

BACKGROUND:

Chronology and Geography:

The raising of Lazarus was more than six days prior to Passover:

1. John 11:17–53 was the day Jesus raised Lazarus,
2. John 11:54–55 says that Jesus spent some time in Ephraim as Passover drew near,
3. John 12:1 says that Jesus re-entered Bethany six days before Passover.

John 10:40–42 seems to describe the place from which Jesus traveled to raise Lazarus. The reason for seeing this as the backdrop for chapter 11 is that the grammar of 11:1 favors the idea that Lazarus became sick while Jesus was in the locale where John the Baptist was baptizing when he pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God. (My message, “John the Baptist Pointing to Christ” (1–27–08), goes into more detail on the location of the *Bethany* (*Batanea*) mentioned in John 1:28.

No known place called Bethany has been found east of the Jordan River. The distance Jesus traveled in the short time-span between John 1:43 and 2:1 argues for *Bethany* (*Bēthania*) in John 1:28 actually being *Batanea* (*Batanæa*).

Likewise, the chronology of John 10:40–11:39 requires Jesus to be four days away from Bethany.

1. John 10:40 is the same place where John baptized at first (across the Jordan)
2. John 1:26–28 shows that first place where John baptized across Jordan was Batanea
3. Jesus left Batanæa (across Jordan) 2 days after hearing Lazarus was sick (John 11:6)
4. When Lazarus died, Jesus said that He wanted to go to Judea (John 11:7)
5. Lazarus would have been embalmed soon after death (before Jesus left Batanea)
6. Four days elapsed between Lazarus’ burial and Jesus’ arrival (John 11:39)
7. Going from *Batanæa* (east of Jordan R.) to *Bēthania* (near Jerusalem) = four days.

NEW EXPOSITION:

When He went to Batanea (where John first baptized) & stayed there, many said that (unlike Jesus) John did no signs, but John spoke truth about Jesus—many there believed in Him

[While He was in Batanea], Lazarus of Bethany, the brother of Martha & Mary (who, after anointing Him, wiped His feet with her hair) was sick (11:1–2)

Mary's anointing of Jesus is in John 12:1–8

Mary & Martha sent word to Jesus, saying, "Lord, the one You love is sick." (11:3)

Jesus (who loved Mary, Martha, & Lazarus) said that the sickness will not end in death, but it will glorify the Father and the Son (11:4–5)

What did Jesus mean when He said that his sickness would not end in death?

Jesus remained in Batanea for two more days after learning that Lazarus was sick, then He told His disciples to accompany Him to Judea, but they said that Judeans wanted to kill Him (11:6–7)

Jesus did not leave Batanea until after Lazarus had died (cf. page 1 of the notes)

John made a special point in verse 5 to say that Jesus loved Mary, Martha, & Lazarus

Jesus always did things on the Father's timetable:

John 2

John 4

John 5

John 7

Notice that the disciples are concerned that Judea means death for Jesus (& them???)

Although sunset (signifying His death) is almost here, He will not stumble (die) as long as a little daylight is left, but He will stumble (die) when sunset (the time for Him to die) comes (11:9–10)

Figurative meaning:

When it is almost sunset, one can still see & will not stumble, but when it is dark, one stumbles

Jesus' point:

When it is almost time for Jesus to die, He is still safe, but when it is time to die, He will die

Based on Daniel 9:24–27 (the 70 heptads), Jesus could not die prior to March 30, A.D. 33.

He died on April 3, A.D. 33 (less than one week after the completion of 70 heptads)

(cf. Hoehner, *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*, 115–139.)

The Bible uses a 360-day year in prophetic passages.

7 + 62 heptads (of 360-day) years = 69 heptads (of 360-day) years

69 heptads (of 360-day) years = 483 (360-day) years

483 (360-day) years = 476 (365¼-day) years + 119 days

March 14, 445 BC + 476 (365¼-day) years & 119 days = March 30, A.D. 33

This is what Jesus meant, whenever He said something like, “My time has not yet come.”

