

John 3.1-21

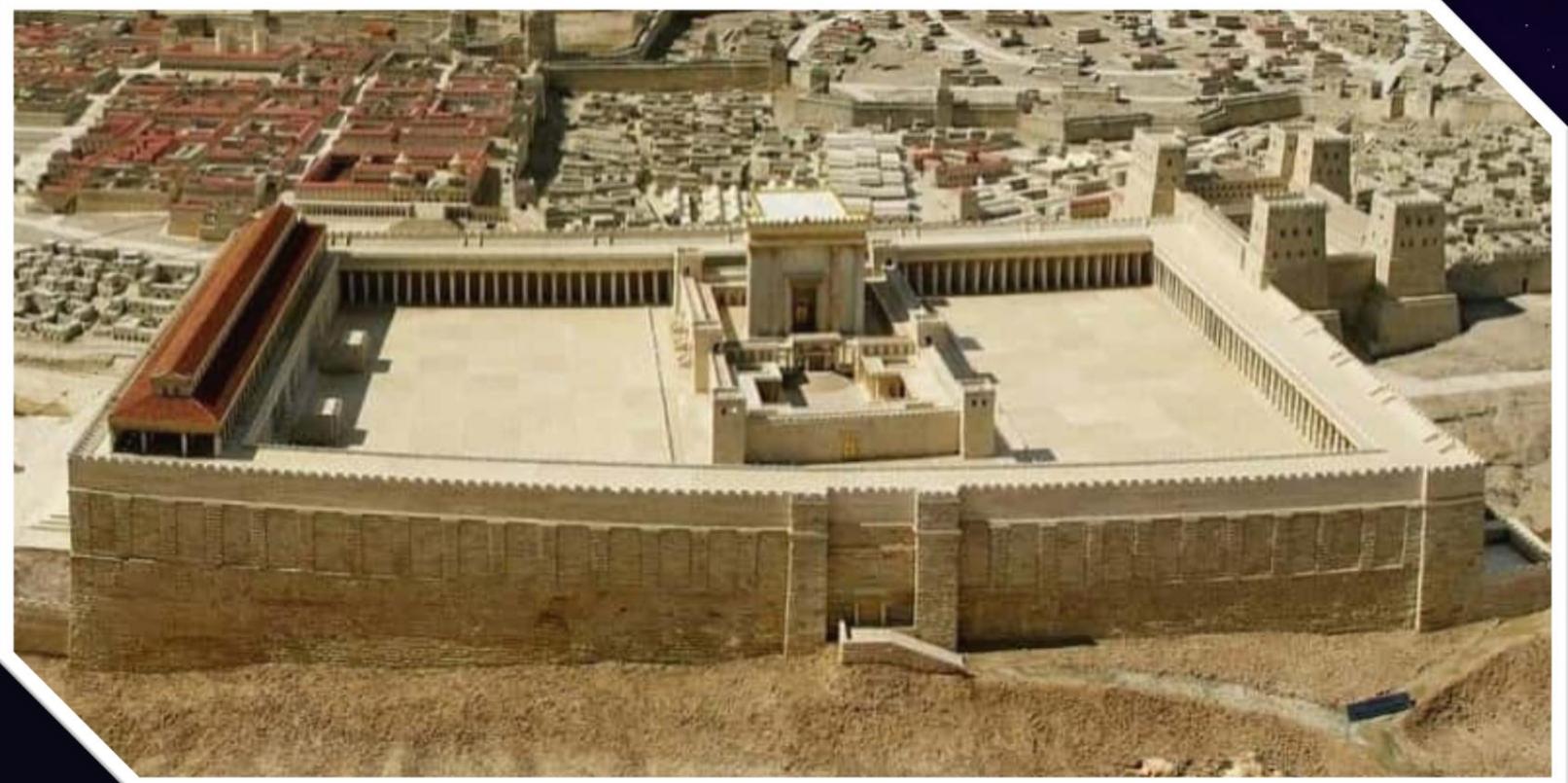
Special Inter-Series Lesson

AD

30 or so

Pharisees are large
and in charge





Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You’ve come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born from above he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3.1-3

2 Sam 7.16

”And your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before Me; your throne will be permanent forever.”

