

WALKING WITH JESUS AND HIS APOSTLES





WALKING WITH JESUS AND HIS APOSTLES

An Illustrated Journey into the People, Places,
Religious and Governmental Authorities, and Way of
Life of the New Testament

Prepared by Hollis McGehee

AIMINGFORJESUS.COM



Begin Your Journey

Choose where you would like to step into the world of the New Testament.

Walking With Jesus and His Apostles

The Jewish Religious World

Rome and Its Authorities

Places Where Jesus Walked

The Temple and Synagogue

Everyday Life

The Apostles Carry the Gospel

BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY

Choose where you would like to step into the world of the New Testament.



WALK WITH JESUS

Meet Jesus and His apostles beside the Sea of Galilee.

THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS WORLD

Priests, Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes, and the Sanhedrin.



ROME AND ITS AUTHORITIES

Caesar, governors, Herods, centurions, soldiers, and Roman citizenship.



PLACES WHERE JESUS WALKED

Galilee, Samaria, Judea, Jerusalem, and the roads between them.



TEMPLE AND SYNAGOGUE

Two important places with very different purposes.

HOMES, MEALS, AND HOSPITALITY

Roofs, upper rooms, tables, lamps, and washing feet.



FOLLOW THE STORY

See where each person, place, and custom meets the life of Jesus.

BEFORE WE STEP INSIDE

Words You Will Meet

PRIEST

A descendant of Aaron who served at the Temple and offered sacrifices.

Luke 1:8-9



HIGH PRIEST

Israel's leading priest. On the Day of Atonement, only he entered the Most Holy Place.

Hebrews 9:7



HOLY PLACE

The first sanctuary room, where priests served before the lampstand, bread, and incense altar.

Hebrews 9:2, 6



CURTAIN

The veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. It tore from top to bottom when Jesus died.

Matthew 27:50-51



MOST HOLY PLACE

The innermost sacred room, entered only by the high priest on the Day of Atonement.

Leviticus 16:2



ARK OF THE COVENANT

The sacred chest linked with the tablets, manna, and Aaron's staff. It was not in Herod's Temple.

Hebrews 9:4



Before We Step Inside

Words You Will Meet

Priest

A descendant of Aaron appointed to serve at the Temple, offer sacrifices, and perform other sacred duties.

Exodus 28:1; Luke 1:8-9

High Priest

Israel's leading priest. Only he entered the Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement, wearing holy linen garments.

Leviticus 16:2-4; Hebrews 9:7

Holy Place

The first room of the sanctuary, where priests ministered before the lampstand, bread of the Presence, and altar of incense.

Exodus 26:33-35; Hebrews 9:2, 6

Curtain

The great veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. When Jesus died, the Temple curtain was torn from top to bottom.

Exodus 26:31-33; Matthew 27:50-51

Most Holy Place

The innermost and most sacred part of the Temple, entered only by the high priest on the Day of Atonement.

Leviticus 16:2; Hebrews 9:7

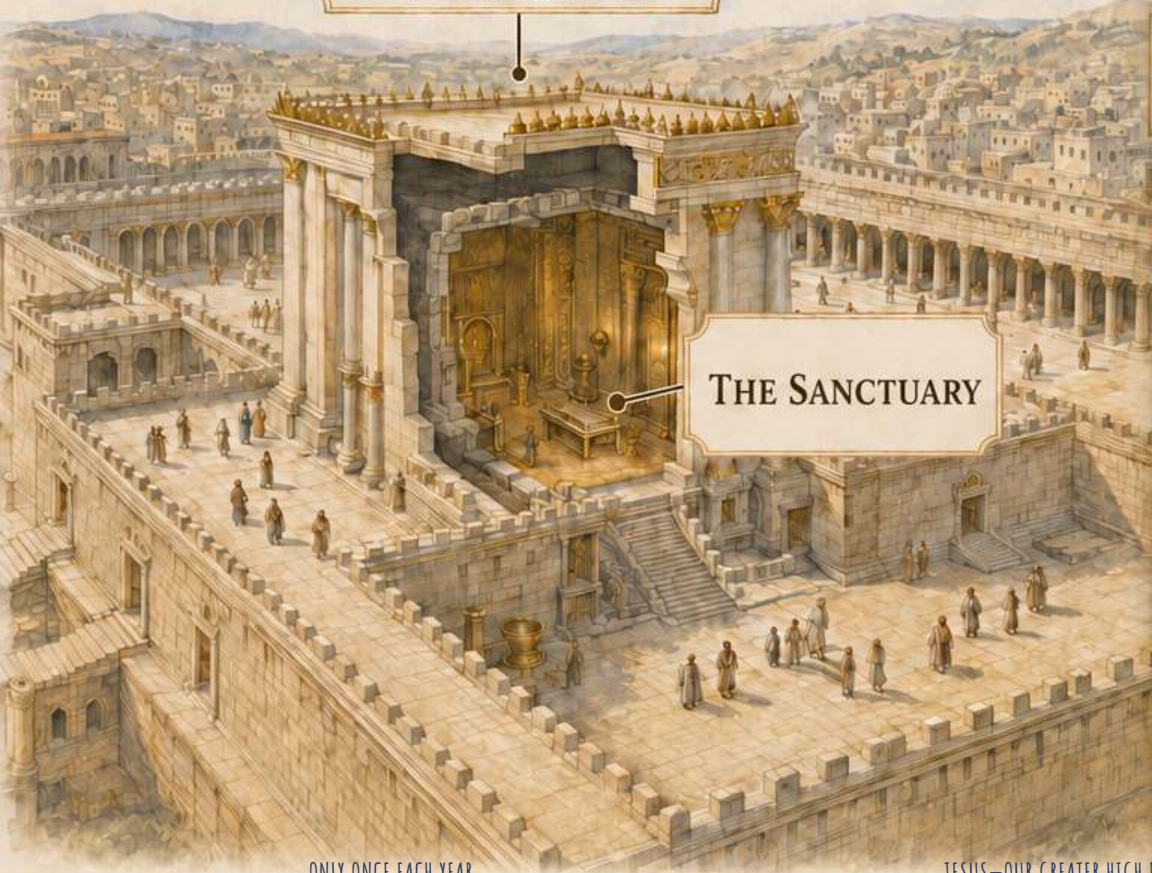
Ark of the Covenant

The sacred chest associated with the covenant tablets, the jar of manna, and Aaron's staff. It was not present in Herod's Temple during Jesus' lifetime.

