

S.D.G.

Chapter 4 Popularity

Book Two

THE KING ARRIVES

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Passover was a grand reunion of family and friends. Yeshua, the twelve, their families and more settled into the Oil Press with an overflow above ground. Yeshua's uncle and cousins were there. Mother Mary and the unaccompanied women were guests of Lazarus at his grand home, the offices of the Master of the Sacred Olive Oil in Bethany. Some stayed with his assistant, Simon, the leper.

The same groups came back to the same places every Passover. They collected the ovens and pots they had left with the stewards. Adjustments had to be made. Groups got larger, a few smaller. A few stewards changed. The people who had used the oil press had to be awarded very good space in compensation. Yeshua's group no longer took up Nazareth space. There were always some to complain, be unreasonable and some who were very gracious. Most of that could be handled by the stewards without involving Simon or Lazarus.

The Sabbath before Passover Yeshua left the oil press and walked up the Kidron. A number of his people followed him but he motioned that all but the Twelve should go back. They went to the Sheep Pools, Bethesda¹ just north of the Temple. A pagan shrine, an Asclepeion, dedicated to the god of healing was there,. Many people were laying around waiting to go into the water to be healed. Yeshua went past them to one man. He had been there for thirty eight years. Yeshua told him to take up his bed and walk. The real Son of God healed in the face of the pagan god who did not heal. The Twelve rejoiced.

The leaders were angry when they saw the man carrying his bed on the Sabbath. He told them some man healed him and told him to take his mat. Yeshua, looked for him and found him in the Temple praising God. Yeshua told him sin, worship false gods, no longer and told him who he was. The leaders were very angry at Yeshua and his reply made them more angry. "Who was he claiming to be?"

¹ <https://blog.israelbiblicalstudies.com/jewish-studies/bethesda-pool-jerusalem-shrine-asclepius/>
<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/jerusalem/the-bethesda-pool-site-of-one-of-jesus-miracles/> <https://www.ritmeyer.com/product/image-library/buildings/pools/bethesda-pools/>
John 5:2-47

Yeshua taught in the Temple Court. His disciples were now experienced speaking in unison. They brought those seeking healing to Yeshua and Judas collected the gifts. Everything was much better than last year. The crowds were attentive, filled with expectation and patient. There was a murmur in their hearts. The Almighty Sovereign was beginning to move. His salvation was drawing closer. They were going to see it in their lives. This Yeshua, Son of Man, was the one.

The Leaders were also watching. They felt evil drawing near. The end of their nation, the end of their position was coming. They did not know what was to become of them. If this Yeshua was from God why had he not been talking to them? He had no good words for them. He seemed opposed to them personally, everything they stood for and did. The "Pious Ones" taught they were evil. Yeshua's brother James, his cousin, John the Baptizer, were "Pious Ones". Yeshua was tainted by association. He merited serious opposition, elimination. They spread that word to all they could, keep opposing him.

The pilgrims settled into the normal routine. They listened to the scholars teaching, worshipped, shopped in the markets, visited with family and friends. Yeshua and the disciples led worship at the oil press, warm, close, comfortable. Some at times went to the Temple, reveled in that glorious majesty, surrounded by more than one hundred fifty thousand ecstatic worshippers, choirs, musicians, gazing at the huge, massive gold and pure white Temple. A few were blessed to get close to the gates and glimpse inside. After the services they were able to go to the Middle Court, up the fifteen steps and gaze at the Altar, the Table of Showbread, the Golden Vine, glimpse into the Holy Place at the Menorah and veil before the Holy of Holies. The wonder, the majesty, the beauty, to be in the presence, before the Lord of Lords, King of Kings, Creator, Ruler, whose outstretched arm and mighty hand won the victory. Such a sight to treasure in their lives, forever in the courts of the Lord.

When Yeshua came back from teaching, crowds followed him. He hardly had a moment to spend with his people. Even when he went up to see his mother, crowds followed. Usually they waited patiently. They did not have many questions. They just wanted to see him, be with him. They felt the Spirit of God, love, acceptance, deep joy by being in his presence.

