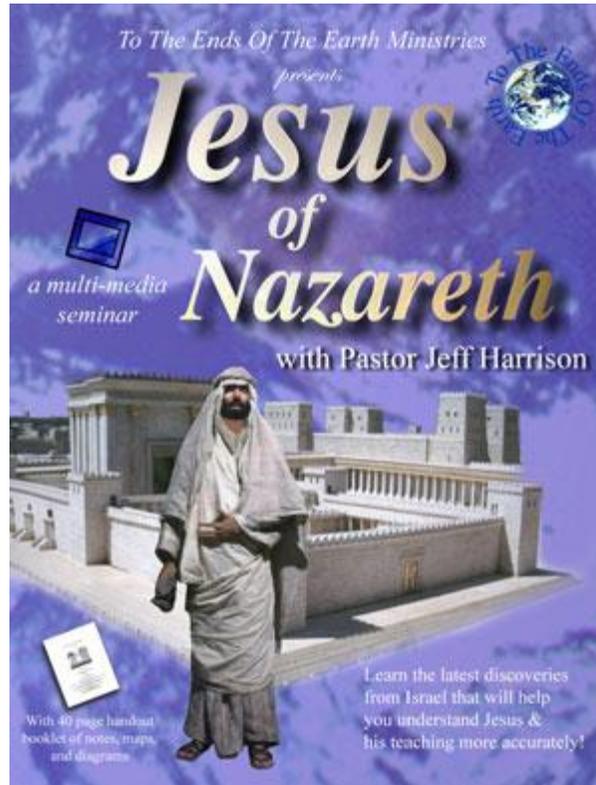


To The Ends of the Earth Ministries

— *presents* —



Study Notes for **Jesus of Nazareth** **Lecture #3**

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LANDMARKS OF FAITH

Jesus of Nazareth

Lecture #3: Feeding Trough and Workman's Chisel: Jesus' Early Life and Trade

GEOGRAPHY OF ISRAEL

Five major regions: (1) Coastal Plain, (2) *Shephelah* (Low Hills or Lowlands), (3) Hill Country, (4) Rift Canyon (*Aravah*), (5) Eastern Highlands

Rain Shadow: An area of little rainfall behind certain mountain ranges, as in the Judean Desert

Rift Valley: A deep trough or canyon (known technically as a *graben*) created by the downthrusting of land between parallel fault lines. The Rift Valley in Israel is part of the Great Rift Valley that runs from Syria in the north to Mozambique in the south. In Israel, the base of the Rift Valley is mostly below sea level. This includes the Dead Sea at about 400 m (1,300 ft) below sea level and the Sea of Galilee at about 210 m (690 ft) below sea level.

All in a small area: the north-south length of the map is 120 miles (190 km). The width at the top (east-west) is 43 miles (70 km). The width at the bottom (east-west) is 90 miles (140 km).

Psalms of Ascent: Psalms traditionally sung by the Jewish people as they ascended to Jerusalem for the annual feasts (Psalms 120-134).

Luke 2:41: "*His parents used to go to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of Passover*"

Luke 2:48: "*Son, why have you treated us this way?*"

Samaritans: In a continual state of low-level conflict with the Jews.

John 4:6: "*It was about the sixth hour*" (our 12:00 noon)

John 4:40: "*And he stayed there two days*"

Caesarea (by the Sea, also known as Caesarea Maritima): The political capital of Judea and Samaria in the time of Jesus.

Way of the Sea: The most important trade route in Israel going from Egypt in the south to Damascus in the north.

Decapolis: A group of Greek-style cities with Greek-style government. Many of the residents, who spoke the Greek language, were descendants of immigrants from Greece and Macedonia. The Decapolis cities included Pella, Scythopolis, Gadara, Hippus, Gerasa, and Philadelphia.

Gaulanitis: Ancient name for the area of the Golan Heights.

Mt. Hermon: The largest mountain in Israel: 9,200 ft (2,800 m) above sea level. Snow-covered for several months each year. **Caesarea Philippi** sits at its base in an area of high, rocky cliffs.

Matt. 16:18: "*You are Petros [a little rock, a stone], and upon this petra [this rocky cliff] I will build my church.*"

Phoenicia: The territory referred to in the Bible as "Tyre and Sidon." These two Greek-style cities were two of several Gentile cities running along the Mediterranean coastline near Jewish areas.

BETHLEHEM

Caravansery: A Middle Eastern inn with open rooms around a central court.

