15-18**) because of the feeding of 5000 (manna) and now the water illustration connected with the provision of water from the rock (Ex. 17:6).
- Others ironically thought that didn’t meet the prophetic qualifications, however they were ignorant of the facts. Jesus was actually from the seed of David and was not from Nazareth, but Bethlehem.
- V.41-42 – Christ will come from Bethlehem – **Micah 5:2** (Amazing!!)
- Temple police disobeyed orders to arrest Him (miraculous), and famously declared the reason why was...

**“No man ever spoke like this man”**

- Nicodemus surprisingly defends Jesus.