Exodus 25:10-22; Hebrews 9:4

THE HIGH PRIEST AND THE MOST HOLY PLACE

HEROD'S TEMPLE



THE SANCTUARY

ONLY ONCE EACH YEAR

On the Day of Atonement, the high priest entered behind the curtain in holy linen, carrying sacrificial blood.

Leviticus 16:2-17

THE HIGH PRIEST



THE HOLY PLACE

THE MOST HOLY PLACE

THE CURTAIN

A CLOSER LOOK



THE CURTAIN WAS TORN

When Jesus died, the curtain tore from top to bottom.

Matthew 27:50-51

JESUS—OUR GREATER HIGH PRIEST

Jesus entered heaven itself by His own blood, once for all, securing eternal redemption.

Hebrews 9:11-12, 24

BEFORE WE ENTER THE SYNAGOGUE

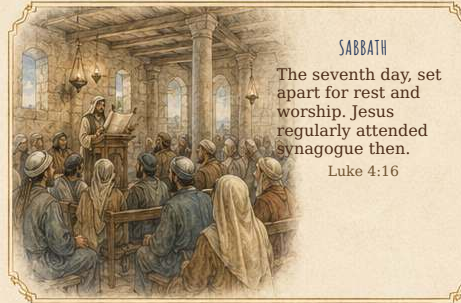
People, Worship, and Words You Will Meet



SYNAGOGUE

A local gathering place for Scripture, teaching, prayer, and community—not sacrifices.

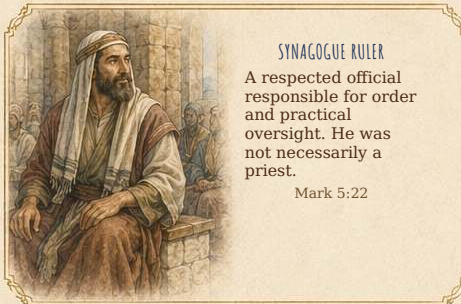
Luke 4:16



SABBATH

The seventh day, set apart for rest and worship. Jesus regularly attended synagogue then.

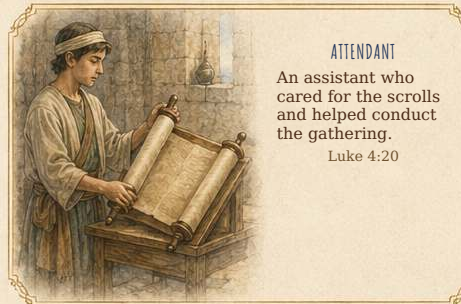
Luke 4:16



SYNAGOGUE RULER

A respected official responsible for order and practical oversight. He was not necessarily a priest.

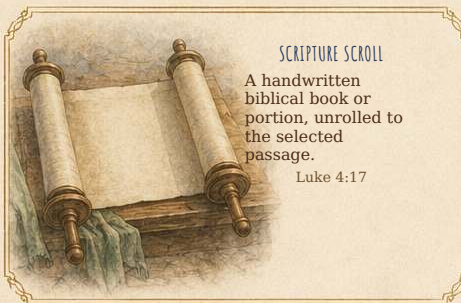
Mark 5:22



ATTENDANT

An assistant who cared for the scrolls and helped conduct the gathering.

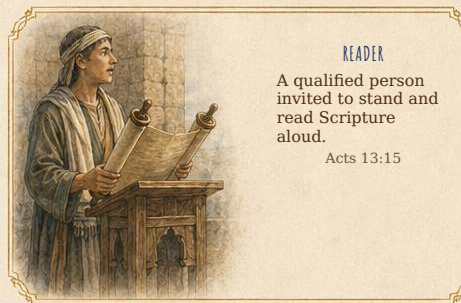
Luke 4:20



SCRIPTURE SCROLL

A handwritten biblical book or portion, unrolled to the selected passage.

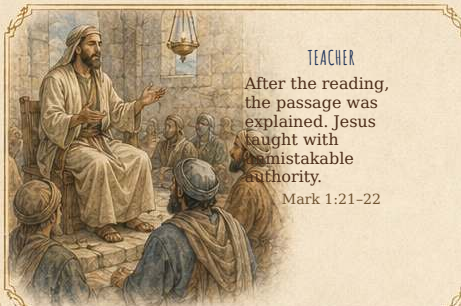
Luke 4:17



READER

A qualified person invited to stand and read Scripture aloud.

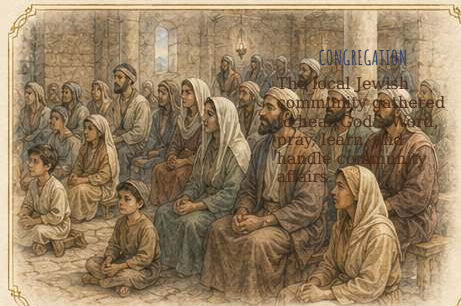
Acts 13:15



TEACHER

After the reading, the passage was explained. Jesus taught with unmistakable authority.

Mark 1:21-22



CONGREGATION

The local Jewish community gathered for the Sabbath. They heard God's Word, prayed, learned, and handled community affairs.

Before We Enter the Synagogue

People, Worship, and Words You Will Meet

Synagogue

A local Jewish gathering place for Scripture reading, teaching, prayer, and community life. Sacrifices were not offered there.

Luke 4:16; Acts 15:21

Sabbath

The seventh day, set apart for rest and worship. Jesus regularly attended the synagogue on the Sabbath.

Exodus 20:8-11; Luke 4:16

Synagogue Ruler

A respected local official responsible for the order and practical oversight of the synagogue. He was not necessarily a priest.

Mark 5:22; Acts 13:15

Attendant

A synagogue assistant who cared for the scrolls and helped conduct the gathering. Jesus returned Isaiah's scroll to the attendant.

Luke 4:20

Scripture Scroll

A handwritten scroll containing a biblical book or portion of Scripture. The reader unrolled it to the selected passage.

Luke 4:17

Reader

A qualified person invited to stand and read Scripture aloud to the gathered congregation.

Luke 4:16-17; Acts 13:15

Teacher

After the reading, a teacher might explain and apply the passage. Jesus often taught in synagogues with unmistakable authority.