Luke 2:7: "*She wrapped him in cloths, and laid him in a feeding trough, because there was no room for them in the guest chamber [kataluma].*"

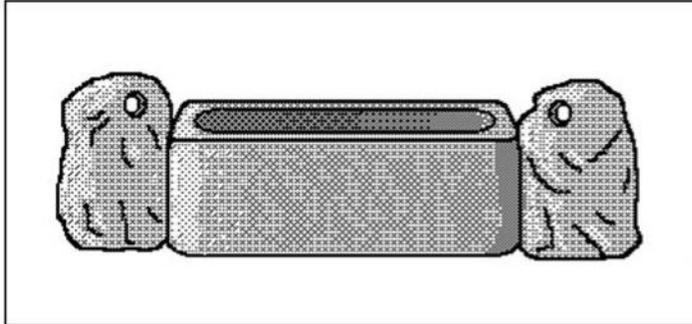
Luke 10:34: "*But a certain Samaritan, who was on a journey...bandaged up his wounds...and brought him to an inn [pandokeion]*"

Discovery: The homes in Jewish villages in the time of Jesus were multi-family compounds built around a central courtyard.





MANGER, MIKVAH, & WATER JAR



Mangers (feeding troughs) in Israel were made of stone.

Since mangers are the cleanest place in a stable, and stone is considered by Jewish law to always be ritually clean, a manger was an appropriate place to lay the newborn baby Jesus.

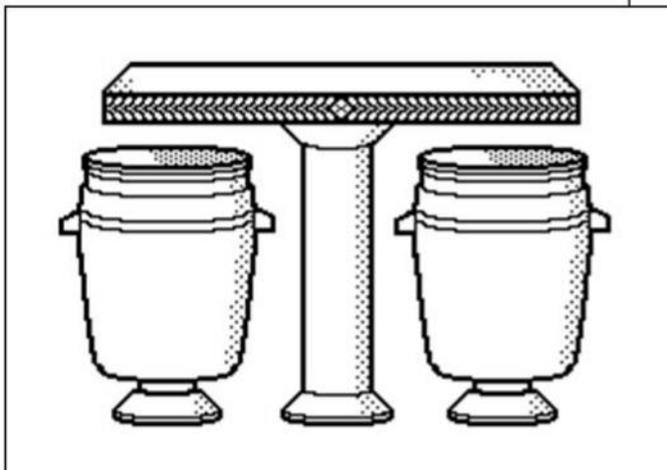
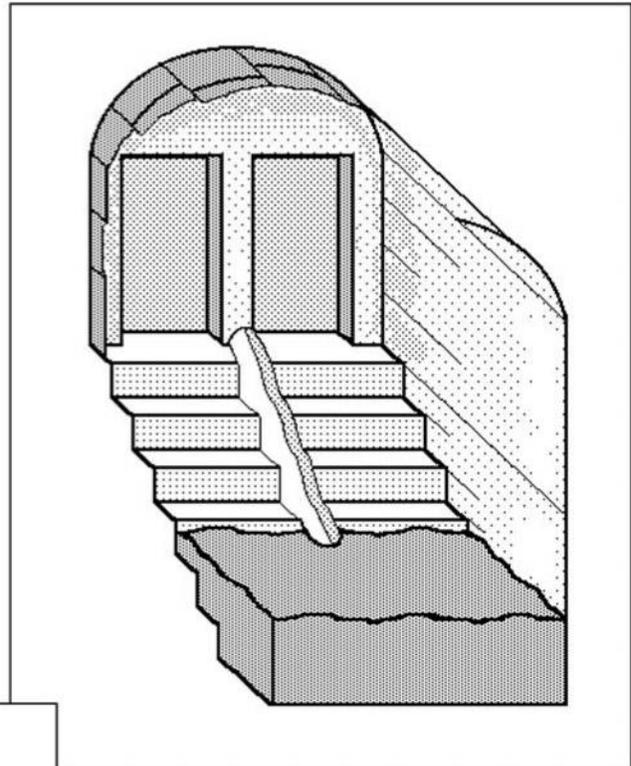
Notice the rock-cut holes for tying up animals.

Jewish Ritual Baths (Mikvahs) are not used for washing, but only for immersion.

The whole body, including every hair, must be immersed.

Ritual purity was a high priority in Jesus' day. Some of the homes in Jerusalem had two ritual baths in their basements. Today Jewish communities usually have only one per neighborhood.

A ritual bath was one of the steps in conversion to Judaism, to cleanse the body from the impurity of foreign nations. It was in this sense that baptism became part of Christianity, as one of the steps in joining the covenant people of God.



Large stone water jars were used to hold water beneath a stone table used for mixing wine.

In Jesus' day, wine was mixed with water before drinking.

These were the type of water pots in which the water was turned into wine at Cana, the first miracle of Jesus' ministry (John 2:6).

Insula: A multi-family compound with a central courtyard and an outer perimeter wall.

Discovery: Dozens of stone feeding troughs ("mangers") from the time of the Bible.

Luke 2:12: *"And this will be the sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding trough (manger)"*

Luke 2:8: *"And in the same region there were shepherds living outdoors and taking turns keeping watch over their flock during the night"*

John 1:14: *"And the word became flesh, and began to tabernacle among us..."*

Magi: Priests of the Parthian Empire. Their religion was a mixture of Zoroastrianism and other pagan beliefs.