The day of Passover came. They carried almost fifty lambs into the Temple for slaughter. While the men talked, the women prepared all the delights for the dinner. They spread out on the grounds above the oil press into the market space by the Kidron. Lazarus' home was not large enough. They sat down in circles around the bowls and plates. Yeshua or a disciple stood to lead the portions of the Seder liturgy. All over the Mount of Olives, in

camps all over the area, in small homes, in great palaces, over two and a half million people, heard the words, drank the four cups, broke the bread, shared the banquet, sang the songs. "Praised are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe." Oh! to celebrate Passover in Jerusalem!²

Yeshua, his disciples and closest followers did not go back to Galilee. They stayed for a time in Jerusalem and went into Judea. The crowds and synagogues there were less welcoming than the ones in the north. Many cautious, fearful priests were among them. Instead of receiving gifts and shelter, Judas had to spend from their own bag. He was not happy. Judea was proud they were not like Galilee. In the Judean's opinion, they were better, more religious, superior to Galileans. Slowly people warmed to Yeshua. Some were bold enough to come for healing. Yeshua's pleasant and gracious demeanor won through suspicion. By Sukkot his disciples and followers were relaxing from the coldness of Judea but still eager for the warmth of Galilee.

Andrew and Peter's home included the work spaces and sheds of a commercial fisherman. While they were traveling with Yeshua, their workers kept the business going. Yeshua and his followers returned to traveling. Teaching and healing, attracting even larger crowds. At times many hundreds, thousands of people followed. Small villages could no longer handle them. Those people traveled to the market towns to hear Yeshua. Some prominent women joined the group. Their husbands did not stop them from contributing to the needs of all. There was more than enough money, so Yeshua instructed his people to be generous with all in need.

Yeshua would at times stop out in the country where there was a lot of space to talk to the crowd. They would gather around him eager to listen. It was better than synagog. There was no longer any place big enough for them all. As they travelled, report came that Antipas arrested John and imprisoned him Machaerus³. They were distraught. Antipas knew John was a very popular holy man. He had John taken as far from Galilee as he could, out in the desert on a high hilltop by the Arabs. No one would go there to protest or visit John.

While there were many who followed Yeshua, most did not go far from their home before they went back. There were some who stayed with him, an unofficial outer group.

² Seders today are based on cultured settings hundreds of years later. For my attempt of a Galilean Peasant Seder see http://thesignofconcord.com/uploads/Jesus__Seder.pdf

³ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machaerus> We know where Antipas sat while Salome danced. <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/biblical-archaeology-sites/machaerus-beyond-the-beheading-of-john-the-baptist/>

Some had been with him from the beginning. Yeshua included them in training. In a city, highly populated areas, he would send them out in pairs to talk to the people. Some were married couples or pairs of unaccompanied women.

Mattias⁴ reported to Yeshua, people were very interested in hearing about him but some seemed afraid of getting too close. As if they felt getting too close was dangerous. What will happen to me? Mattias said he told them he had been with Yeshua from the beginning, hearing his words. Getting close was not dangerous, it is peace, safety. He said he had even healed a crippled man in Yeshua's name.

When they returned to Capernaum, the president of the synagog and elders came to Yeshua. The man who paid for their synagog to be built had a very sick servant. Yeshua knew him from worship there. He was a Roman Centurion in the service of the Tetrarch. He had been hired to train the army in Roman tactics and married a local woman. Centurions were well compensated. For his responsibilities, he received far more⁵.

The joy of family, weddings. Yeshua's niece Alma was betrothed to Joesph bar Sabbas⁶. Problem, where was the marriage to take place. Ever since Yeshua had been cast out of Nazareth, he had not been back. Jose talked it over with the family and decided they would have the marriage in Cana at Issac's home.

They all laughed when they asked Yeshua if he would provide the wine again. Yeshua laughed with them. That was a wedding to remember. They would all have to help with the costs. The groom was in the outer group of followers, Alma with the unaccompanied women. Now they could be together. Like all weddings it was wonderful. Yeshua's followers all contributed, instead of being a great burden on Cana. Yeshua's family from Nazareth were there and a good number of other Nazareth folk too. Almost all of them spoke warmly with Yeshua, as if nothing had happened. Jose said the village seemed to have gotten over their anger. They had been hearing good things about Yeshua. All the good memories of him over the years brought them around in his favor.

After the wedding Yeshua went back with his family to Nazareth. He went to and talked with the men who had led the accusations and anger in the synagog. They prayed for

⁴ [Acts 1:23](#)

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_Roman_army#Ranks,_role_and_pay The army's here were the front lines for Rome against attack from Parthia. The Arab tribes were a constant threat and the cavalry well experienced. Roman Legions were not close by. The Prefect Pilate had only a token force for a large area.