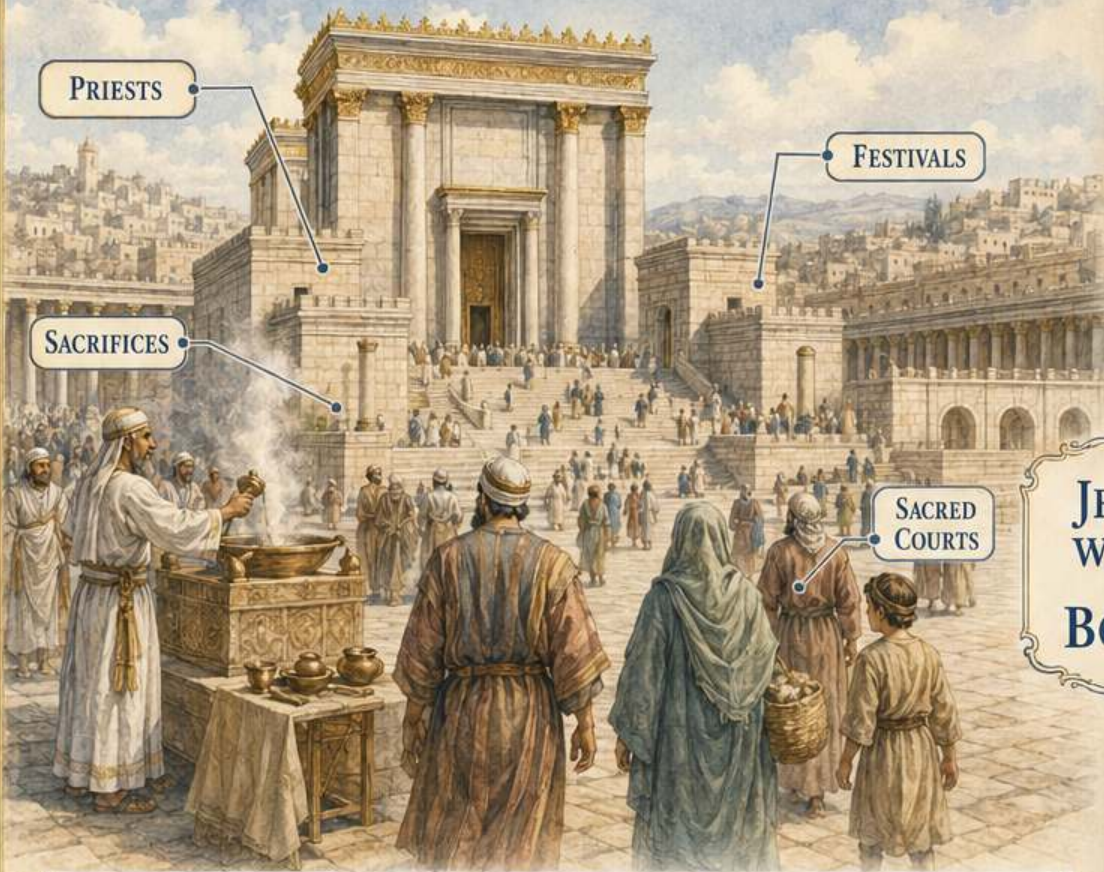
Mark 1:21-22

Congregation

The local Jewish community gathered to hear God's Word, pray, learn, and conduct community affairs.

TEMPLE AND SYNAGOGUE — WHAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE?

THE TEMPLE — ONE IN JERUSALEM



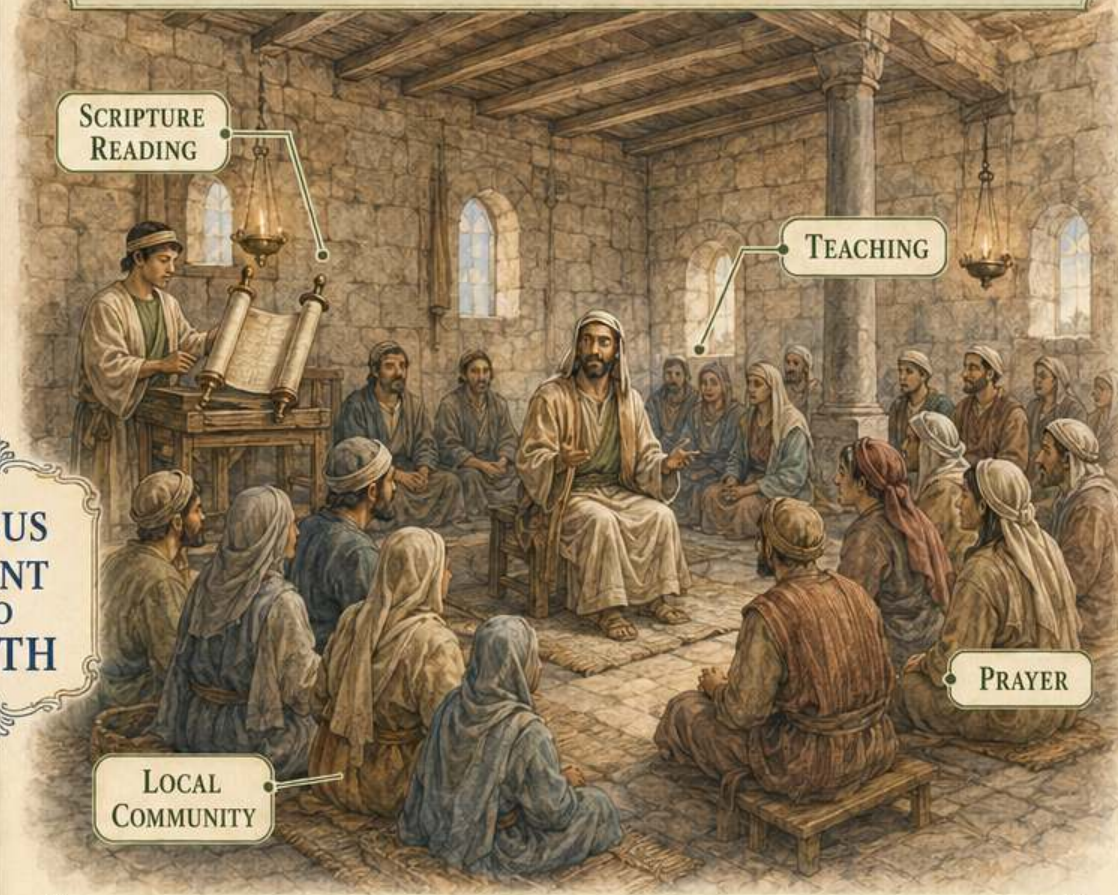
JESUS
WENT
TO
BOTH

THE TEMPLE

There was one Temple in Jerusalem. Priests served, sacrifices were offered, and worshipers came for the great festivals.

