

John 7:1-14

Verse 1

The time lapse between chapter 6 and chapter 7 is ~ six months. [John 6:4](#) records that the “Passover was near” and chapter 7 involves the feast of booths. Passover takes place in March/April, the Feast of Booths takes place in Sept/October. Even though He had not been in Judea for over half a year the hatred for Him continued to fester. From this point on the intense hatred for Christ will be elevated all the way to His death. The gospel according to John does not give any information on what was happening in this 6-month gap, but the other three synoptic gospels do give some information. During this time, He has intimate time of training and discipling the disciples. He revealed hard truths and also continued to work miracles. It was during this time that He revealed to them for the first time that He was to die soon and then rise from the dead. He also would tell them that they would be hated, persecuted, and suffer for His sake. During this time the transfiguration on the mountain found in [Matthew 16](#) occurred. He is preparing them and training them. As mentioned in the great commission ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)), Jesus puts a premium on discipleship.

Verse 2

The Feast of Booths or Tabernacles ([Leviticus 23:39-44](#)) (also known as Sukkot) was an Old Testament Feast that was the last of the fall festivals and was held in conjunction with Israel's harvest of grapes and olives at the end of the agricultural year. It was a time of celebration and a time to remember their wilderness journey. This feast was one of the three that each Jewish male was required to attend (Booths, Passover, and Pentecost-[Exodus 23:14-17](#)). During the wilderness journey the Jewish people made and lived in tents and in this festival people made tents/booths/tabernacles as a remembrance of that time. The people lived in these tents/booths for 7 days.

Verses 3-5

It was a requirement for Jewish males to ascend on Jerusalem to attend the Feast of Booths. Jesus who fulfilled the whole righteous requirement of the law would keep this requirement and attend this festival. However, He would do it on His own terms and time which were set and determined by the plan and time of the Father.

Jesus' own brothers (James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas-[Matthew 13:55](#)) did not believe in Him as the Messiah. They thought they knew Jesus, but they really didn't know Him. This is the sad truth with so many people who think they know Christ, but don't know the Jesus of the Bible or believe His words. This also speaks to the inability of a person to see the truths of God and believe until it has been granted ([John 6:65](#)) by the Father as Jesus' own family who had seen His perfect life still didn't believe. His brothers would eventually be granted the ability to come to Christ and believe as noted in [Acts 1:12-14](#).

Even though His brothers did not believe they still had a desire to have Jesus go to Judea and they want Him to go now. They were desiring His works be done in the open and not in secret since His ministry in Galilee had focused on the border and fringe regions of Galilee. There are multiple opinions on why they wanted Him to go to Judea since they were not believers in Him as Messiah. Although we do not know the motive for certain, one theory is that they may be wanting to ride the coattails of the fame Jesus had received by the miracles He had performed. The people had earlier wanted to make Him king because of His miracle ability ([John 6:15](#)) and perhaps the brothers wanted Him to be more open about this ability which could bring them gain in many aspects. The exact intent is not stated.

Verse 6

Despite His brothers wanting Him to go to Judea, He informs them that He is not on their timeline but is rather on the timeline of the Father. We see a similarity between this and His conversation with His mother at the wedding at Cana in [John 2:3-4](#). Jesus' hour in view was that which He would die on the cross for His sheep.

Verses on His hour: [John 7:30](#), [John 8:20](#), [John 12:23,27](#), [Mark 14:35,41](#)

Verse 7

Jesus tells His brother that the world can't hate them because they are of the world and the world does not their own. However, the world hates Jesus because He came to testify that their deeds were evil.

- **John 15:18-20** “If the world hates you, ¹⁴you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.
- **John 17:14-16** I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them ¹⁵from ¹⁵the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
- **John 3:19-20** This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

Verses 8-10 Jesus was going to the Feast of Booths as He fulfilled all righteousness, but He was on a heavenly timeline, not one that was set by other people even His brothers. His brothers went ahead to Judea, Jesus would come later at the perfect time.

Verse 11 If we recall what was mentioned in verse one of this chapter, the Jews mainly the scribes and Pharisees were wanting to kill Him. The Jews knowing Jesus was a Jew and was to attend to this feast began to question where He was.

Verses 12-13 There were mixed opinions among the Diaspora that had gathered in Jerusalem concerning Jesus. Some were saying He was a good man (this fell way short of who He is) and others accused Him of being a deceiver and leading people astray. He is more than a good man, teacher, or a prophet. He is second person of the Godhead, the eternal Son of God who came in the flesh. Believing that Jesus is God is a necessity to be a true Christian. We must believe in the Jesus of the Bible. Jesus Himself claimed His deity and it is His words that we must believe which so many are offended by and refuse to believe. If you don’t believe in the Son, you don’t have the Father. He will also be accused of being a deceiver after His death in **Matthew 27:63**. He was not the deceiver, but rather those who did not believe Him or His word were children of the great deceiver, the Devil (**John 8:44**). The people didn’t discuss this opening for they were afraid of the Jews and what they may do.

Verse 14 With the increasing hatred that was pointing directly at Him, Jesus goes up to the temple in the middle of the feast and among the multitude gathered begins to teach. Those gathered were going to hear the words that are life and spirit. It would be those words that they were to believe and without belief in His words, one would not have eternal life. Some would find His words to be life and others would despise His words with their hatred toward Him growing as a result. It would be the words and the claims of Christ that would lead to His death all under the sovereign plan and timeline of God.

*What are your thoughts about the words and teachings of God? The world hates God and the words of God and as a result will hate us. However, the believer should love and cling to every word of God that we find in His sacred scriptures as His words are spirit and life. You must believe the words of God to have eternal life. There are no other words that give us life everlasting as Peter had declared, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.” This is the message that we as believers must take to the world that hates Christ. They must know it is futile to look for peace, joy, and life outside of Christ. Jesus was on a Divine timeline in His earthly ministry and was always at the right time, the right place, with the right people, and performing the right actions under the perfect sovereign time desired by His Father. His hour would come by way of the cross to which He would redeem His people. One day on the Divine timeline, Christ will come to gather His bride and judge the living and the dead. Those who don’t believe His gospel and His words will suffer the wrath of God forever, but those who believe in His gospel and His words will have eternal life because the words that they believe in are spirit and life. In the wilderness the tents were made with foliage of beautiful trees, palm branches, and boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook (**Lev 23:40**) which was to remember God dwelling with them in the wilderness. Jesus became flesh and eskenosen (tabernacled us, pitched one’s tent) and dwelt among us. It was at His triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday that the crowd waved palm branches as God was dwelling among them. In **Revelation 7:9-10**, we see that those who are dwelling with God and being in His tabernacle forever are noted to have palm branches “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; ¹⁰ and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” In **Revelation 21:4** in New Jerusalem we are in the tabernacle of God to dwell with Him forever. One day we will be finally being tabernacled by Yahweh in the Promised Land and our earthly tents (**2 Corinthians 5:1**) will be done away with in lieu of our permanent residence. We as exiles will take our first step home!*