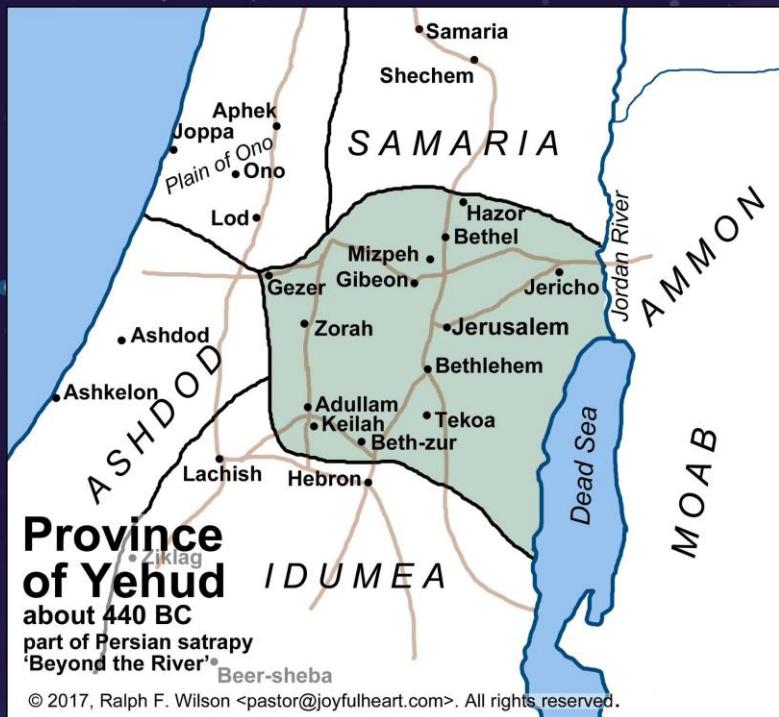
The Persian Period

Focus on a religious kingdom

Persian kings provided the necessary administrative stability

Don't want to repeat past misdeeds

Priesthood and Temple are more important



The Hasmonean Period

Focus on a national kingdom

A new line of Judean kings

King & High Priest in one

Davidic propaganda

Violent, Self-Serving, Problematic



The Herodian Period

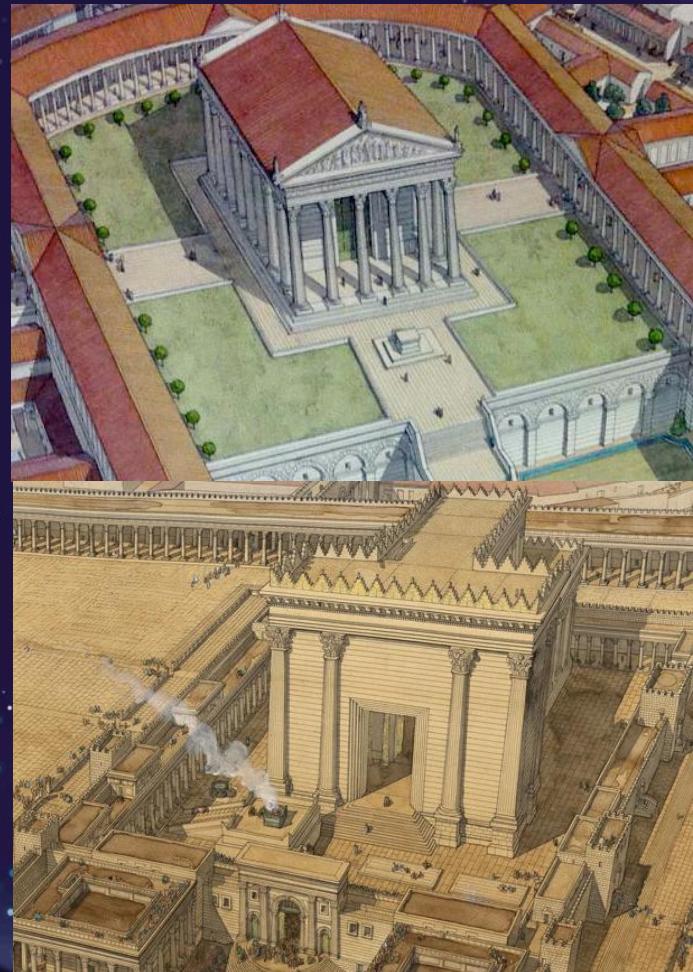
Focus on a Roman-Jewish kingdom

Herod played both sides

Murderously paranoid

“King of the Jews” via Rome

“Herodians” (Mk 3.6, 12.13; Matt 22.16)