⁶ [Acts 1:23](#)

peace and reconciliation. Sadly there were two men who remained unmoved by his appeals. They had a reputation for being hard. He went with Mother Mary and family to the grave of Joseph. Mary talked about how unbelievably kind and gracious he was. The finest man of God she could ever know. Yeshua talked about how much he learned about living the faith, loving everyone, patience. He was the father that showed him his heavenly Father.

After Yeshua moved on to the next towns, people would talk. Was he, could he be, the Messiah? Some scholars were saying there would be two Messiahs. A Messiah Son of David, warrior king, and Messiah Son of Joseph, suffering, redeeming.⁷ Yeshua's words were confusing. The other teachers were clear, know this, do that and you were good with God. Yeshua talked of the faith of Abraham, not just being a blood descendent. They were practical people, he had a different spirit. There was something more than just practical.

There were complaints that some of the practical things the scholars at the Temple were promoting were not so good. They pushed the women out of singing and dancing in the worship, pushed them back, made them feel unwanted. It was not necessary for them to participate. Their grandmothers used to take part and talk to them when they were children about the great things God had done. Their wives and daughters did not seem very interested in the faith, other than lighting the sabbath lamps.

Stone jars, mikvahs, ritual purity were being promoted, as if being ritually pure on the outside made up for an evil heart inside. It was becoming important to say exactly the right words in the prayers, just like everyone else. The other rabbis seemed to be in competition with each other, I am correct, he is wrong. Yeshua talked about being right with God.

In Jerusalem, the Chief Priest, Joseph ben Caiaphas, was being pushed one way and another by opposing priestly and Levitical houses. Sadducces, Pharisees, wealthy landowners, all wanted him to advance their positions. He tried to balance what they wanted for the good of the nation, keeping an eye on Rome. The "knifemen" and the "pious ones"⁸ were not going away. Each believed they were obeying God and correct in their understanding of the scripture. The role the Almighty has placed on him was to look over all the people and keep them together as much as possible. Was it possible? Without the Temple, without the high priest as center, the factions will split apart.

⁷ <http://jewishroots.net/library/messianic/two-messiahs-2.html> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messiah_ben_Joseph

⁸ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zealots> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essenes>

Yeshua traveled the towns and cities until fasting and prayer for the ninth of Av⁹. Then they returned traveling. A woman came up to Yeshua and fell at his knees, sobbing at his feet. He stooped down beside her and waited a long time before she could speak. The crowd drew back and gave them space. They talked quietly for a long time. Finally they stood and she wondered off as in daze, a happy daze.

Yeshua would get personal dinner invitations in some towns. Most were gracious. Prominent leaders wanted a more personal time to listen to him. Their homes had courtyards in front. The banquet meal would be served on the porch. The courtyard was open to the road and filled with observers. After such a meal the leftovers were given to them. Simon, a prominent Pharisee, invited Yeshua for dinner with other leaders.¹⁰ The woman heard he was there and brought an alabaster box of ointment and anointed him during the dinner. They were all astounded when he told them her sins had been forgiven. He claimed he had that authority and he had forgiven her. Simon and the others were very troubled by his claim.

Yeshua was beginning to head south toward Tiberias when they heard John had been beheaded. Devastation. Yeshua said he wanted to be off by himself for a while. Peter got one of their boats and the twelve went out on the Sea. People watched them go and then followed along the shore. Yeshua noticed it was getting late and the people on the shore were in the middle of nowhere. They all crowded around when the boat landed. The people were hungry. They had not realized they needed to bring food. Yeshua fed more than five thousand. It had to be done.¹¹

When the crowd realized what he had done they wanted to make him king so they would have bread forever. He went off into the hills. The twelve took the boat back. That night there was a storm on the lake, terrifying experienced fishermen. They said Yeshua walked out to them and told the storm to cease. They were beginning to realize Yeshua was something more. Healing sick, curing blind, one on one, was one thing. Making food for thousands, ruling wind and seas was more. Who was he? What was he?

The crowd found Yeshua in Capernaum. He said he would give them spiritual food that would satisfy eternally, if they would believe in him, the Son of man. Believing in Yeshua was God's will. They said: "Prove it. Do a miracle. Moses fed the people in the wilderness

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tisha_B%27Av

¹⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parable_of_the_Two_Debtors <https://biblicalfaith.wordpress.com/2015/08/05/lessons-from-a-sinful-woman/>

¹¹ John 6 <https://torahportions.foz.org/disciples/john/i-am-the-bread-of-life.html>

with heavenly food, mana. Give us heavenly food!" Yeshua had fed them with regular bread and fish. They could get that anywhere.

