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By Dan Maines

John 7

John 7:1

After these things Jesus was walking in Galilee, for He was unwilling to walk in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill Him.

† Hostility was rising from the Judean leaders, yet His time had not come. Galilee offered temporary safety and further ministry.

John 7:2-5

Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near. So

His brothers said to Him, "Move on from here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. For no one does anything in secret when he himself is striving to be known publicly. If You are doing these things, show Yourself to the world." For not even His brothers believed in Him.

† His brothers urged Him to display power publicly, yet their words carried unbelief. The Feast of Booths recalled Israel's wilderness journey, and Jesus would soon reveal Himself as the true source of living water.

† Josephus (Antiquities 3.10.4) describes the Feast of Booths as a time of great national celebration.

John 7:6-9

So Jesus said to them, "My time is not yet here, but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me, because I testify about it, that its deeds are evil. Go up to the feast yourselves; I am not going up to this feast yet, because My time has not yet fully arrived." Now having said these things to them, He stayed in Galilee.

† Jesus moved according to the Father's timing, not human urging. His testimony against sin provoked hatred.

John 7:10-13

But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publicly, but as though in secret. So the Jews were looking for Him at the feast and saying, "Where is He?" And there was a great deal of talk about Him in secret among the crowds: some were saying, "He is a good man"; others were saying, "No, on the contrary, He is misleading the people." However, no one was speaking openly about Him, for fear of the Jews.

† Division about Jesus was already evident. Fear of leaders silenced open discussion, but the crowds could not ignore Him.

John 7:14-16

But when it was now the middle of the feast, Jesus went up into the temple, and began to teach. The Jews then were astonished, saying, "How has this man become learned, not having been educated?" So Jesus answered them and said, "My teaching is not My own, but His who sent Me."

† Jesus revealed His authority came from God, not rabbinic training. His teaching carried divine power and clarity.

John 7:17-18

"If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know about the teaching, whether it is of God, or I am speaking from Myself. The one who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him."

† Understanding comes through obedience. Jesus contrasted self-seeking teachers with His own God-centered mission.

John 7:19-20

"Did Moses not give you the Law, and yet none of you carries out the Law? Why are you seeking to kill Me?" The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill You?"

† Their denial showed blindness. Accusing Him of demon possession revealed their hardness of heart.

John 7:21-23

Jesus answered them, "I did one deed, and you all are astonished. For this reason Moses has given you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and on the Sabbath you circumcise a man. If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the Law of Moses will not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made an entire man well on the

Sabbath?"

† Jesus exposed hypocrisy: they permitted circumcision on Sabbath, yet condemned healing. True obedience honored God's intent, not rigid rules.

John 7:24

"Do not judge by the outward appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

† True judgment discerns the heart and intent, not mere surface observance.

John 7:25-27

So some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, "Is this not the man whom they are seeking to kill? And yet look, He is speaking publicly, and they are saying nothing to Him. The rulers do not really know that this is the Christ, do they? However, we know where this man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from."

† Confusion marked the people. Some believed rulers secretly recognized Him, others dismissed Him because of His known hometown. Rabbinic tradition expected the Messiah to appear suddenly, which blinded them to prophecy.

John 7:28-29

Then Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and 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. I do know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent Me."

† Jesus declared divine origin and mission, rebuking their ignorance of God.

John 7:30-32

So they were seeking to arrest Him; and yet no one laid a hand

on Him, because His hour had not yet come. But many of the crowd believed in Him; and they were saying, "When the Christ comes, He will not perform more signs than those which this man has done, will He?" The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering these things about Him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to arrest Him.

† Hostility grew, but belief spread. Signs convinced some, while leaders hardened further.

John 7:33-34

Therefore Jesus said, "For a little while longer I am going to be with you, and then I am going to Him who sent Me. You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come."

† He foretold His return to the Father, inaccessible to unbelief.

John 7:35-36

The Jews then said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? He is not intending to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks, is He? What is this statement that He said, 'You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come'?"

† They misunderstood again, mocking the possibility of His mission reaching Gentiles, though this was God's plan.

John 7:37-39

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" But this He said in reference to the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

† During the Feast of Booths, priests poured water at the altar, praying for rain and harvest. Jesus declared Himself the source of living water, promising the Spirit.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QH 8.21) use water imagery for the Spirit's work, matching His words.

John 7:40-43

Some of the people therefore, after hearing these words, were saying, "This truly is the Prophet." Others were saying, "This is the Christ." But others were saying, "Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He? Has the Scripture not said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So a dissension occurred in the crowd because of Him.

† Misunderstanding of His birthplace caused division. They knew prophecy but not His true birth in Bethlehem.

John 7:44-47

And some of them wanted to arrest Him, but no one laid hands on Him. The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?" The officers answered, "Never has a man spoken in this way!" The Pharisees then replied to them, "You have not been led astray too, have you?"

† Even the officers recognized Jesus' authority, but leaders mocked them.

John 7:48-49

"Not one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he? But this crowd that does not know the Law is accursed!"

† The leaders despised the common people, revealing arrogance and blindness.

John 7:50-52

Nicodemus (the one who came to Him before, being one of them) said to them, "Our Law does not judge the person unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?" They answered and said to him, "You are not from Galilee as well, are you? Examine, and you will see that no prophet comes out of Galilee."

† Nicodemus cautiously defended Jesus, appealing to fairness. Their reply mocked Galilee, ignoring that Jonah and perhaps others came from there.

John 7:53

And everyone went to his home.

† Division ended unresolved. The confrontation foreshadowed coming judgment and revelation.

How it applies to us today

† Christ reveals Himself at God's timing, not man's urging.

† True judgment is righteous, not superficial.

† Jesus alone gives living water, the Spirit, to those who believe.

† Division over Christ remains, but His word stands as truth beyond opinion.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Josephus, Antiquities 3.10.4 – Feast of Booths celebrations

† Josephus, Antiquities 18.1.6 – false messianic movements

† Dead Sea Scrolls, 1QH 8.21 – living water imagery

† Chrysostom, Homilies on John – Christ's timing and teaching authority

† Augustine, Tractates on John – faith vs. superficial judgment

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