Parthian Empire: The Eastern rival of the Roman Empire. The two were constantly at war with each another.

Located in the same general area as the earlier Persian Empire of the book of Esther.

Zoroastrianism: The religion of Persia (Iran) before its conversion to Islam. Founded by Zarathushtra (6th cent. BC), who taught a universal struggle of good and evil (ethical dualism).

Rab-mag: Chief of the magi. Daniel was made the *Rab-mag* in the Babylonian kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar after interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Dan. 2:48).

Matt. 2:1-2: *"Now after Jesus was born...magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the one who was born King of the Jews?"*

Matt. 2:3: *"When King Herod heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him."*

NAZARETH

Am Ha'aretz: "The people of the land." Ordinary Jews who were not as strict as the Pharisees thought they should be in observing the Law.

John 7:49: *"This crowd which does not know the Law is accursed."*

John 1:46: *"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"*

Nazarenes: The name given by the Jews to the Christian movement (Acts 24:5). (In Hebrew: *Notzrim*.)

Isaiah 11:1: *"A shoot (a rod) will come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch (netzer) from its roots will bear fruit."*

Matt. 2:23: Jesus and his family *"came and lived in a city called Nazareth (Natzaret), that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled (in Isa. 11:1), that he shall be called a Nazarene."*

TRADE

Tekton: Builder, construction worker. In Israel, worked mostly with stone.

Sepphoris: Regional capital of Galilee during Jesus' boyhood. Only 4 miles from Nazareth.

BAPTISM

Matt. 3:12: *"His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clear his threshing floor, and he will gather his wheat into the barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."*

Mikvah: A Jewish ritual bath. *Dozens of ancient mikvahs have been discovered in Israel.*

Mark 7:4 *"When they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they immerse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the immersing of cups and pitchers and copper pots"*

Matt. 3:9,10: *"Bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance; and do not suppose you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you, that God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham."*

The Essenes taught about ritual immersion (baptism): "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" (Manual of Discipline v,7-)
 Josephus, the Jewish historian, said of John's baptism: He "was a good man, and commanded the Jews to exercise virtue...and so to come to baptism; so that the washing with water would be acceptable...not for putting away certain sins, but for the purification of the body; supposing still that the soul was thoroughly purified beforehand by righteousness" (Ant. 18.117)

Matt. 3:16: "...*the Spirit of God descending like a dove*" (Also Mark 1:10, Luke 3:22, John 1:32).
 Genesis 1:2: "...*the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters*"

The Rabbis taught about the Spirit: "'And the Spirit of God hovered [like a bird]' (Gen. 1:2). This alludes to the spirit of King Messiah, as you read, 'And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him' (Isa. 11:2)" (Gen. Rab. 2:4).

Matt. 3:17: "*And behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am pleased.'*"

Bat qol: The "daughter" (or echo) of the voice of God. Was heard three times during the ministry of Jesus: see Matt. 3:17, 17:5; John 12:28.

"Our Rabbis taught: Since the death of the last prophets--Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi--the Holy Spirit departed from Israel; yet they were still able to avail themselves of the *bat-qol*. Once when the Rabbis were met in the upper chamber of Gurya's house at Jericho, a *bat-qol* was heard from heaven, saying: 'There is one among you who is worthy that the Shekinah should rest on him as it did on Moses, but his generation does not merit it'" (Sanh. 11a).

CANA

John 2:11: "*This, the beginning of the signs [that took place in his ministry], Jesus did in Cana of Galilee.*"
 John 2:1: "*And on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee*"
 John 2:6: "*Now there were six stone water pots standing there, in compliance with the purity laws of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons each.*"

Betrothal (*Kiddushin*): At the house of the bride's parents, the bridegroom gives his pledge to the bride. The couple is considered married, though they are not yet living together.
Wedding Feast (*Nissuin*): The bridegroom comes with his friends to the bride's house to get her and take her to his father's house. Here the wedding feast is held and the marriage consummated.

<u>Days of the Week</u>	
Tuesday:	Tiu's day, Germanic god of war and sky
Wednesday:	Woden's day, the chief god
Thursday:	Thor's day, god of thunder, war, and strength
Friday:	Frigg's day, the goddess of heaven, marriage, and the home
Saturday:	Saturn's day, the god of agriculture

Isa. 25:6-9: "*And the LORD of armies will hold for all the peoples on this mountain [Mt. Zion; see 24:23] a banquet of rich food, a banquet of well-aged wine; of rich food full of marrow, of refined well-aged wine. And he will swallow up, on this mountain, the surface of the covering that covers all the peoples, and the veil that is woven over all the nations. He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord GOD will wipe the tear from every face, and will remove the reproach of his people from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken. And it will be said in that day, 'Look! This is our God, we have waited for him and he will save us. This is the LORD, we have waited for him. Let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation (yeshuah).'*"