The NT Period

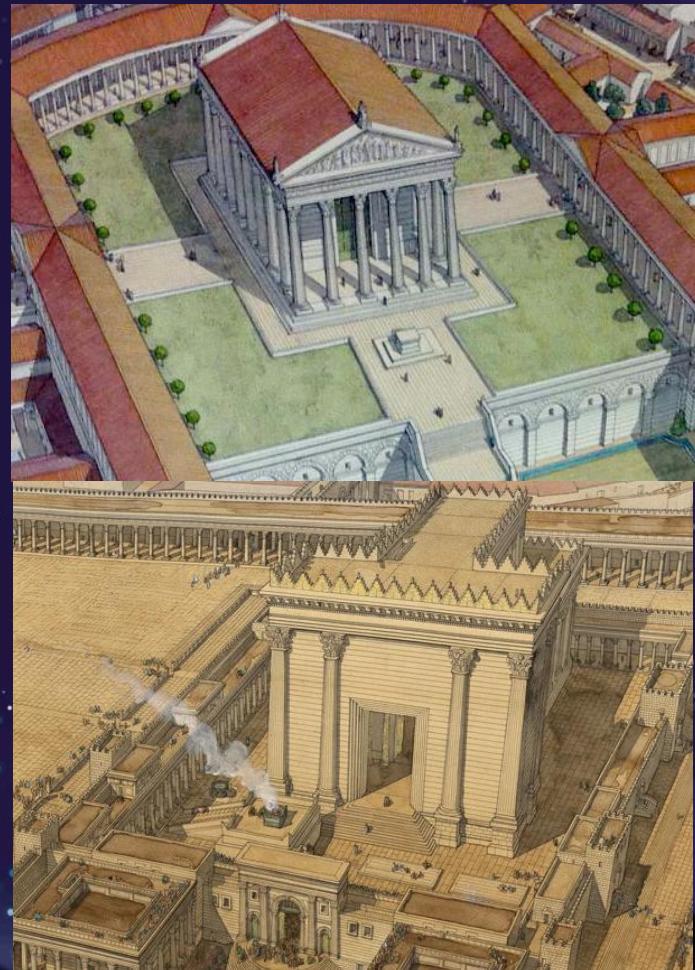
Focus on a revolutionary kingdom

Small competing factions

Varied attitudes toward Rome and Jerusalem

Focus on the sins of others

Jesus enters the fray



Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he’s old? He can’t enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he can’t enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

John 3.4-6

ἀνωθεν

“again” OR “from above”

Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he’s old? He can’t enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he can’t enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

John 3.4-6 NASB95

Ezekiel 36.25-27

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

Acts 2.29-39

“Brothers, I can speak confidently to you about our forefather David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. So then, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne, David by foreseeing this spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did his body experience decay. This Jesus God raised up, and we are all witnesses of it. So then, exalted to the right hand of God, and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, he has poured out what you both see and hear. For David did not ascend into heaven, but he himself says, ‘The Lord said to my lord, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”’

Acts 2.29-39

Therefore let all the house of Israel know beyond a doubt that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.” Now when they heard this, they were acutely distressed and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “What should we do, brothers?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to himself.”

Colossians 11.12-13

having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

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John 3.4-6 NASB95

“Don’t be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ “The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but don’t know where it comes from and where it’s going; so is everyone who’s born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?”

John 3.7-10

Ecclesiastes 11.5

Just as you do not know what is the way of the wind, or how bones [form] in the womb of the one who is full, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.

“Don’t be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ “The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but don’t know where it comes from and where it’s going; so is everyone who’s born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?”

John 3.7-10

“Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we’ve seen, and you don’t accept our testimony. “If I told you earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? “No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.”

John 3.11-13

Daniel 7.13-14

“I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven one like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, tribes, and languages might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.”

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-born Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

John 3.14-17 NASB95

Numbers 21.5-9

And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness, for there is no bread or water, and we detest this worthless food.” So the Lord sent poisonous snakes among the people, and they bit the people; many people of Israel died. Then the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord that he would take away the snakes from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. The Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous snake and set it on a pole. When anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live.” So Moses made a bronze snake and put it on a pole, so that if a snake had bitten someone, when he looked at the bronze snake he lived.

John 12.31-34

Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” (Now he said this to indicate clearly what kind of death he was going to die.) Then the crowd responded, “We have heard from the law that the Christ will remain forever. How can you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this Son of Man?”

“He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-born Son of God.”

John 3.18

“This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

“But he who practices the truth comes to the light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

John 3.19-21 NASB95

John 12.35-36

Jesus replied, “The light is with you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become sons of light.” When Jesus had said these things, he went away and hid himself from them.

1 John 1.1-7

That which was from the beginning, what we've heard, what we've seen with our eyes, what we've looked at and our hands have touched concerning the word of life—and the life was revealed, and we've seen and testify and announce to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. What we've seen and heard we announce to you, too, so that you may have fellowship with us (and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ). And these [things] we write to you so that our joy may be complete. Now this is the good news we've heard from Him and announce to you: God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him and yet walk around in the darkness, we're lying and not do the truth. But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.