They were very upset with his words. He reminded them, their ancestors who ate that heavenly bread all died in the wilderness. Anyone who would eat his living bread, his flesh, would live forever. He was saying spiritual words, they only knew physical reality. Many people stopped following him.

They were offended by some of the people he welcomed, sinners, gentiles. He claimed to have the authority to forgive them. They knew only God could forgive. He welcomed tax collectors, traitors. They not only had to pay taxes to their own king, they had to pay taxes to Rome as well.¹²

Yeshua spent much time in prayer. His disciples asked if he would teach them a prayer. It was a normal thing for teachers to do for their followers. He did.¹³ They learned it and thought about what it said. It was deeper than what it first appeared. He had been announcing the Kingdom. Yeshua prayed from the heart, personally. Synagog prayers were formal language about nation, the land and Temple, respectfully addressing the high and distant sovereign Lord. Yeshua's prayer was speaking to my Father about our relationship. It was the practical result of living in the Kingdom.

Yeshua sent his followers home to celebrate the New Year. He asked them to return for the Day of Atonement. During those days they prayed the beloved "Our Father, Our King"¹⁴. The New Year had begun. They were standing in Atonement, clean with the blessings of God, the Sovereign Lord, God Almighty. They had faced challenges. Some people were slow to come to Yeshua. The followers had seen God in him, the gracious spirit of his words, the awesome power of God in the miracles he did. They were looking forward to seeing victory over the forces of evil, the breaking of all oppression.

They left for Sukkot. Seven days in Jerusalem remembering the forty years, wandering in the wilderness following the great Prophet of God, Moses, Savior of the Nation. They had

¹² Roman taxes are known and fairly normal rates. The root issue was that they, the descendants of Abraham, were to be the rulers of the whole world. Roman taxes were an insult. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Roman_taxes <https://www.austaxpolicy.com/politics-taxation-roman-empire/> <https://www.unrv.com/economy/roman-taxes.php>

¹³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord%27s_Prayer <http://aramaicnt.org/articles/the-lords-prayer-in-galilean-aramaic/> The following has much interesting and important information The Lord's Prayer in the Original Aramaic By Stephen Andrew Missick <https://mario-gregorio.blogspot.com/2011/03/lords-prayer-in-original-aramaic-by.html>

¹⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avinu_Malkeinu

been spending days, weeks, months, wandering all over Judea and Galilee following Yeshua. They were hoping he was the promised one, the one greater than Moses, the Messiah, Savior King of all Nations. He was not what they had expected. This was not how they thought it would be. His words were puzzling. Yet they saw astounding miracles. The power, the Spirit of God, was with him, in him. He was love, forgiving. Being with him was joy, peace, beyond explanation. Following him was better than anything, better than home. They were home being with him. Strange.

The scholars, the writings, had been saying many things about the Messiah. Years had been filled with intense speculation. The people knew God was moving, in their lifetimes. The Prophetic words were going to be fulfilled. The glorious Temple would be the Throne for the Messiah, Jerusalem the center of the nations. They could feel it, see it coming.

The teachers taught Scripture old and new, from the Torah of Moses to the new book of Enoch. The apocalyptic books¹⁵ were very popular, because they described the coming of the Messiah, the warfare, the glorious events, heavenly and satanic beings. Scholars competed to have their interpretation of when and how win over that of other scholars. Yeshua was one of a number of teachers about the end times and the will of God. He and John called for repentance announcing "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Yeshua was the only one of the teachers that had a record of many miracles. Maybe even more important, Yeshua had a spirit about him, loving, humble, gentle, forgiving. He did speak harsh words about those who were harsh, selfish, greedy. He was compassionate to the hurting and lost. He invited people to come to him. That was more important than knowing the when and how of future events. Those things were under his Father's control.