Then Jesus told them that Lazarus has fallen asleep, but Jesus will wake him, so His disciples (who did not understand that he had died) said that restful sleep means that Lazarus is getting better (11:11–13)

Jesus told them plainly that Lazarus has died, but it is good (for them) that He did not prevent it, so they may believe (when He raises him), so they need to go to Bethany (11:14–15)

Thomas (called Twin) said, “Let us go to Judea, that we also may die with Him” (11:16)

CONCLUSION

When Jesus went to Batanea (where John first baptized) many believed John’s testimony about Jesus. While He was there, Lazarus became sick & his sisters sent word that His beloved Lazarus was sick. Despite loving them, Jesus remained in Batanea for 2 more days, before telling His disciples that He would return to Judea to wake Lazarus up. His disciples objected that Judea was dangerous & restful sleep meant Lazarus would get well (without Jesus going there), so He told them that He was still safe until it was time for Him to die, so it was good that Jesus did not prevent Lazarus from dying, so they could believe (when He raised him), but Thomas spoke of joining Jesus in dying.

REVIEW:

J-Baptist testified of Christ, so all might believe; the few of His own who believed would all be God's children 1:1-18
<p>1ST DISCIPLES 1:19-51: John the Baptist pointed all to Christ, so some of John's disciples followed & believed.</p> <p>1ST SIGN APOSTLE JOHN WITNESSED 2:1-11: JC turned H₂O to wine (first Galilean sign), disciples believed.</p> <p>JUDEAN PASSOVER 2:13-3:36: Signs lead many (inc. Nic.) to believe in JC; said cross/resurrection = sign that He = Christ</p> <p>SAMARITNESS: 4:1-26: He offered Samaritess living H₂O, who asked if He were the Christ when He told her about herself.</p> <p>MINISTRY IN SYCHAR: 4:27-42: She drew men to see JC & food-distracted 12 join in reaping harvest; many believed</p> <p>IN GALILEE 4:43-45: He went to Galilee, because no prophet is hometown celebrity; they welcome Him after seeing signs</p> <p>HEAL OFFICIAL'S SON: 4:46-54: Official urged JC to heal son; He (& servants) said, "Son lives;" He & house believed</p>
<p>HEAL LAME MAN: 5:1-15: On Sabbath JC told lame man to walk. Officials scolded & sought to confront healer</p> <p>HEAL LAME MAN: 5:16-23: Judeans seek to kill JC as blaspheming sabbath-breaker, He imitates Father to do greater works.</p> <p>HONOR FATHER BY HONORING SON: 5:24-30: Wants foes to live (if believing); will be condemned (if disbelieve)</p> <p>2, 3+ WITNESSES: 5:31-47: JC, impartial GWT Judge, isn't accuser nor is J-Baptist, so works, Father, Bible & Moses accuse</p> <p>BREAD OF LIFE: JC asked where to buy food for crowd; prayed & broke bread; they were satisfied & called Him <i>Prophet</i></p> <p>WALKING ON H₂O 6:15-21: JC went up mount; 12 left by boat w/o Him; gale arose, JC walked on sea & entered boat</p> <p>JC = BREAD OF LIFE 6:22-40: He told men (who found Him) to labor for food for EL & said God persuades that He is Father-sent heavenly bread, that gives the world life & secures bells forever (because He obeys the Father)</p> <p>GRUMBLING OVER BREAD OF LIFE 6:41-59: JC said to stop grumbling, because, He the Living Bread gives His life for world, but only gives EL to those drawn thru teaching, but they argued over what eating His flesh meant, so He said that (only if they eat/drink His flesh/blood) would they have EL & Christ would indwell them, so life-giving Bread differs from lifeless manna</p> <p>GRUMBLING OVER BREAD OF LIFE 6:60-71: JC asked offended disciples how His ascension would affect them & warned of lifeless leaders' words, but HS gives life thru His word; & said some hadn't believed, which is why (apart from being granted thru the Father teaching) people cannot (& will not) believe Christ, but when many left, He asked 12 if they wanted to go, but Peter said JC has words of EL (which they believe) & JC said He chose them, even Judas</p> <p>SURPRISE SHOWING AT FEAST OF BOOTHS 7:1-36: Unbel brothers say to make show in Judea to get disciples, but His time not yet come. Some said He would skip feast, but His authoritative teaching glorifying Father amazed them (reaffirming right to heal on Sabbath—some said no arrest because they knew He is Christ), & leaders tried an arrest</p> <p>THE ONE WHO TABERNACLED W/ US IS AT FEAST OF BOOTHS 7:37-8:1: JC urged to drink of (believe) Him, so they (when HS came) would have living H₂O abundantly (fulfilling Booths): The teaching divided bells from unbels & led to arrest attempt; Nicodemus scolds other rulers for trying to lynch JC w/o legal inquiry</p> <p>LIGHT OF THE WORLD RENDERS JUSTICE FOR ADULTERESS 8:2-13: Pharisees ask JC if adulteress they brought should be stoned (per Law), to accuse Him; JC wrote on floor, He said sinless one "Cast 1st stone;" accusers left; He taught crowd [& woman] that He is Light of world (unlike Pharisees), so His followers walk in Light of life</p>