Luke 2:41-49

THE SYNAGOGUE — MANY LOCAL GATHERING PLACES



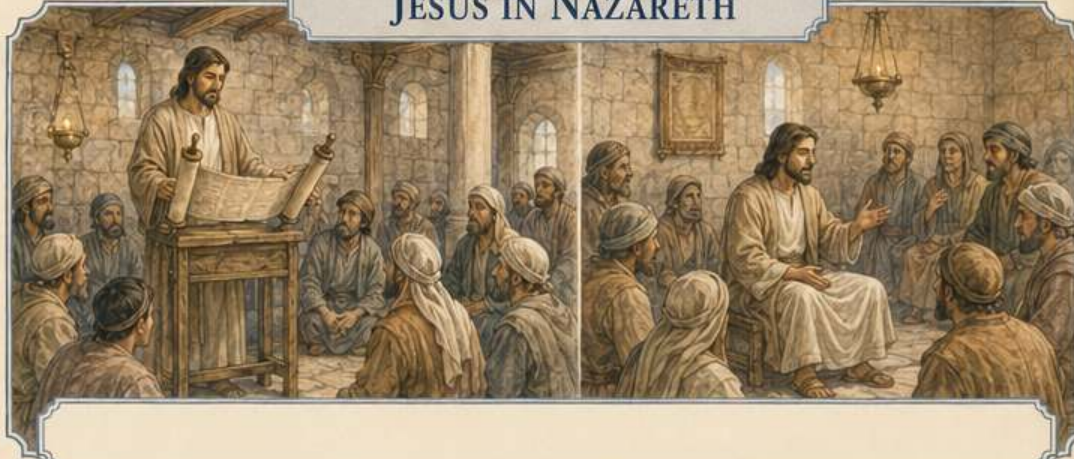
THE SYNAGOGUE

Many local gathering places offered Scripture reading, teaching, prayer, and community life. Jesus went to both.

