

John 1-4 Review

PROLOGUE 1:1-18

**The
Beginning
of Belief
1:19-4:54**

**The
Beginning
of Unbelief
5:1-13:30**

EPILOGUE 21:1-25

--adapted from Laney, *Moody Gospel John Commentary*

The Third Sign: Healing at Bethesda

John 5:1-16

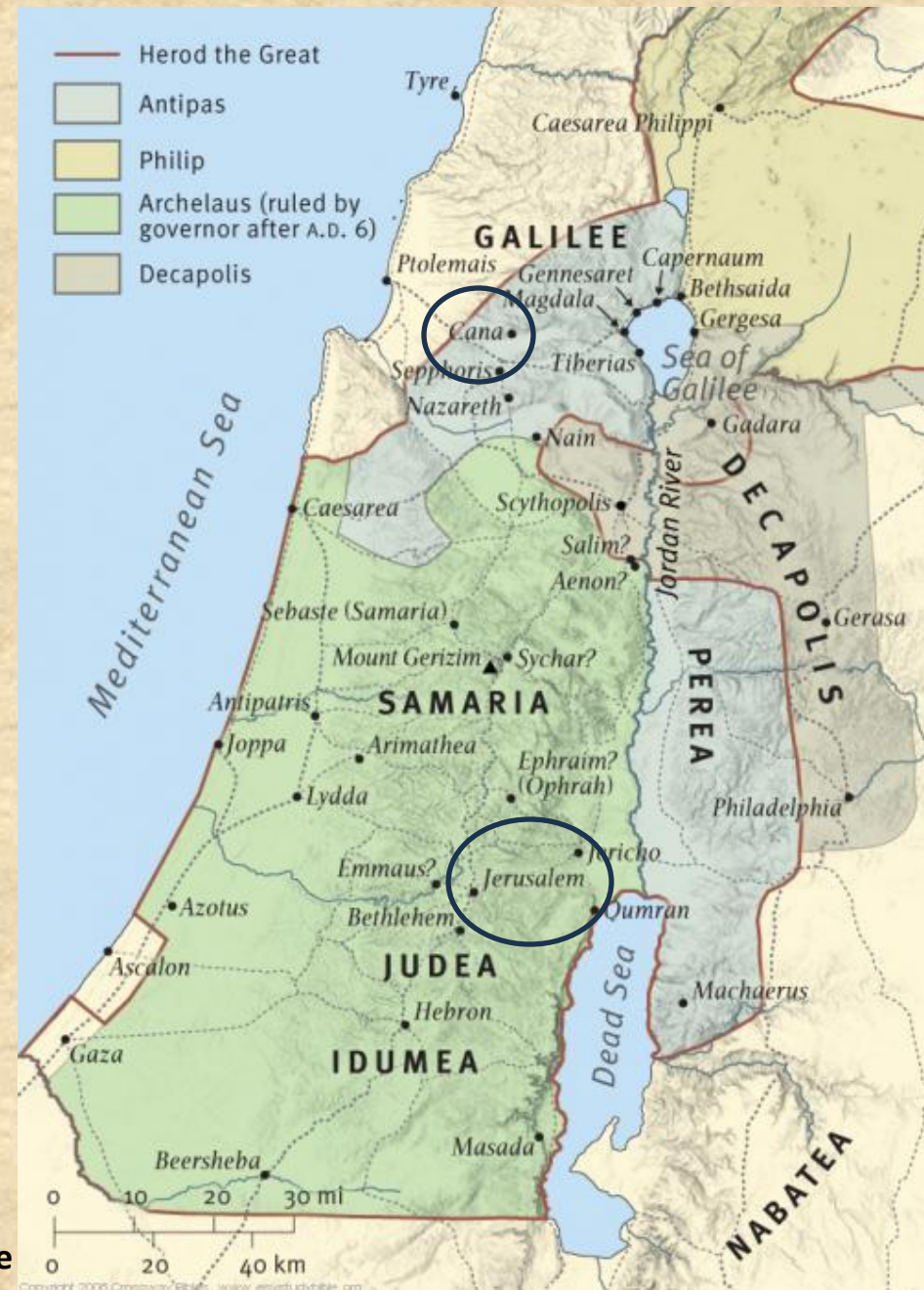
Two parts:

1. The healing of a man
38 years in his illness
(5:2-9)
2. The persecution of
Jesus because He
'violated' the Sabbath
(5:10-16)