Every day after the rejoicing from the Water Drawing ceremony died down, Yeshua taught the crowds. The twelve were heralds so tens of thousands could hear his messages. They took turns going to the nightly celebration of light. One day his followers witnessed a

¹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1_Esdras https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2_Esdras https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Enoch https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Temple_Judaism https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_eschatology A number of messianic ideas developed during the later Second Temple Period, ranging from this-worldly, political expectations, to apocalyptic expectations of an endtime in which the dead would be resurrected and the Kingdom of Heaven would be established on earth. The Messiah might be a kingly "Son of David," or a more heavenly "Son of Man," but "Messianism became increasingly eschatological, and eschatology was decisively influenced by apocalypticism," while "messianic expectations became increasingly focused on the figure of an individual savior. According to Zwi Werblowsky, "the Messiah no longer symbolized the coming of the new age, but he was somehow supposed to bring it about. The "Lord's anointed" thus became the "savior and redeemer" and the focus of more intense expectations and doctrines." Messianic ideas developed both by new interpretations of the Jewish scriptures, but also by visionary revelations.

trap the leaders had for him.¹⁶ They brought a woman that had been caught in the act of adultery. Would he violate Roman prerogative and order her killed as the Torah required or violate Torah and not have her killed. By law the witness must throw the first stone. Yeshua added that he also had to be sinless. Frustrated again.

On the last day, "The Great Salvation", they circled the Altar seven times carrying palm branches shouting Hosannas. "Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation" Isaiah 12:3. The priest ascended the Altar, trumpet blasts silenced the crowd. The water was poured out. Yeshua, the twelve, stood on the balcony around the Middle Court. He called out in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink."¹⁷ They all knew who he was and the leaders despised him.

That evening just before the light show, Yeshua stood at the top of Nicanor steps, arrayed the twelve in a semicircle facing the middle court. The four great lamps on top of the high towers had just been ignited.¹⁸ Close to ten thousand filled the court. Yeshua made a loud cry, repeated by the twelve in unison. The crowd turned to him and quieted. He announced he was the light of the world. They knew the phrase. The teachers used it to refer to spiritual life and knowledge of God. They connected it with the coming of the Messiah. The scholars challenged him and again his answer, claiming to be from God, his Father, disturbed them even more.

The next Sabbath Yeshua encountered a young blind beggar.¹⁹ Instead of just saying some words, the way Yeshua healed him, violated all the traditions. It was not an emergency to save life, so forbidden. He mixed saliva and dirt, working on the Sabbath, forbidden. Applied the salve to the eyes, forbidden. He sent the man to the pool Siloam to wash. The route to the pool was the same one that was used for the Water Drawing procession. Everyone knew him and realized what had happened when he came back up, rejoicing he

¹⁶ John 8 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_and_the_woman_taken_in_adultery This and following stories have excellent commentary in "Chronicles of the Messiah" <https://ffoz.com>

¹⁷ John 7

¹⁸ Talmud Sukkah 5.2 See the illustration <https://www.ritmeyer.com/product/image-library/buildings/gates/the-nicanor-gate/> John 8

¹⁹ John 9 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Healing_the_man_blind_from_birth <https://hamashiach.com/messiah-in-sukkot/messiah-in-sukkot-chapter-1/> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pool_of_Siloam <https://waynestiles.com/the-pool-of-siloam-connecting-sukkot-and-the-messiah/> <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/biblical-archaeology-sites/the-siloam-pool-where-jesus-healed-the-blind-man/> <https://web.archive.org/web/20050917114323/http://www.bib-arch.org/siloam.pdf> http://jewishroots.net/library/holiday-articles/water_libation_ceremony.html

could see. When the man was seen in the Temple, there was great consternation among the leaders and scholars.

Back on the road, traveling to towns and cities, preaching and healing. This time Yeshua went through Galilee to Tyre and Sidon, Gentile territory. Most of the crowd that followed him dropped out. This was a welcome respite from the constant demands of the crowd. Yeshua, the twelve and the close followers had time to talk among themselves and listen to Yeshua. None of them had ever been to Phoenicia. They had heard about the great port and city Sidon. They looked at the large ships and cargo from all over the Great Sea. Yeshua was skilled with his hands and wanted to see the glass pieces that Ennion made.²⁰ Ennion showed Yeshua his shop but did not allow him to watch how he accomplished his glassworks. There was a local woman who sought him out when she heard the healer from Galilee was there. The followers learned again all people, even outsiders, were included in the Kingdom of God.²¹

When they came back to Galilee the crowds began to swell. He had his close followers take boats to the other side of the Sea and went into Decapolis. They spent some time there in the different cities. The crowds were much smaller, still some came for healing and to listen. When the word spread he was back in Galilee the crowd came back. They had become very hungry, so Yeshua fed them. Four thousand this time. He sent them away and he and his people took boats away.

