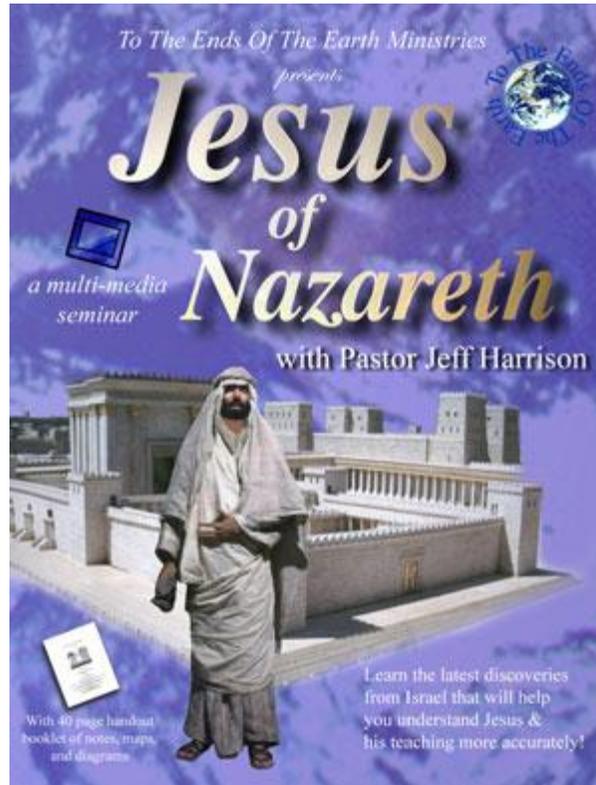


To The Ends of the Earth Ministries

— *presents* —



Study Notes for **Jesus of Nazareth** **Lecture #2**

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LANDMARKS OF FAITH

Jesus of Nazareth

Lecture #2: Scroll and Synagogue: Jewish Religion in the Time of Jesus

THE TEMPLE

Herod the Great: King of the Jews when Jesus was born.

The First Temple (the Temple of Solomon) stood from 1,000 BC to 586 BC when it was destroyed by the Babylonians. The Second Temple (of Zerubbabel) was built in 530 BC. Herod's reconstruction of the Second Temple was begun in 20 BC. The Second Temple was destroyed in 70 AD, 40 years after the resurrection of Jesus. The Third Temple, according to the Rabbis, will be built when Messiah comes.

According to the Rabbis, the Second Temple was inferior to the First Temple because it lacked the ark of the covenant, the holy fire that had descended on the altar, the Shekinah (the glory of God's presence), the spirit of prophecy, and the Urim & Thumim.

Mark 13:1: *"Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" (Mark 13:1; also Luke 21:5).*

Discovery: The location of the 500 x 500 cubit pre-Herodian Temple platform.

Ten Levels of Holiness:

- 1) Israel: "The land" (In Hebrew: *Ha-Aretz*).
- 2) The walled cities of Israel.
- 3) Jerusalem (*Yerushalayim*): The Holy City.
- 4) The Temple Mount platform (*Har Ha-Bayit*): 35 acres (14 hectares) = area of 31 U.S. football fields.

Mark 11:17: *"Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations' (the Gentiles)? But you have made it a robbers' den."*

*Discovery: Ritual bath buildings at the entrance to the Temple Mount with more than 36 ritual baths (*mikvaoth*).*

Luke 2:22: *"And when the days for their purification according to the Law of Moses were completed, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord"*

Acts 2:41: *"So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls"*

*Discovery: Entrance stairway to the Temple Mount (the **teaching stairs** of the rabbis).*

Psa. 100:4: *"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise"*

Rabbi Gamaliel: The Jewish religious teacher of the apostle Paul (Acts 22:3).