<p>TRUTH WILL FREE YOU 8:14-32: JC said His self-testimony is valid, because Father & He = 2 witnesses; but Pharisees don't know the Father, so they try to arrest Him; He will go where they can't come, but they will die (w/o EL); JC reiterates that they will die unless they believe in Him; so they demand to know who He is; He affirms that He always said Father sent Him; but lifting Him (on cross) will show that Father sent Him & abides w/ Him; & many Judeans believed in Him, so He said to abide in His word to be disciples--freed from [legalistic] bondage</p>
<p>ABRAHAM'S SEED & SATAN'S SEED 8:33-59: [Pharisees] retort that they aren't slaves, but JC said only He can free from sin; their desire to kill Him came from their father; they would love & believe Him if they were God's children, but they reject Him w/o disproving Him; they scoff when He said bells won't see death & Abe rejoiced to see His day</p>
<p>HEALING MAN BORN BLIND 9:1-41: JC saw one born-blind & said sin didn't blind him, but blindness let God heal him (Light of world must do Sender's work now), He made clay & said to wash in Siloam & he then saw; some said he was blind, some dubious, but said, yes & how he sees, but didn't know where JC was; went to synagogue on Sabbath & told Pharisees how he sees; some said Sabbath breaker not of God, & others deny sinner could do this, man said He = Prophet; when parents testify that he, their son, was born blind, Phars knew he was blind; parents (fearing banning) said ask of-age son; they oathed him & he didn't counter as they call JC <i>sinner</i>; but said he now sees; they repeated query, he said they ignored him & didn't want to be His disciples; they claimed to be Moses' disciples; he said they don't know origin of JC, the only healer of born-blind, but God doesn't use sinners, so He is from God; they called him born in sin & banned him; JC heard this & asked if he believes in God's Son; after saying He = God's Son, he believed & worshipped; He said He came so blind may see, sighted may be blind; Pharisees scoff at being blind; he called them culpable because they call selves sighted.</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD 10:1-21: Leaders misunderstand Good Shepherd, whom gateman lets enter pen (vs. sneaky rustlers); sheep follow Him, not strangers (who coerce); so He retold it: He is the entryway; earlier shepherds bully, steal, & kill sheep, but He gives life, even dying for sheep (vs. hirelings who let wolves steal/scatter); He knows sheep & they know Him, as He knows God who knows Him—He will die for sheep & has other (non-Judean) sheep that hear Him who makes 1-flock/1-shepherd; God loves Him, because (for sheep) He dies to be raised (no one takes life from Him), but He lays it down to take it up—as God commands; some Judeans called Him crazy demoniac; others said His speech was not demoniac & demon can't make blind see.</p>
<p>AT HANNUKAH (10:22-39): Judeans demand to know if He is the Christ, but He said they disbelieve what He said, but works in Father's name also testify; they disbelieve because they were not of His sheep (who follow Him); He (Messianic Good Shepherd who dies for sheep) guarantees sheep (bells) eternal life & can't lose it, because mighty Father & Son (in union) secure them; as they tried stoning Him, He asked which good work led to seeking His death; they said they sought His death for blasphemously making self God; He said God (Psalm 82:6) calls (wicked judges) gods; Bible is always true; so Father-sent One doesn't blaspheme in calling self God's Son; if He didn't do Father's works, they should disbelieve, but Father's works lead to believing His words (2nd witness) that Father & Son are united; they sought to kill Him again, but He escaped</p>