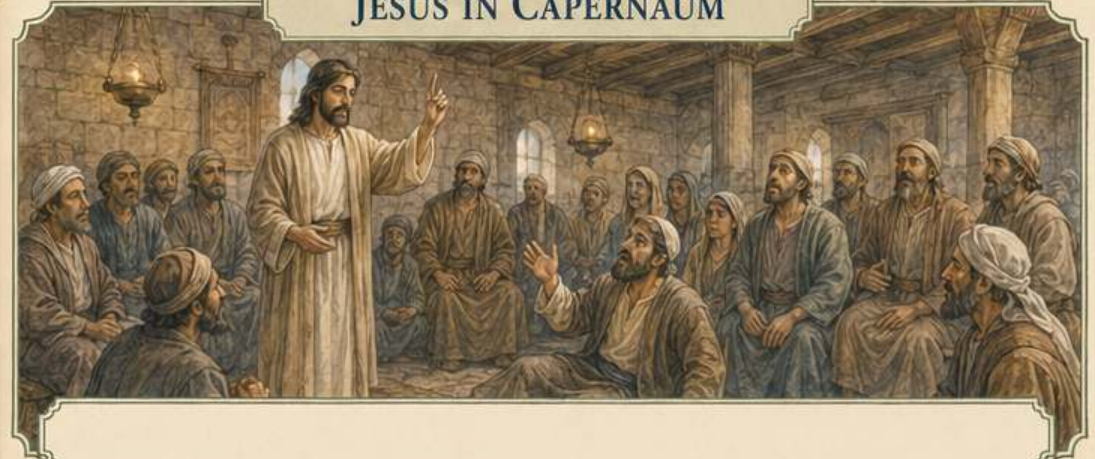
Luke 4:16-21

WHEN THE SYNAGOGUE STEPS INTO THE STORY

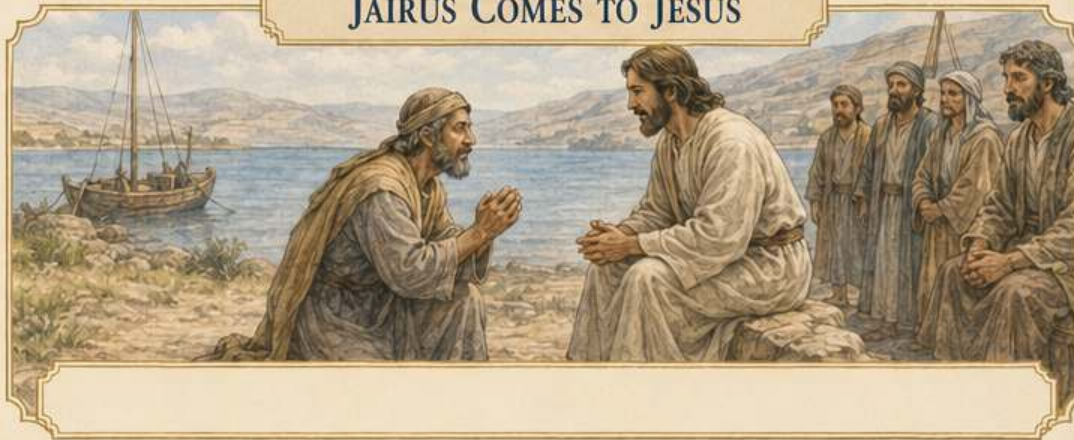
JESUS IN NAZARETH



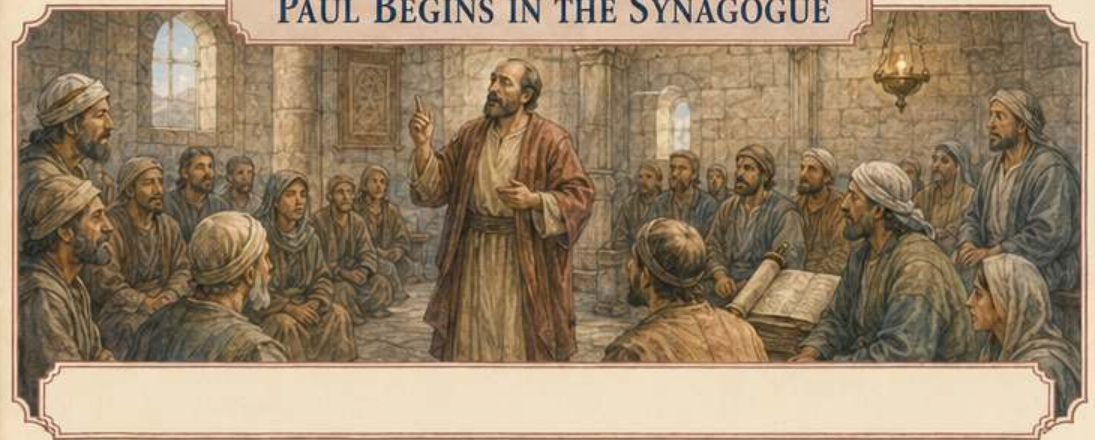
JESUS IN CAPERNAUM



JAIRUS COMES TO JESUS



PAUL BEGINS IN THE SYNAGOGUE



SCRIPTURE WAS READ — TRUTH WAS TAUGHT — PEOPLE HAD TO RESPOND

NAZARETH

Jesus read Isaiah and declared it fulfilled. His hometown marveled, then rejected Him.

Luke 4:16-30

CAPERNAUM

Jesus taught with authority and commanded an unclean spirit, which obeyed Him.

Mark 1:21-28

JAIRUS

A synagogue ruler pleaded for his dying daughter. Jesus went and raised the child.

Mark 5:21-43

PAUL

In new cities Paul often began in the synagogue, reasoning that Jesus is the Christ.

Acts 17:1-4

BEFORE WE ENTER THE COUNCIL

People and Groups You Will Meet



SANHEDRIN

Jerusalem's highest Jewish council for religious questions and many Jewish legal matters.

Matthew 26:57-68

HIGH PRIEST

Israel's leading priest and the council's presiding figure. Caiaphas held the office during Jesus' trial.

John 18:13-14



CHIEF PRIESTS

Leading priestly authorities, including prominent priestly families and senior Temple officials.

Matthew 21:23



ELDERS

Respected leaders representing influential families and the wider Jewish community.

Matthew 26:3



SCRIBES

Men trained to copy, study, interpret, and teach the Law. "Scribe" described their work.

Mark 12:28-34



PHARISEES

An influential movement devoted to the Law and traditions; they affirmed resurrection, angels, and spirits.

Acts 23:6-8



SADDUCEES

A powerful Temple-associated movement that denied the resurrection and differed from the Pharisees.

Acts 23:6-8



Before We Enter the Council

People and Groups You Will Meet

Sanhedrin

Jerusalem's highest Jewish council. It addressed religious questions and many Jewish legal matters while Judea remained under Roman rule.

Matthew 26:57-68; Acts 5:27-40

High Priest

Israel's leading priest and the presiding figure of the council. Caiaphas held the office during Jesus' trial; Annas, a former high priest, remained very influential.

John 18:13-14, 24

Chief Priests

Leading priestly authorities, including the serving and former high priests, members of prominent priestly families, and senior Temple officials.

Matthew 21:23; Luke 22:66

Elders

Respected leaders who represented influential families and the wider Jewish community in religious and civic affairs.

Matthew 26:3; 27:1

Scribes

Men trained in the Law who copied, studied, interpreted, and taught Scripture. Some were Pharisees, but "scribe" described their work, not one religious party.

Mark 12:28-34; Acts 23:9

Pharisees

An influential Jewish movement devoted to the Law and ancestral traditions. They affirmed the resurrection, angels, and spirits.

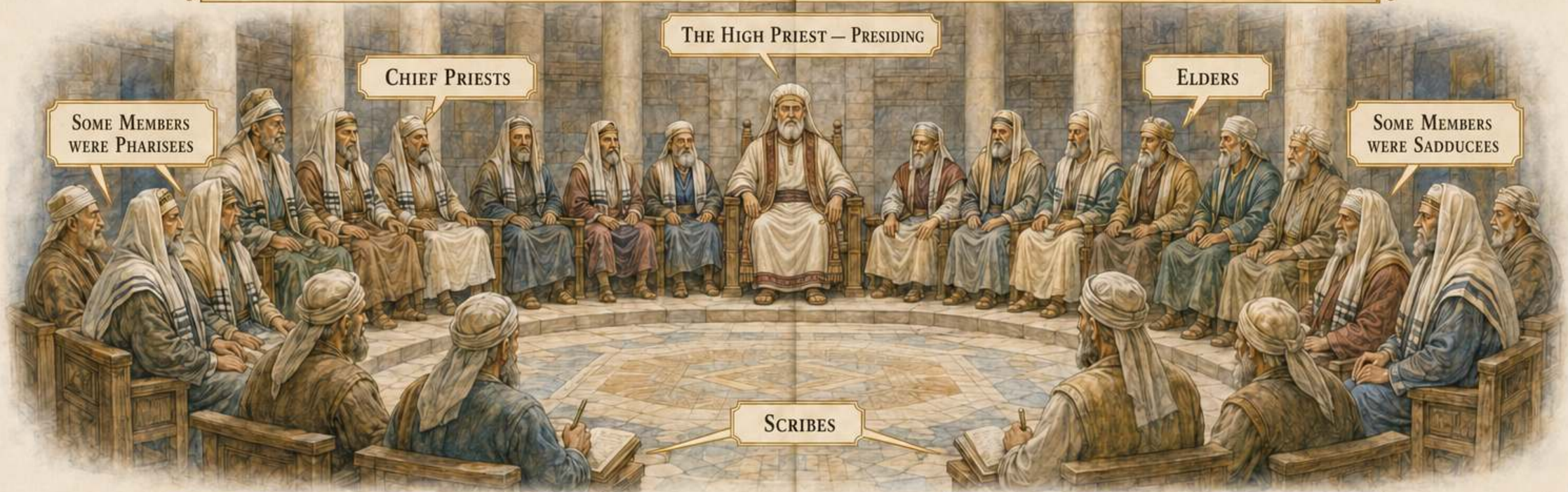
Mark 7:1-13; Acts 23:6-8

Sadducees

A powerful movement closely associated with priestly leadership and the Temple. They denied the resurrection and differed sharply from the Pharisees.