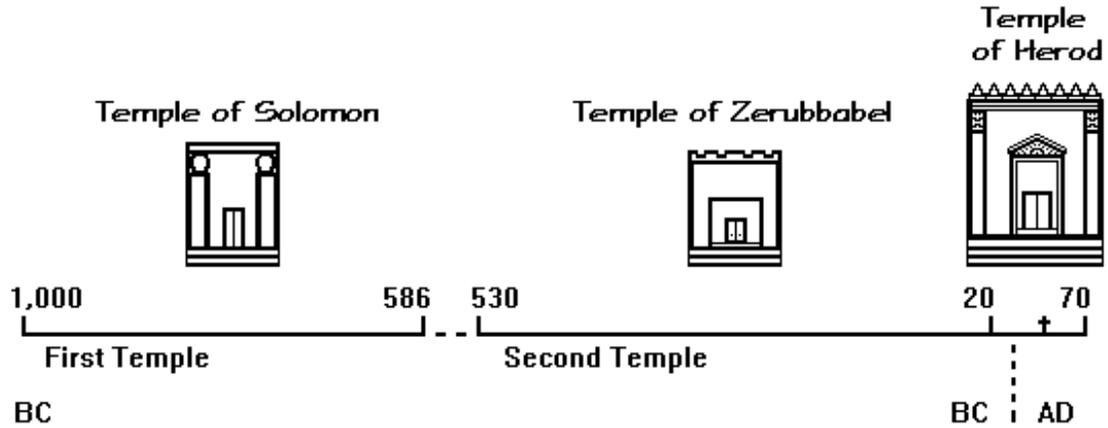
Huldah Gates: Southern entrance gates to the Temple Mount.

Sanhedrin: The Court of the Elders. The Great Sanhedrin Council of 70 members was the Supreme Court of the Jews. There were also lesser sanhedrins around the country that served as lower courts.

Discovery: Monumental inscription found at the Eastern Huldah gates mentions the Sanhedrin Council (the Council of Elders).

Portico: A covered walk with a roof supported by columns on one side and a wall on the other.

