

Bethel Bible Series

The Word Became Flesh

NT Study 2

Love God, then do as you please – Augustine - PK

Welcome

Opening - How was the time when God sent His Son the *Fullness of Time*?
Sign in and pay if you haven't already (\$40 for New Testament Set)
Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Review of Last Week - *In the Fullness of Time*

Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

Non-canonical books written and circulated in 200 BC - 100 AD
Good for historical and ethical reading, not for doctrinal teaching
Apocrypha - Greek for *hidden*
Pseudepigrapha - Greek for *false authorship*

The Intertestamental Period

Persian Period (539-333 BC)
Exiles returned, Jerusalem rebuilt, God Law reinstated
Greek Period (333-63 BC)
Alexander the Great built the Greek Empire by eastern conquests
Greeks promoted Hellenism (Greek thought, culture, lifestyle)
Greek became world-wide language, OT translated into Greek (Septuagint)
Sabbath squelched, temple desecrated, circumcision banned by Antiochus
Maccabean and Hasmonean Periods (165-63 BC)
Family of priests led revolt and won independence for Jews
Temple was cleansed and rededicated (celebrated at Hanukkah)
Pharisees, Sadducees and other groups emerged
Rome intervened when two brothers fought for leadership
Roman Period (63 BC -)
Herod the Great was appointed governor of Galilee and *King of the Jews*
Herod's paranoia led to deaths of royal family and innocent babies
Territory was divided between Herod's sons, Judea later had procurators

In the Fullness of Time

Hour Glass = *When the time had fully come* (Galatians 4:4-5)

Sword = World was brought together by conquests of Alexander the Great

Greek Pillar = Cultural barriers were removed by spread of Hellenism

Greek Letters = Common language allowed unhindered communications

Golden Eagle = Roman rule and unity left no question for power struggles

White Flag = People lived without fear under the Pax Romana (Roman Peace)

Roads to Coliseum = Network of roads was built for quick army response

Manuscript = Hebrew Traditions and Dispersions

Clasped Hands = Foreign gods and philosophy led to spiritual confusion

Bowed Head = The Roman way of life was filled with moral corruption

Upraised Arms = Many searched for decency and justice

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Lesson - *The Word Became Flesh*

First Century Jewish Worship Centers - The Temple = See page 5 for layout

Why did Solomon build the original temple?

1 Kings 8:17-21 = To fulfill God's promise to David, a temple to God's Name

Was it designed as God's actual dwelling place? = God's Name will be on the temple

1 Kings 8:27, 29-30 = No, but as a place for God's people to direct their prayers

Was the temple used mainly for worship, study and fellowship like the church is today?

Hebrews 9:1, 6-7 = No, main function was to present offerings and sacrifices

What happened to Solomon's temple?

2 Chronicles 36:18-19 = Furnishings taken to Babylon, temple burned down

How could God permit the pagan Babylonians destroy His temple?

Jeremiah 7:4, 9-15 = The temple was for the sake of His people, they rejected Him

When and how was the second temple built?

Ezra 1:2, 7 = God moved Cyrus, king of Persia to rebuild temple with Persian funds

A third temple was built by Herod the Great, Huge and ornate

Construction began 19 BC, Complete 63 AD, Destroyed by Romans 70 AD

First Century Jewish Worship Centers - The Synagogue = Greek for *Coming Together*

Local gathering place for worship, Bible Study, public meetings

No sacrificial rituals, they were reserved for the temple

Worship and study led by lay members, priests weren't needed

Originated during Babylonian captivity when there was no temple

What part did the synagogue play in Jesus' ministry? = Wandering rabbis were welcome

Luke 4:15-16 = Jesus visited and taught in them wherever he went

What part did the synagogue play in Paul's ministry?

Acts 17:1-2 = It is where Paul focused his efforts upon entering a new town

First Century Jewish Movements - Pharisees = See page 6 for graphics on these movements

Why had the people of Judah been exiled to Babylon?

Nehemiah 9:29-30 = They continued to turn their backs on God and ignored His laws

What did the returned exiles do to show their commitment to God's law?

Nehemiah 9:38; 10:29 = Made a binding agreement to be obedient

What sect evolved that worked to make sure people didn't disobey the law, even accidentally?

Acts 26:5 = Pharisees; Paul was a member

Lay movement concerned entirely with keeping of the Law

Defined minute details of *Oral Law* to keep from accidental disobedience

Had 613 Law code headings; 39 definitions for what constituted *work* on the Sabbath

How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees' complaints that He didn't follow their rules?

