

Dear All,

This week's Study Service is a Bible Study John 7, Jesus at the feast of tabernacles: who is this man? Jn 7 is the great chapter when the question of Jesus' identity began to come fiercely to a head with decisive and fateful consequences.

For the last of the 3 great festivals of the Jewish year (Lev 23), the people made tabernacles or booths to remind them of them wandering in the desert and incidents such as Moses' striking the rock to release life-saving water. As part of the feast, the people processed for seven days in a row from the Temple to the fountain that fed the Pool of Siloam and the priest filled a golden vase from the running waters as the choir sang verses from Isaiah 12. They carried the water back to the Temple through the Watergate, circled the altar singing prayers from the end of Psalm 118, then poured the water over the altar.

The eighth day, the last day of the feast, was a day of rest & solemn waiting, when the faithful could pray for fulfilment of the prophetic hopes of Israel, such as the flood of living water flowing out of Jerusalem (Zech 14.8,) or water gushing from below the temple threshold (Ezek 47.1). It was at this solemn moment that Jesus cried "If anyone thirsts, let them come to me and drink...From their hearts shall flow rivers of living water."

If we look back in hindsight to the controversy, trying to imagine ourselves not knowing more than those at the time, which of the verdicts on Jesus would probably have been ours?

7-8.30 by Zoom meet (details on request)

Thanks to Duncan MacQueen for leading us on Sunday.

Best wishes - Bob