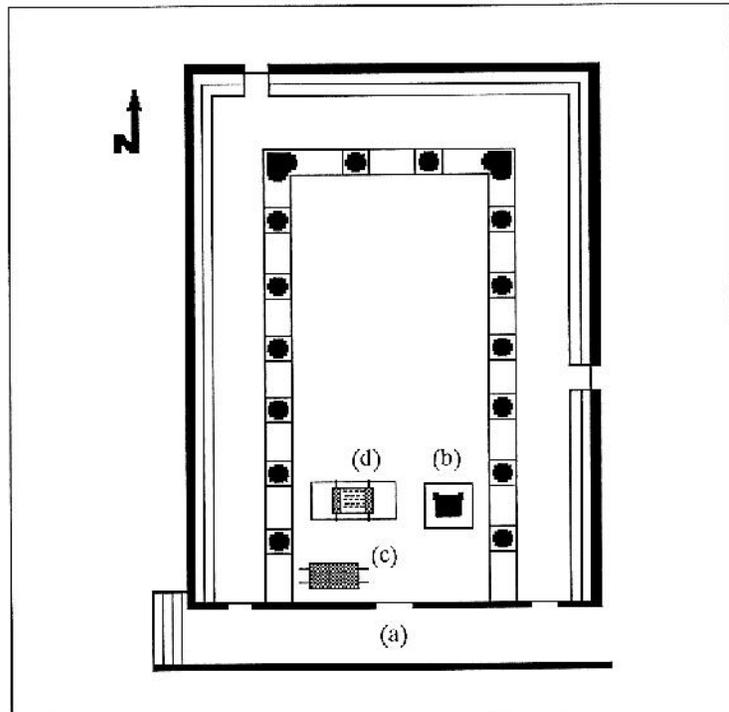
TEMPLE AND SYNAGOGUE



The Synagogue in Capernaum

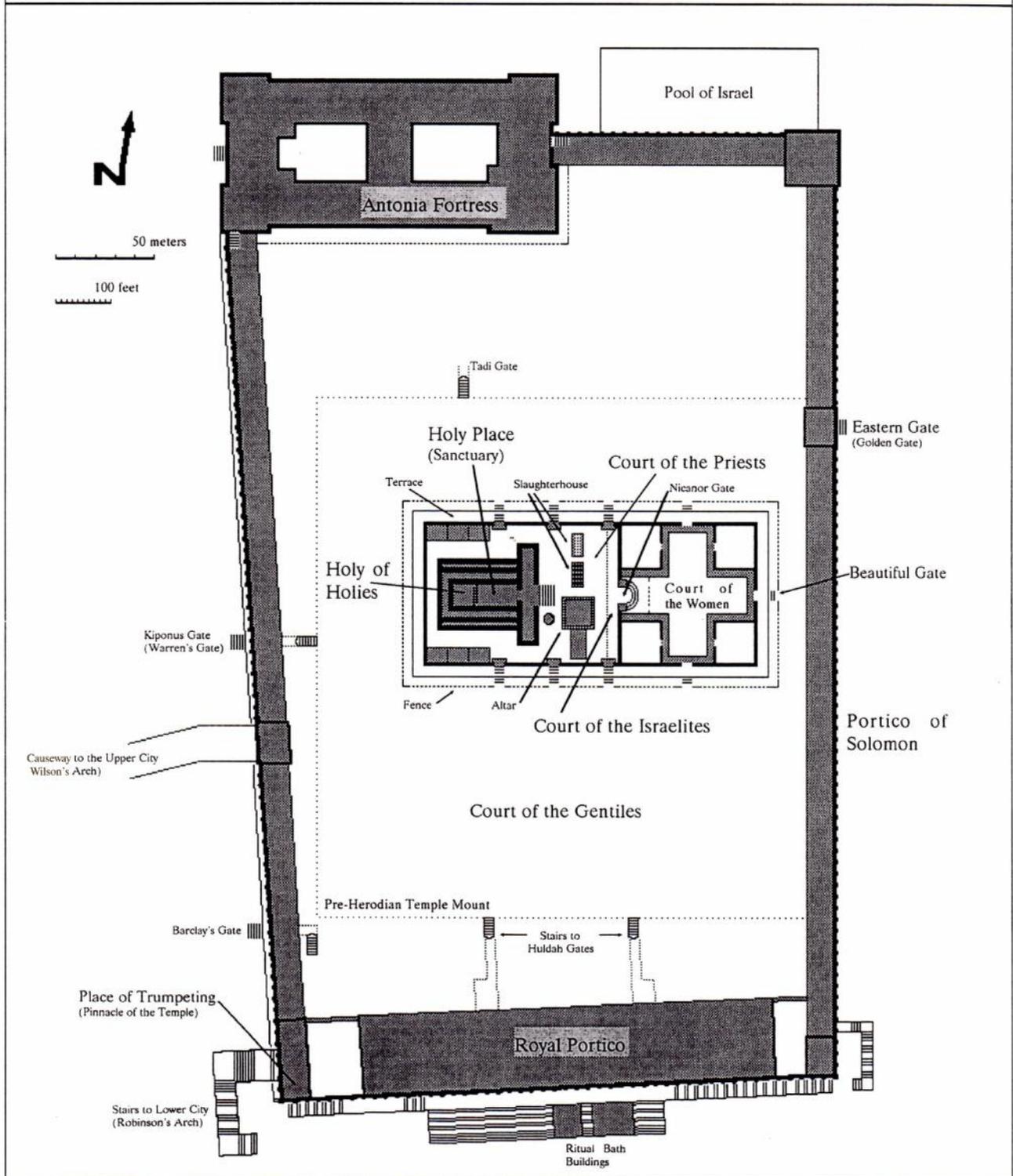
Originally constructed of black basalt, this was the largest synagogue in Galilee. Its structure and design is typical of synagogues around the Roman world in the time of Jesus.

The main doors (a) face Jerusalem, the direction worshippers faced during services. There was likely a Seat of Moses, as discovered at nearby Chorazin (b). The ark (chest) for the scrolls was brought in for services and taken out when they were over (c). There was a table on which to lay the scrolls for reading (d).