Mark 7:5-8 (Matthew 23) = They have traded God's commands for traditions of men

Accepted all Old Testament books as having authority

Believed righteous dead would return to life when Messiah came

Relatively small group (~4000) with considerable influence, led synagogues

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First Century Jewish Movements - Sadducees

Small group of influential priests and nobility (rudely snobbish)
Rejected Pharisee law because interpretation was for the priests
Sacrificial worship life was the center of the Law's teaching
Accepted only the first 5 OT books (Pentateuch) as having authority
Denied existence of afterlife, angels, spirits, resurrection of the body

How did the Sadducees try to catch Jesus with a trick question?

Mark 12:18-23 = Which of 7 husbands would a woman have when she rose from dead

Did Jesus realize they were just trying to trick Him?

Mark 12:24-27 = God is God of the living, not the dead - Went to the heart of their problem

How did Paul use his understanding of the Sadducees to change a topic?

Acts 23:6-8 = Said he was a Pharisee on trial for believing in the resurrection

First Century Jewish Movements - Zealots

Group who used force to oppose foreign domination (used Maccabees as examples)

Treason to pay taxes to a pagan emperor, God alone was the true King

Began in 6 AD, revolt against Rome in 70 AD, fell at Masada in 73 AD

How did the Zealots get their name from and fashion their ideal around Phinehas?

Numbers 25:11 (6-13) = Israel was spared because Phinehas was *zealous* for God

Did Jesus associate with any Zealots?

Luke 6:13, 15b = One of his apostles, Simon (not Simon Peter), was a Zealot

First Century Jewish Movements - Scribes

Experts in the study of the Law, Many belonged to Pharisee party

Served as judges in the Sanhedrin

Taught the Law to others, expected students to pass on at no charge

Evolved into rabbis (*rabbi* means *master, teacher*)

What question did the scribes use to try to trick Jesus?

Matthew 22:35-36 = *Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?*

What important answer did Jesus give that also silenced the scribes?

Matthew 22:37-40 = The whole Law hangs on loving God and others

First Century Jewish Movements - Essenes = Syrian for *pious ones*

A strict sect that stayed separate from others to remain pious

Celibate (adopted babies), lived communally, objected to temple and sacrifices

Dead Sea Scrolls believed to have come from Essene settlement at Khirbet Qumran

Evolved around 150 BC, disappeared after Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD

Who Is Jesus?

With the backdrop of this first century Israel, who did the Jews think Jesus was?

Matthew 16:13-14 = Reincarnation of John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, another prophet

What was – and is – the important question?

Matthew 16:15 = *What about you? Who do you say I am?* - Get input and list on board

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What Names Did Others Give Jesus? = What do these say about Jesus?

Jesus	Jesus of Galilee	Jesus of Nazareth
Carpenter's son	Mary's son	Brother of ...
Son of Joseph	Son of Man	Son of David
Son of the Living God	Son of the Blessed One	My Son
Teacher	Rabbi	Great Prophet
Whom Moses wrote about	Whom prophets wrote	Lord
King who comes in ...	King of Israel	King of the Jews
Christ the Lord	Christ	Messiah
Immanuel	Savior	Lamb of God

What Names Did Jesus Give to Himself in John's Gospel? = What do these say about Jesus?

Bread of Life	Light of the World	The True Vine
Good Shepherd	Door of the Sheep	The Resurrection
The Way	The Truth	The Life

What Claims Did Jesus Make That Brought Strong Opposition? = What do these say about Jesus?

Luke 4:18, 21, 28-29 = *Today this scripture is fulfilled* – Claimed to be Messiah, Took to throw off cliff
Mark 2:5-7 = Forgave paralytic's sins; Only God can forgive sins - Blasphemy
John 8:58-59 = *Before Abraham was born, I am!* - Tried to stone Him
Exodus 3:13-14 = God tells Moses to refer to Him as *I AM* – *Yahweh* means *He is*
John 10:30-33 = *I and the Father are one* - Tried to stone Him
Matthew 26:63-66 = The Christ, the Son of God - Worthy of death

How Did His Followers Describe Him? = What do these say about Jesus?