Bethsaida²² was one of the larger towns. It had room enough for Yeshua. Philip, Peter and Andrew's families were happy to see them back. A few from there had followed Yeshua. They all had followed the news about him. Of course there was time for teaching and healing. The followers talked with the people there, answering their questions and sharing what they had heard and seen. Yeshua continued to head north until they came near the great spring, the source of the Jordan River. Caesarea Philippi²³ was a center of Pagan worship of the god Pan.

²⁰ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ennion>

²¹ <https://weekly.israelbiblecenter.com/gentiles-dogs-jewish-jesus/>

²² <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethsaida> <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/news/where-is-biblical-bethsaida/>

²³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caesarea_Philippi https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_the_Tetrarch <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herodias>

The followers of Yeshua were not comfortable that he had been going into Gentile territory. Phillip the Tetrarch expanded the city, naming it for himself and Caesar. He made it his capital. It was cold with some snow in the winter. It was his favorite place to reside in his old age. His reign had not been hurt when his wife left for Antipas.

Yeshua had been imprecise in speaking about himself, causing much speculation about who he really was. Surrounded by the majestic scenery, and pagan shrines he asked them who they thought he was? They had been with him for a long time, watching what he did and listening to what he said. He was not just a man, not even like a very great man. It was not just hope clouding their eyes. He could only be the promised Messiah, the Son of God.²⁴ He replied with a phrase that took them a while to understand. He said church instead of synagog. They did almost mean the same thing.²⁵ He also said some other things to them that caused much thought. They were given the Keys to the Kingdom and the authority to bind and loose.²⁶

Dedication was drawing near, Yeshua wanted to be there. It was a long way to Jerusalem. They did not stop in every little village and town. Half way back, he took a rest day and took Peter, James and John to the top of a nearby mountain²⁷. When they came back was obvious something had happened. The three would not talk about it.

²⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confession_of_Peter

²⁵ Church / Synagog in Greek and Hebrew are different words but almost the same meaning. Synagog is more about the meeting. Church is more about calling people to the meeting. Jesus' followers used the words to differentiate the old way of human meetings from the new way in Jesus. See the supplement. "Jesus Came to Establish the Church" http://thesignofconcord.com/uploads/Jesus_Came_to_Establish_the_Church__1_.pdf

²⁶ <https://weekly.israelbiblecenter.com/binding-loosing-first-century-style/> The Sanhedrin had authority to rule on religious matters. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keys_of_the_kingdom He is giving them authority apart from the council. He is establishing a new organization, a new structure. It is not based on human decisions on the letters of Torah but on the person, Jesus, Messiah. Binding, loosing, teaching doctrine must not violate the words of Scripture. It concerns the application of those words in practice and conduct. <https://weekly.israelbiblecenter.com/jesus-and-the-judean-authorities/> Jesus had already clearly demonstrated that the Council had no authority over him.

²⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transfiguration_of_Jesus https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transfiguration_of_Jesus

Questions:

What was it like traveling with Jesus on his ministry?"

How did Jesus announce "Come to me and drink" and He was "the light of the world"? There were 150,000 ecstatic worshippers in the Temple.

How were formal dinners set up that allowed outsiders free access?

What is the difference between Jesus' way of prayer and synagog prayer?

What authority did Jesus claim and confer on his followers?

Were there more than two sermons in the countryside?

Did Jesus only send followers out to witness once?

I avoid quoting Jesus as much as possible. It is better for the reader to read His words as recorded in the Gospels

The Gospels record the events of Jesus' life. They do not include the background information everyone knew at the time they were written. This is one of a series of stories that includes that background faithful to what is known about the history and culture. I hope this provokes-in a good way-the reader to think deeply about the Scriptural account. Go to my web site for more. <http://thesignofconcord.com> . These are in the section titled "King of Kings". There is also a section titled "King of Kings Supplements" with additional information.

If you do not think this reflects the culture and historic situation, how would you tell the story?

Many thanks to my patient wife Lynne for repeatedly proofreading.

This is meant for non technical readers. The footnotes are links to the documentation.

Notes:

This is one of a series of stories that attempt to make an accurate portrayal of the culture and history of the times in which Jesus lived. Go to my web site for more. <http://thesignofconcord.com>

If the reader discovers any historical inaccuracy, please send me the corrections and evidence. Please feel free to pass it on to others. Thanks to my patient wife Lynne for repeatedly proofreading. I excel at creative spelling and punctuation. . ConcordDove@mac.com

This is meant for non technical readers. For them Wikipedia is a good reference. Scholars are able to find scholarly references for the following footnotes.