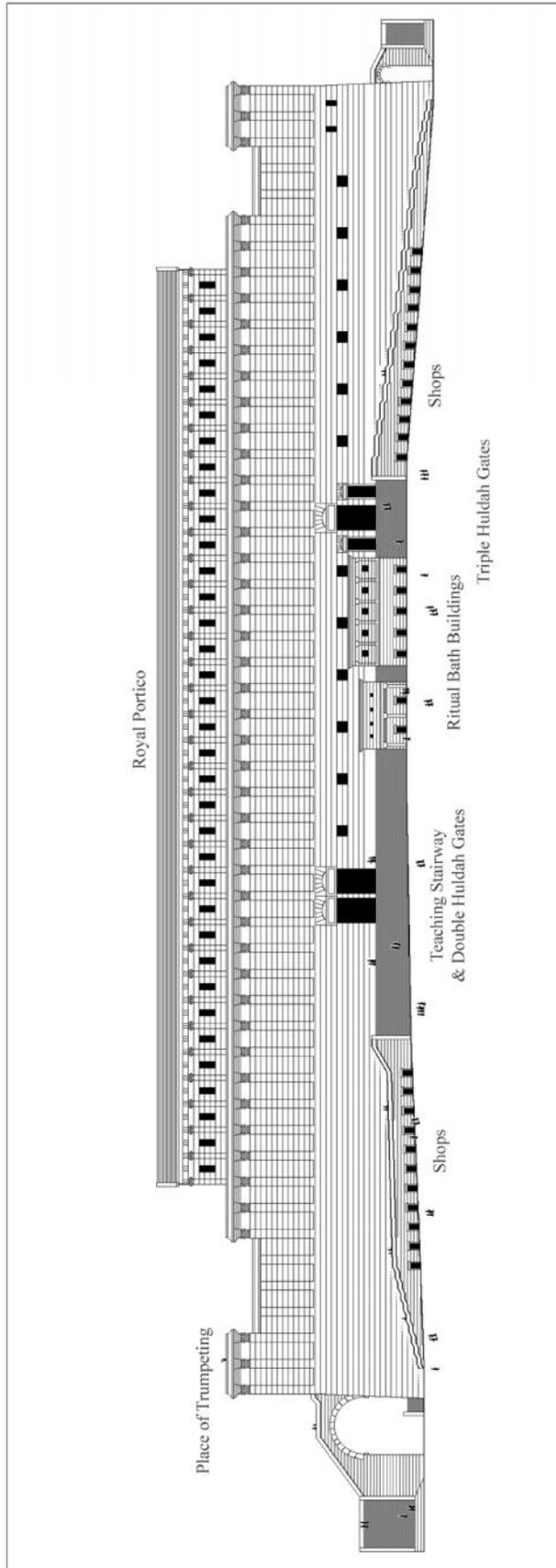


THE TEMPLE OF GOD

IN THE TIME OF JESUS CHRIST



THE ROYAL PORTICO AND MAIN ENTRANCE
TO THE TEMPLE OF GOD IN THE TIME OF JESUS CHRIST



The Portico of Solomon: The Eastern Portico of the Temple Mount where Jesus' disciples often met.

John 10:23: *"Jesus was walking in the Temple in the Portico of Solomon"*

Acts 5:12: *"They were all with one accord in Solomon's portico"*

5) Terrace (*Chel*): A raised platform around the inner Temple area. This area and those inside it were restricted to Jews. "No foreigner is to enter the fence and barrier around the Temple. Anyone caught doing so is answerable to himself for the death that will follow."

Acts 21:27-30: *"This is the man [Paul] who preaches to all men everywhere against our people...and besides he has even brought Greeks into the Temple and has defiled this holy place"*

Eph. 2:14: *"For he himself is our peace, who made both [Jews and Gentiles who believe in him] one and destroyed the dividing wall of the fence, the hostility between the two, in his flesh"*

Luke 2:46: *"They found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers"*

6) Court of the (Jewish) Women: Women could go no further for ordinary worship.

Beautiful Gate: The eastern entrance to the Court of the Women.

Acts 3:6: *"I don't have silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus the Messiah of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"*

John 8:20: *"These words he spoke in the Treasury, as he taught in the Temple"*

The four enclosed areas in the corners of the Court of the Women: chamber of lepers (NW), chamber of Nazirites (SE), chamber of wood for the sacrifices (NE), and chamber of oils (SW).

7) Court of the Israelites (Jewish Men).

Nicanor Gate: The eastern entrance to the Court of the Temple, opening directly onto the Court of the Israelites.

Matt. 5:23,24: *"If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there...and first be reconciled to your brother. Then come and present your offering"*

8) Court of the Priests.

The chambers around the Court of the Priests were used for storing priestly vestments, a dining hall, fires for barefoot priests, sleeping quarters, preparation of the Showbread (Bread of the Presence), lambs awaiting the daily sacrifice, passage to ritual baths below, salt for the altar, a place to salt the skins of sacrifices and to wash the sacrifices.

9) Sanctuary (Holy Place). Contained the Menorah (Golden Lampstand), the Table of "Showbread" (Bread of the Presence), and the Altar of incense.

10) Holy of Holies. Separated by two curtains from the Holy Place.