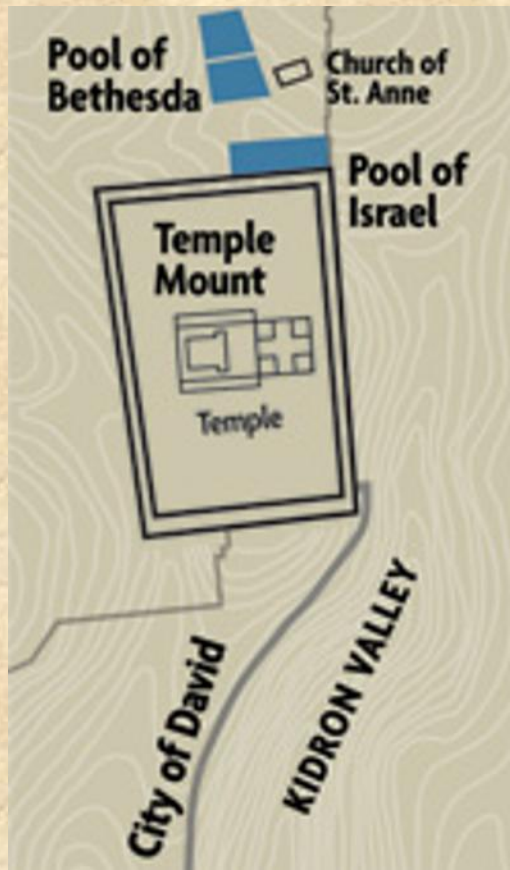
Transition (5:1)

After an unknown period Jesus traveled from Cana to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews.



The Third Sign, part 1

The healing of a man
38 years in his illness
(5:2-9)



Text of John 5:3b-4

- These verses are absent from the earliest and best manuscripts.
- They likely were added in later manuscripts to explain the man's words to Jesus in v. 7.
- Most textual variations in the New Testament are of this type: The decision to include or exclude does not affect the meaning of the passage.

Do you wish to get well?

- Get up
- Pick up your bed
- **WALK!**



Questions about healing

- Why **this** man?
- Why **only** this man?
- **How** then should we understand physical healing?



The Third Sign, part 2

The persecution of Jesus
because He 'violated'
the Sabbath (5:10-16)



Understanding the Sabbath

- Sabbath = *rest*
- **4th Commandment** (Exod 20:8; see Gen 2:2-3)
- Work on the Sabbath was a major offense against the holiness of God who created the day as a refreshment for man in body and soul.
- **Did Jesus command the healed man to work on the Sabbath?**

The elephant in the room



Do not sin anymore!

This “does not mean that his [disability] was caused by any specific sin, though all disease and death come ultimately from sin. The warning was that his tragic life of 38 years as an invalid was no comparison to the doom of hell.”

-- Edwin Blum, *Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 2:290

Important truths in v. 14

- God is always seeking His lost but infinitely loved creatures (Luke 19:10).
- The command to stop sinning is impossible to keep for those not born again (Rom 3:9-18).
- The command was given to show the need of receiving the Savior's grace in forgiveness (see Gal 3:24).
- Spiritual health > physical health!

Persecution!

- Even the tradition of the rabbis allowed for exceptions
- Jesus noted that pulling a sheep out of a pit on the Sabbath was acceptable to the Jews, therefore it is lawful to do good to a much more valuable person on the Sabbath (Matt 12:11-12)!

Legalism is blinding!

1. Those who seek to please God by keeping rules fail to see that salvation must be by grace and not works.
2. Those who seek to please God by keeping rules tend to offer criticism rather than compassion when people break their rules.

John 5:1-16

Summary

- The Jew's persecution of Jesus for healing on the Sabbath completely overlooked the sign and what it pointed to (the deity of their Messiah) because they were blinded by their own legalism.

Life Issues in John 5:1-16

- We have a compassionate Savior who cares deeply about our suffering
- As we live by faith, we know that sometimes He blesses in spite of our lack of faith
- Jesus did not heal all because that was not His mission
- Jesus healed one in a sea of misery to show His authority to offer the ultimate healing

Life Issues in John 5:1-16

- He then warned the healed man of the greater cure he needed, spiritual salvation
- Focus on external rules can lead to internal spiritual failure
- **Our greatest need is spiritual healing by faith, not rule keeping by works**
- **We may pray for healing and we treasure every evidence of His mercy!**