Matthew 16:16 = Peter called Him *the Christ, the Son of the Living God*
John 20:28 = Thomas called Him *my Lord and my God!*
Colossians 1:15-20 = Paul: God's image, first over creation, all created by and for Him, fullness of God
Hebrews 1:3 = Radiance of God's glory, exact representation of God's being, God's right-hand

Who Was Jesus? = *The Word Became Flesh* - True God

John 1:1-3 = *In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word was God.*
John 1:14a = *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*
John 14:9 = *Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father*

CS Lewis: *I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.*

Closing Prayer

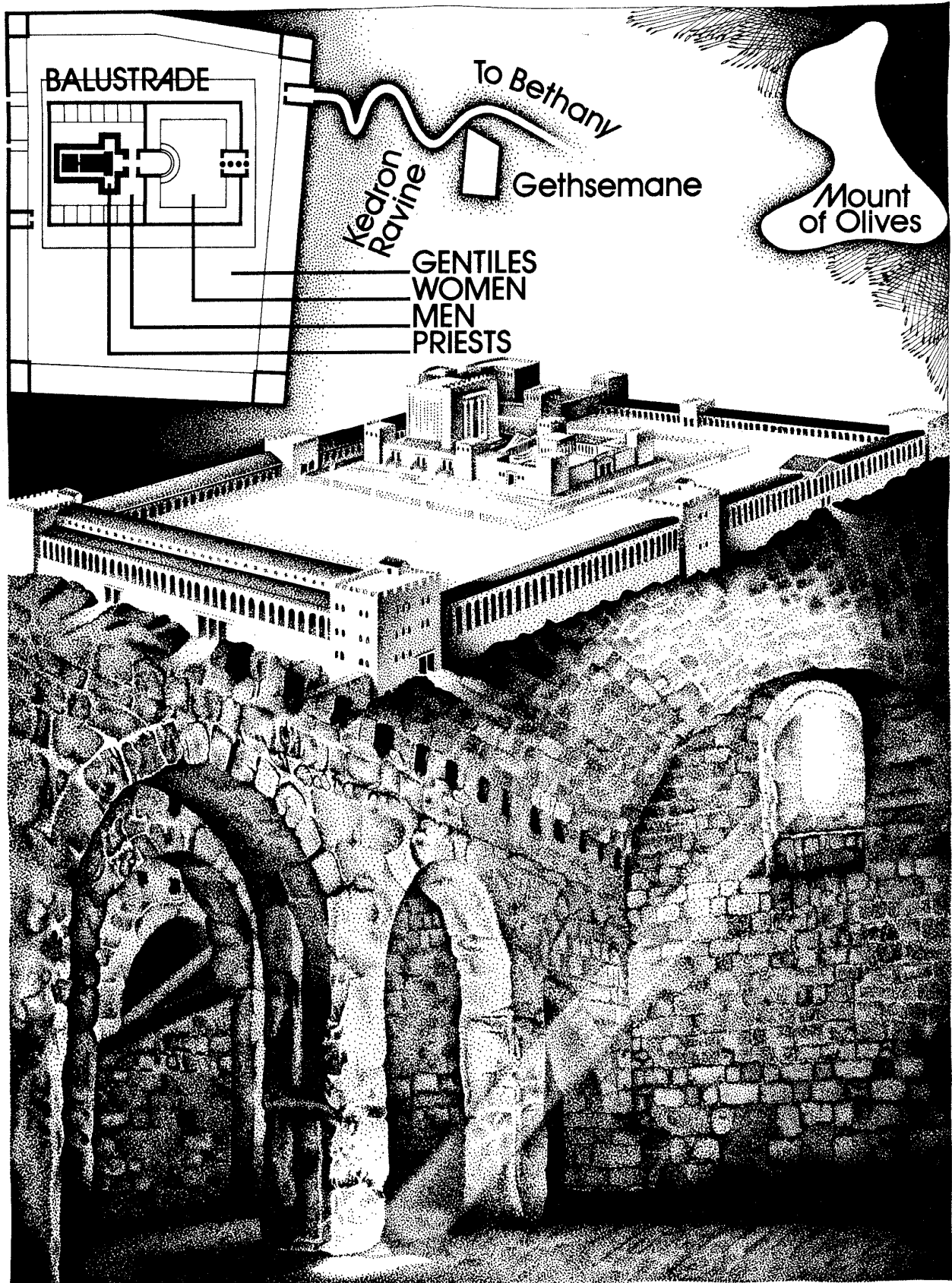
Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 2 and Assignment 3