Matthew 22:23; Acts 23:6-8

THE SANHEDRIN AND THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS



JEWISH RELIGIOUS AND LEGAL AUTHORITY

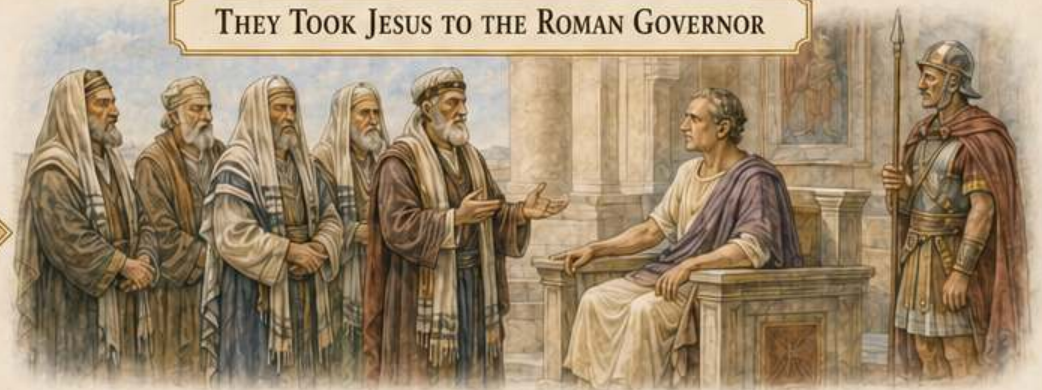


JEWISH RELIGIOUS AND LEGAL AUTHORITY

The high priest presided over chief priests, elders, and scribes. Pharisees and Sadducees were different parties—not levels in one hierarchy.

Matthew 26:57-68

THEY TOOK JESUS TO THE ROMAN GOVERNOR



WHY THEY WENT TO PILATE

The leaders condemned Jesus religiously, then sought a Roman sentence from Pilate and demanded crucifixion.

John 18:28-32

BEFORE WE ENTER THE ROMAN WORLD

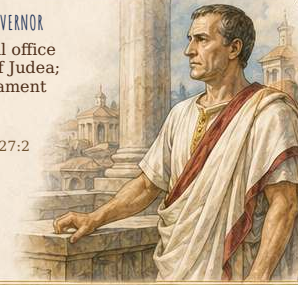
Rulers, Soldiers, and Rights You Will Meet



CAESAR—EMPEROR

“Caesar” became the emperor’s title. Tiberius ruled during most of Jesus’ ministry.

Luke 3:1



PREFECT OR GOVERNOR

Pilate’s formal office was prefect of Judea; the New Testament also calls him governor.

Matthew 27:2



TETRAARCH / CLIENT RULER

Antipas governed Galilee and Perea, but his authority ultimately depended upon Rome.

Luke 3:1



CENTURION

An officer over a century—often about eighty soldiers, not always exactly one hundred.

Matthew 8:5-13



LEGION

A major Roman formation of several thousand soldiers with supporting troops.

Matthew 26:53



ROMAN SOLDIER

Soldiers guarded prisoners, enforced orders, and carried out executions.

Matthew 27:27-37



ROMAN CITIZEN

Citizens had legal protections. Paul used his citizenship and appealed to Caesar.

Acts 25:10-12



THE ROMAN WORLD

Roads and Roman authority connected distant provinces across the empire.

Before We Enter the Roman World

Rulers, Soldiers, and Rights You Will Meet

Caesar—The Emperor

“Caesar” became the title of Rome’s emperor. Tiberius Caesar ruled during most of Jesus’ earthly ministry.

Luke 3:1; 20:22–25

Prefect or Governor

Pontius Pilate’s formal office was prefect of Judea. The New Testament also uses the broader word governor for him.

Matthew 27:2; Luke 3:1

Tetrarch

A ruler governing a portion of a larger territory. Herod Antipas governed Galilee and Perea under Roman authority.

Luke 3:1; 23:7

Client Ruler

A local ruler permitted to govern by Rome. The Herods possessed real authority, but their position ultimately depended upon Rome.

Centurion

A Roman military officer commanding a unit called a century—often about eighty soldiers rather than exactly one hundred.

Matthew 8:5–13; Acts 10:1–2

Legion

A major Roman military formation consisting of several thousand soldiers, supported by additional troops.

Matthew 26:53; Acts 10:1

Roman Soldier

A trained member of Rome’s military forces. Soldiers guarded prisoners, enforced Roman orders, and carried out executions.

Matthew 27:27–37; Acts 12:4–6

Roman Citizen

A person possessing important legal protections. Paul used his citizenship to protest unlawful treatment and appeal to Caesar.

Acts 22:25–29; 25:10–12

ROME AND ITS AUTHORITIES



TIBERIUS – ROMAN EMPEROR



PONTIUS PILATE – PREFECT OF JUDEA



HEROD ANTIPAS – TETRARCH OF GALILEE AND PEREA



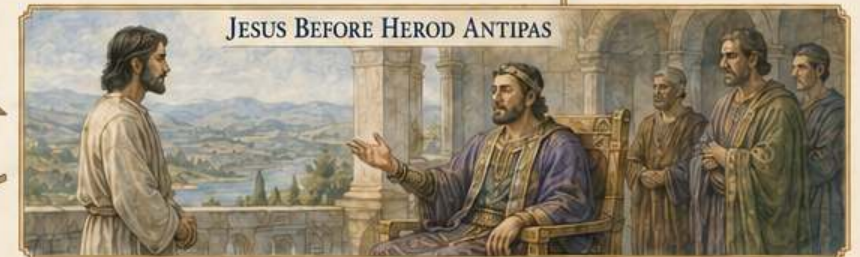
CENTURION
ROMAN SOLDIERS



A LOCAL RULER UNDER ROME



JESUS BEFORE PILATE



JESUS BEFORE HEROD ANTIPAS

ROME RULED DIFFERENT PLACES
IN DIFFERENT WAYS

DIFFERENT TERRITORIES—DIFFERENT RULERS

Pilate governed Judea; Herod Antipas governed Galilee and Perea under Rome.

