

John and His Interrogators: John 1:19-28

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The Living Water (Logos 21 Translation) unless otherwise noted

INTRODUCTION TO THE MESSAGE

REVIEW: What John is about and John 1:1-18

EXPOSITION: JUDEA AND JUDEANS

In the New Testament, the word for Jews is *loudaioi* (as in Jews and Gentiles). However, *loudaioi* had another meaning as well. In Jesus' day, the land of Israel had three regions:

Galilee was north: citizens of Galilee = Galileans

Samaria was central: citizens of Samaria = Samaritans

Judea was south: citizens of Judea = Judeans (*loudaioi*)

The word *loudaioi* is like our word *Yankee*:

"Yankee, go home," in Alabama means "Northerner, go home."

"Yankee, go home," in Iran means "American, go home."

John's Gospel uses *loudaioi* for Judeans, not Jews (cf. John 7:1)

POWERFUL JEWISH GROUPS IN JERUSALEM

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Sadducees: The group that controlled the high-priesthood. In Jesus' day the high priest was always a Sadducee. Their control of the Temple made them wealthy and powerful. They had no interest in God and disbelieved the Bible.

Levites and priests answered to the Sadducees

Pharisees came into existence to oppose the Sadducees. They believed the Old Testament, but treated many rules taught by rabbis as if they came from God.

The Ruling Council (Sanhedrin): Seventy-two men (high-ranking Sadducees had a majority; high-ranking Pharisees were the minority). The Sanhedrin was Jerusalem's highest Jewish authority in Jesus' day. With a Sadducean majority, the Sanhedrin's decisions usually favored Sadducees.

John the Baptist Testified to a Delegation from the Sadducees 3 that he was not The Christ, nor The Prophet, nor Elijah (1:19-21)

He was not The Christ

He was not The Prophet (Deut 18:15)

He was not Elijah (Mal 4:5-6; cf. Luke 1:17)

John Testified that He Was the One Propheesied to Prepare the Lord's Way (1:22-23)

John quotes Isaiah 40:3, a Messianic Prophecy:
Make a straight way in the desert for the Lord.

The Pharisees Asked Why John Baptized, If He Were Not the Christ, the Prophet, or Elijah (1:24-25)

John Only Baptized with Water, but One Greater Was in their 4 Midst whom they Do Not Know that Outranks John (1:26-27)

The Delegation Met John in Batanea, East of the Jordan (1:28)

King James/New King James, say *Bethabara* (following TR).

The *Living Water* (following the Greek of the *Majority Text*) and most other English Bibles (following the Greek of the *Nestle Text*) say *Bethany*. This is the right wording.

The location of this place is east of the Jordan River. *Bethany beyond the Jordan* refers to *Batanea* (southeast of the Sea of Galilee; called *Bashan* in the Old Testament)

Batanea solves two issues in John:

1. It gives enough time for the trip in John 1:43–2:1
2. It makes sense of chronology in John 10:40–11:40

As a result, Martha is **NOT** a complainer in John 11

CONCLUSION