Next Week - *Jesus the Man*

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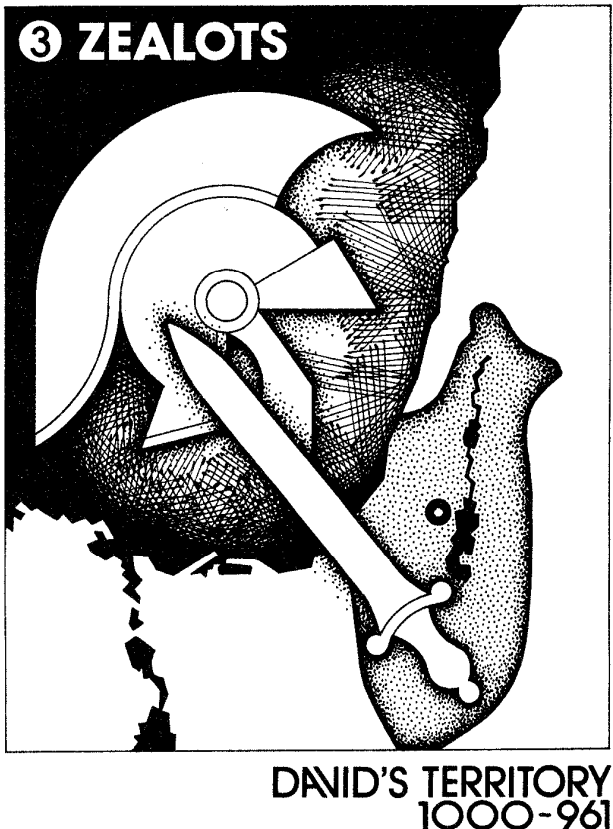
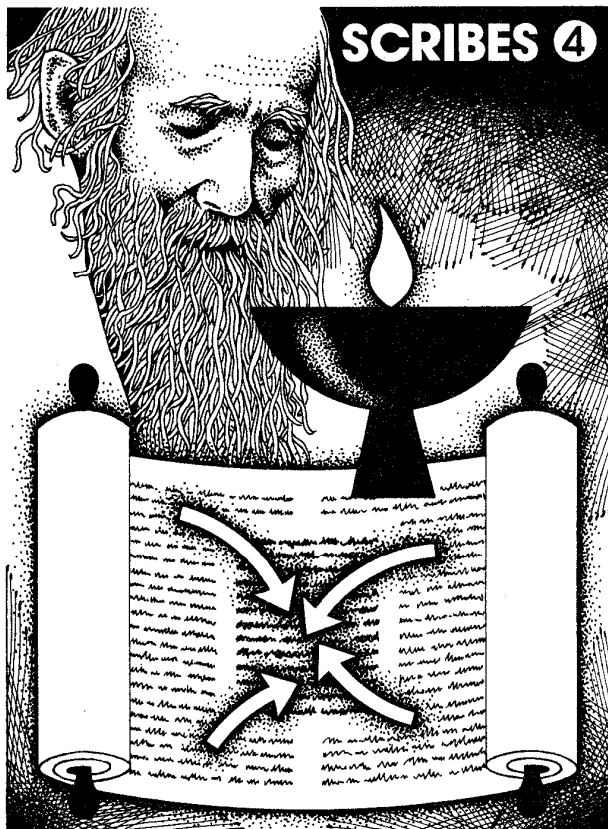
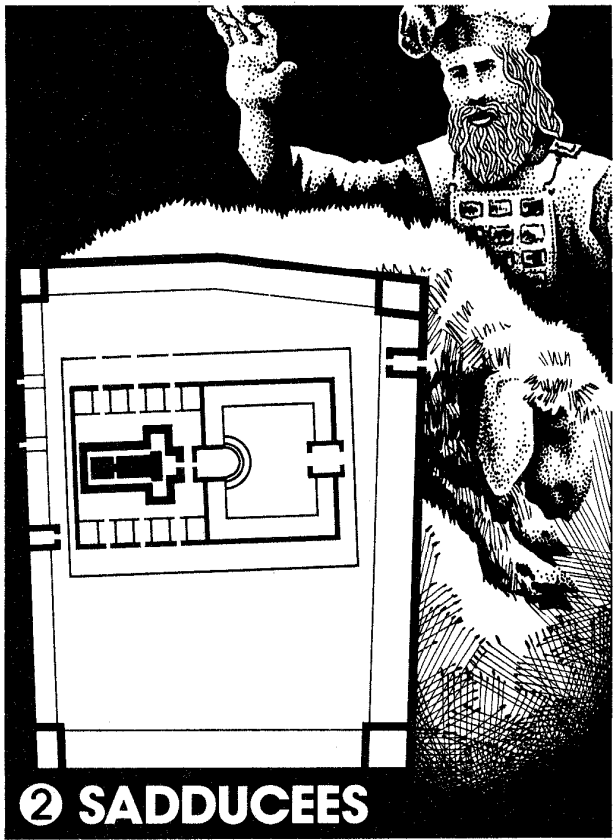


From Divine Drama, H Wendt, 1983, Unit 12

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You can find the Bethel Supplemental Materials on the web at www.biblestoriesforadults.com/Bethel