Luke 3:1

JESUS BEFORE PILATE AND HEROD

Pilate sent the Galilean Jesus to Antipas; Herod questioned Him, mocked Him, and returned Him.

Luke 23:6-12

WHICH HEROD IS THIS?

The portraits are illustrative—not claims about their exact appearance.



HEROD THE GREAT



HEROD ANTIPAS



HEROD ANTIPAS

HERODIAS

JOHN THE BAPTIST



HEROD AGRIPPA I



HEROD AGRIPPA II

HEROD THE GREAT

Ruled when Jesus was born.

HEROD ANTIPAS

Son of Herod the Great; tetrarch of Galilee.

PHILIP — SEE THE IMPORTANT NOTE BELOW

Herodias's husband was commonly identified as Herod II—not Philip the tetrarch.

HEROD AGRIPPA I

Grandson of Herod the Great.

HEROD AGRIPPA II

Son of Agrippa I.

BETHLEHEM

Fearing a newborn king, Herod the Great ordered Bethlehem's young boys killed.

Matthew 2:1-18

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Antipas imprisoned and executed John and later questioned Jesus.

Mark 6:14-29

JAMES AND PETER

Agrippa I killed James and imprisoned Peter.

Acts 12:1-4

PAUL'S DEFENSE

Agrippa II heard Paul and discussed his case with Festus and Bernice.

Acts 25-26

BEFORE WE WALK THE LAND

Regions and Places You Will Meet



GALILEE

Northern region where Jesus grew up and conducted much of His ministry.

Matthew 4:12-17

SAMARIA

Central region between Galilee and Judea, marked by deep Jewish-Samaritan hostility.

John 4:4-26



JUDEA

Southern region containing Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

Matthew 2:1

PEREA

Region east of the Jordan governed by Herod Antipas.

John 10:40



DECAPOLIS

Greek-influenced cities mainly east and southeast of the Sea of Galilee.

Mark 5:20

SEA OF GALILEE

Freshwater lake central to Jesus' ministry; also called Gennesaret and Tiberias.

John 6:1



JORDAN RIVER

River flowing south from Galilee toward the Dead Sea. John baptized Jesus there.

Matthew 3:13-17

JERUSALEM

Holy city of the Temple, Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, and the gospel's outward beginning.

Acts 1:8



Before We Walk the Land

Regions and Places You Will Meet

Galilee

The northern region where Jesus grew up and conducted much of His public ministry. Nazareth, Capernaum, and the Sea of Galilee were there.

Matthew 2:22-23; 4:12-17

Samaria

The central region between Galilee and Judea. Long-standing religious and ethnic hostility separated many Jews and Samaritans.

John 4:4-26; Luke 9:51-56

Judea

The southern region containing Jerusalem and Bethlehem. The Temple made Jerusalem the center of Jewish worship.

Matthew 2:1; John 11:7-8

Perea

The region east of the Jordan River governed by Herod Antipas. Jesus ministered in areas beyond the Jordan.

Luke 3:1; John 10:40

Decapolis

A group of predominantly Greek-influenced cities east and southeast of the Sea of Galilee. News of Jesus spread there.

Matthew 4:25; Mark 5:20

Sea of Galilee

A freshwater lake central to Jesus' Galilean ministry. Scripture also calls it the Lake of Gennesaret and the Sea of Tiberias.

Luke 5:1; John 6:1

Jordan River

The river flowing south from the Sea of Galilee toward the Dead Sea. John baptized Jesus in the Jordan.

Matthew 3:5-17

Jerusalem

The holy city containing the Temple. Jesus taught there, was crucified and raised nearby, and sent His witnesses outward from there.

Luke 19:28-48; Acts 1:8

THE LAND WHERE JESUS WALKED

A SIMPLE GEOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW — NOT TO SCALE



NORTH TO SOUTH

Galilee lay north, Samaria in the central hill country, and Judea farther south. Jerusalem and Bethlehem were in Judea.

.....
THE PATH REPRESENTS THE GENERAL
MOVEMENT OF JESUS' MINISTRY, NOT ONE JOURNEY.

DECAPOLIS

PEREA

ACROSS THE JORDAN

Perea lay east of the Jordan. The Decapolis consisted of Greek-influenced cities mainly east and southeast of Galilee.

FIVE PLACES — FIVE MOMENTS WITH JESUS

WHEN THE PLACE STEPS INTO THE STORY



BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM

Jesus was born in David's city.
Luke 2:1-20



NAZARETH

NAZARETH

Jesus grew up here and later read
Isaiah in its synagogue.
Luke 4:16-30



CAPERNAUM

CAPERNAUM

A center of His teaching, healing, and
authority to forgive.
Mark 2:1-12



SAMARIA

SAMARIA

Jesus offered living water; many
believed.
John 4:4-42



JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM

Jesus entered as King, died, rose, and
commissioned His witnesses.
Luke 24:1-49

WHY THE PLACES MATTER

Bethlehem shows the promised King's birth. Nazareth shows the familiar hometown that rejected Him. Capernaum shows His authority. Samaria shows grace crossing old boundaries. Jerusalem brings us to the cross, the empty tomb, and the gospel going to the nations.

BEFORE WE ENTER THE HOME

Home, Meals, and Hospitality



HOME

Homes varied by wealth and location. Many used stone, mud plaster, timber, reeds, and earth.



COURTYARD

An open work area where food preparation and family life spilled outdoors.



FLAT ROOF

Usable household space reached by stairs or ladder and protected by a parapet.

Acts 10:9



UPPER ROOM

A room above the main living area used for guests or private gatherings.

Mark 14:14-15



CLAY OIL LAMP

A small oil-and-wick vessel placed where its limited light could illuminate a room.

Matthew 5:15



RECLINING AT TABLE

At formal meals, guests often reclined on cushions around a low table.

John 13:23



WASHING FEET

Water for dusty feet welcomed a guest; washing them was humble servant's work.

John 13:3-17



HOSPITALITY

Receiving guests meant practical welcome, water, food, shelter, and protection.

Hebrews 13:2

Before We Enter the Home

Home, Meals, and Hospitality

Home

Homes differed greatly according to wealth and location. Many ordinary houses used local stone, mud plaster, timber, reeds, and packed earth.