Jer. 3:16: *"And it will be in those days...they will no longer say, 'The Ark of the Covenant of the LORD.' And it will not come to mind...nor will it be made again."*

SYNAGOGUE [Beth Kenneset]

Discovery: Four synagogues have been found in Israel from the time of Jesus, as well as a synagogue inscription in Jerusalem, likely from the Synagogue of the Freedmen (mentioned in Acts 6:9).

Minyan: The required minimum number of adult men for a service in a synagogue.

Ark: A chest containing the scrolls of the Bible in a synagogue. In Jesus' day this had wheels and was moveable.

Torah: "Instruction." Hebrew name for the five books of Moses. A section from the Torah was read in the services on Sabbath, festivals, and the second and fifth days of the week.

Parchment: Animal skins used for making Bible scrolls.

Haftarah: The reading from the prophets in the synagogue service.

Darashah: Sermon.

Luke 4:16,17: *"As was his custom, he...stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. And he opened the scroll and found the place where it was written..."*

Luke 4:20,21: *"And he closed the scroll...and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him"*

Matt. 23:2,3: *"The scribes and Pharisees have seated themselves in the seat of Moses..."*

Discovery: A "seat of Moses" from the synagogue at Chorazin.

PHARISEES

Let's test your thoughts about the Pharisees with a True/False quiz:

- Jesus thought the Pharisees had correct views about the Bible. True or False? ____
- Jesus told his disciples to obey the Pharisees. True or False? ____
- Some of Jesus followers were Pharisees. True or False? ____

Matt. 23:3: *"...therefore all that they say to you [from the seat], do and obey..."*

Acts 23:6: *"I [Paul] am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees..."*

Quiz #2:

- Do you believe in the resurrection of the dead?
- Do you believe there are spiritual messengers of God (angels)?
- Do you believe that the soul of man will live forever (eternal life)?
- Do you believe in a literal, physical, personal Messiah?

Acts 23:8: *"The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit"*

Exodus 15:1: *"Then Moses and the sons of Israel will sing this song to the LORD."*

Luke 20:37: *"But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the burning bush, where he calls the Lord 'the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'"* (see Exodus 2:6).

Other verses used by the Rabbis to prove the resurrection include: Deut. 32:39; Josh. 8:30; Ps. 84:5, 116:9; Isa. 25:8, 35:1-10, 40:31; Ezekiel 37 (Sanh. 91b).

Matt. 23: 13,14,15,23,25,27,29: *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites..."*

Matt. 23:3: *"Do not do according to their deeds; for they say things, and do not do them"*

Different kinds of Pharisees (according to the Pharisees themselves)

The "Shechemite Pharisee" was a hypocrite.

The "Mortar Pharisee" had strangely exaggerated clothes.

The "Dashing Pharisee" was always hiding away from a false sense of humility.

The "Blood-letting Pharisee" was so careful not to look on a woman he was always running into walls.

The "Duty Pharisee" did everything for duty's sake.

The "Fear Pharisee" did everything for fear's sake.

The "Love Pharisee" did his duty out of love.

Oral Law: Unwritten explanations of how to obey the Written Law of Moses.

Matt. 12:2: *"When they saw this, the Pharisees said to him,...your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on a Sabbath."*

Deut. 23:25, *"When you enter your neighbor's standing grain, then you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you shall not wield a sickle in your neighbor's standing grain."*

Matt. 12:7: *"If you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice' (Hosea 6:6), you would not have condemned the innocent."*

Matt. 5:17: *"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets...For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished."*

ZEALOTS

Summary of Zealot beliefs: (1) They desired to serve no one but God alone, (2) they were against slavery, (3) they believed death was better than slavery, (4) they felt Rome had no right to the land.

Acts 5:37: *"After this...Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away some people after him..."*

Pax Romana: the "Roman peace," enforced by the power of Rome's military might.

Secular taxes:

- 1) Crop tax: 1/10 of the grain crop and 1/5 of the wine, fruit, and oil--a tithe (and more) to Caesar!
- 2) Land (real estate) tax.
- 3) Income tax.
- 4) Annual poll tax: 1% of your income every year (Matt. 22:17).
- 5) Customs: import and export taxes at seaports or national boundaries.
- 6) Local taxes: tolls on certain roads and bridges, to enter certain cities, to shop in the market, for the synagogue and school, for public baths, etc.
- 7) Taxes on animals and vehicles.
- 8) A salt tax.
- 9) A sales tax.
- 10) Emergency taxes.