Courtyard or Work Area

Some homes included an open area where food was prepared, household work was performed, and family life overflowed from the interior rooms.

Flat Roof

Many roofs served as usable household space. They could be reached by stairs or a ladder and were protected by a parapet.

Deuteronomy 22:8; Acts 10:9

Upper Room

A room above the main living area in some larger homes. Such a room could provide guest space or a private gathering place.

Mark 14:14-15; Acts 1:13

Clay Oil Lamp

A small vessel containing oil and a wick. Because its light was limited, a lamp was placed where it could illuminate the room.

Matthew 5:15; Luke 15:8

Reclining at the Table

At formal meals, guests might recline on cushions around a low table rather than sit upright in chairs.

Luke 7:36-38; John 13:23

Washing Feet

Water for dusty feet was an act of welcome. Washing another person's feet was humble service ordinarily associated with a servant's work.

Luke 7:44; John 13:3-17

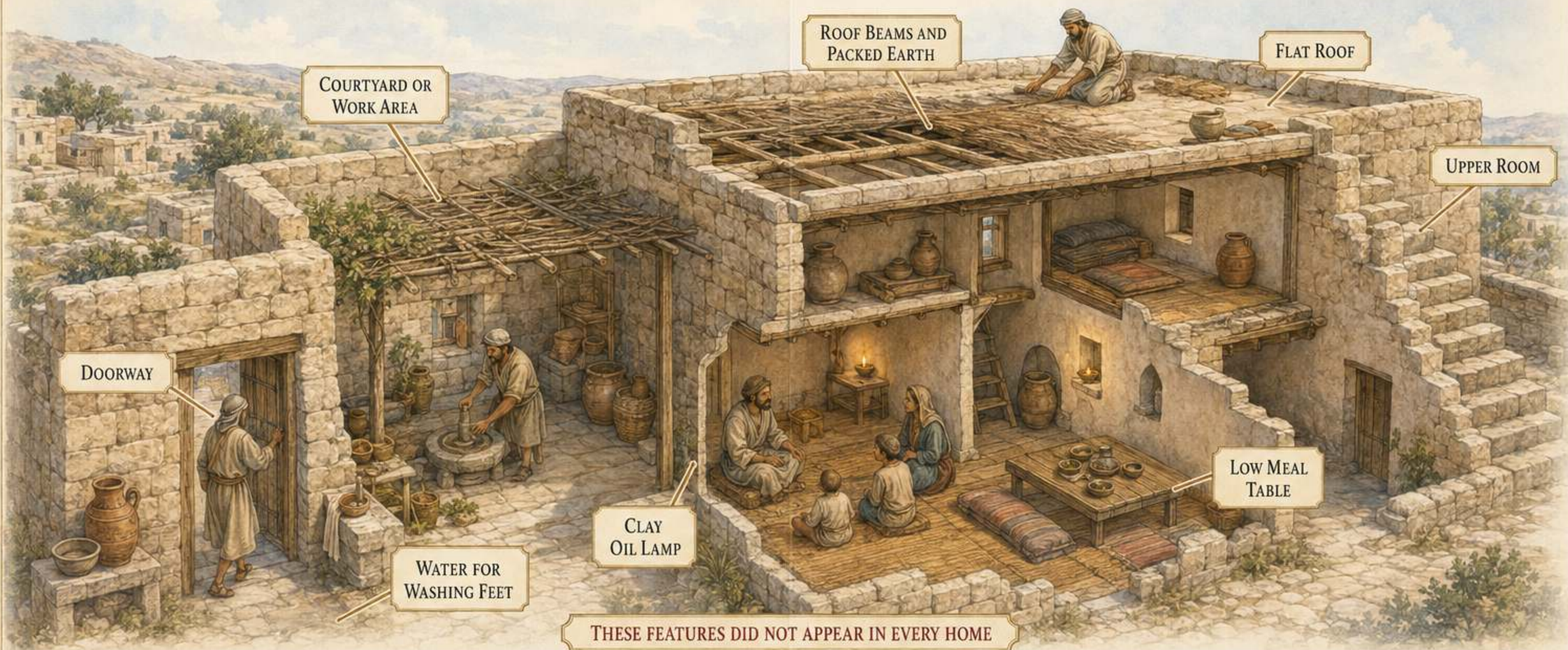
Hospitality

Receiving a guest meant offering practical care—welcome, water, food, shelter, and protection. Hospitality was a serious biblical responsibility.

Luke 10:38; Hebrews 13:2

INSIDE A NEW TESTAMENT HOME

A REPRESENTATIVE HOME — HOUSES VARIED GREATLY



A REPRESENTATIVE HOME

This teaching picture combines historically plausible features. Homes differed greatly, and not every house contained everything shown.

WHY THE ROOF AND ROOMS MATTER

Roofs used beams and packed materials. Jesus taught in homes, ate with sinners, gathered in an upper room, and turned a basin and towel into a lesson in humble love.

Mark 2:4; John 13:1-17

WHEN THE HOME STEPS INTO THE STORY

1. LOWERED THROUGH THE ROOF



FAITH BROUGHT HIM TO JESUS

Four friends opened the roof and lowered a paralyzed man. Jesus first forgave his sins, then healed him before everyone.

Mark 2:1-12

2. MARY AND MARTHA RECEIVE JESUS



ONE NECESSARY THING

Martha was distracted by serving. Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened; Jesus said she had chosen the good portion.

Luke 10:38-42

3. JESUS EATS WITH TAX COLLECTORS AND SINNERS



JESUS WELCOMED SINNERS

Jesus shared the table with tax collectors and sinners. He came to call sinners—like a physician coming for the sick.

Mark 2:15-17

4. THE LAST SUPPER IN AN UPPER ROOM



THE MEAL POINTED TO THE CROSS

At Passover, Jesus gave the bread and cup their meaning in His body and blood, soon to be given for His people.

Luke 22:7-20

5. JESUS WASHES HIS DISCIPLES' FEET



THE LORD TOOK A SERVANT'S PLACE

Jesus washed His disciples' feet and told them to follow His example. True greatness kneels to serve.

John 13:1-17



AIMINGFORJESUS.COM

exists to help and encourage the Body of Christ to

- grow in Christ's likeness
- read and meditate on the Living Word of God
- pray without ceasing
- bear witness to the good news of Jesus
- make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

This book was prepared by Hollis McGehee

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