Religious taxes: could be enforced by Roman troops.

- 1) Tithe: 10% of all income.
- 2) Second tithe: another 10% for certain festivals and for the poor.
- 3) Corners of the field: left for the poor (about 2%).
- 4) First things brought to the Lord: firstlings of the flock, first of the dough, first of the fleece, firstfruits, etc. (about 3-5%).
- 5) Annual Temple tax (Matt. 17:24).
- 6) Freewill offerings

Matthew 18:17: *"If he refuses to listen to you, let him be to you as a Gentile and a taxgatherer."*

Luke 19:7: *"They all began to grumble, saying, 'He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner'"*

First Jewish Revolt against Rome: a destructive war in which Jerusalem was leveled and the Temple destroyed (AD 66-70).

SADDUCEES

Discovery: Palatial homes of the priests and the wealthy in Jerusalem from the time of Jesus.

Sadducean persecution of the early church included the crucifixion of Jesus, the arrest of Peter and John in the Temple (Acts 4) and again later with a whipping (Acts 5), the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7), the authorization of Saul to imprison believers in Damascus (Acts 9), and the filing of charges against Paul before the procurator (Acts 24:1).

Hellenized: strongly influenced by Greek and Roman culture and society.

ESSENES

Luke 1:80: *"And the child [John the Baptist]...lived in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel"*

Discovery: Hundreds of scrolls in caves near the Dead Sea, 3rd century BC to 1st century AD.

Qumran: the ruins of an Essene community center found near the discovery sites of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Possible connection of John the Baptist with the Essenes:

- 1) Some of his message was quite similar; Isaiah 40:3: *"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, make ready the way of the LORD, make his paths straight!"*
- 2) The connection between ritual immersion in water and repentance; Manual of Discipline [v,7-]: "No one is to go into water in order to attain the purity of holy men. For men cannot be purified except they repent of their evil;" Luke 3:3: John came *"proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."*
- 3) Much of John's focus, as theirs, was on the endtimes arrival of the Messiah; Matt. 3:11: *"He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove his sandals; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*
- 4) The insight that being a physical descendant of Abraham was not enough to ensure a right relationship with God; Matt. 3:9: *"God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham."*

MESSIANIC EXPECTATIONS

Luke 2:25: Those *"looking for the consolation of Israel"*

Luke 2:38: *"All those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem"*

John 1:25: *"Why are you baptizing, if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"*

The Prophet

Deut. 18:15: *"I will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you...you shall listen to him."*

Elijah

Malachi 4:5: *"Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet..."*

Messiah

a) Priestly Messiah

b) Kingly Messiah

Josephus, the Jewish historian, wrote of the common Jewish belief "found in their sacred scriptures...that at that time one from their country would become ruler of the world" (Josephus, Wars VI, 312).

Tacitus, a Roman historian, wrote: "The majority firmly believed that their ancient priestly writings contained the prophecy that this was the very time when the East should grow strong and that men starting from Judea would possess the world" (Tacitus, Histories, V, 13).

John 6:15: *"Jesus therefore, perceiving that they were about to come and take him by force, to make him king, withdrew..."*

KINGDOM OF GOD

Matt. 4:17: *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has drawn near"* (see also Luke 4:43)

Matt. 11:14: *"He himself is Elijah, who was to come."*

Luke 17:20: *"The kingdom of God is not coming in such a way that it can be seen; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is within you."*

Luke 7:19-23: *"Are you the Coming One, or do we look for someone else?"*

Matt. 13:31-32: *"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field...when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants, and becomes a tree.... The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three pecks of meal, until it is all leavened"*

Acts 2:34-36: *"For it was not David who ascended 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 (Psalm 110:1).' Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Messiah"*

Luke 24:26: *"Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and to enter into his glory?"*

Matt. 16:28: *"There are some of those standing here who shall not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming into his kingdom"*

Acts 2:33: *"Therefore, having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured forth this which you both see and hear"*

Col. 1:13: *"For he delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son"* (See also Acts 8:5, 14:22; Rom. 14:17; 1 Cor. 4:20, 15:24; Col. 4:11; Rev. 1:6,9, 5:10).

1 Tim. 6:15: *"Our Lord Jesus the Messiah...who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords"* (See also 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 17:14, 19:16.)