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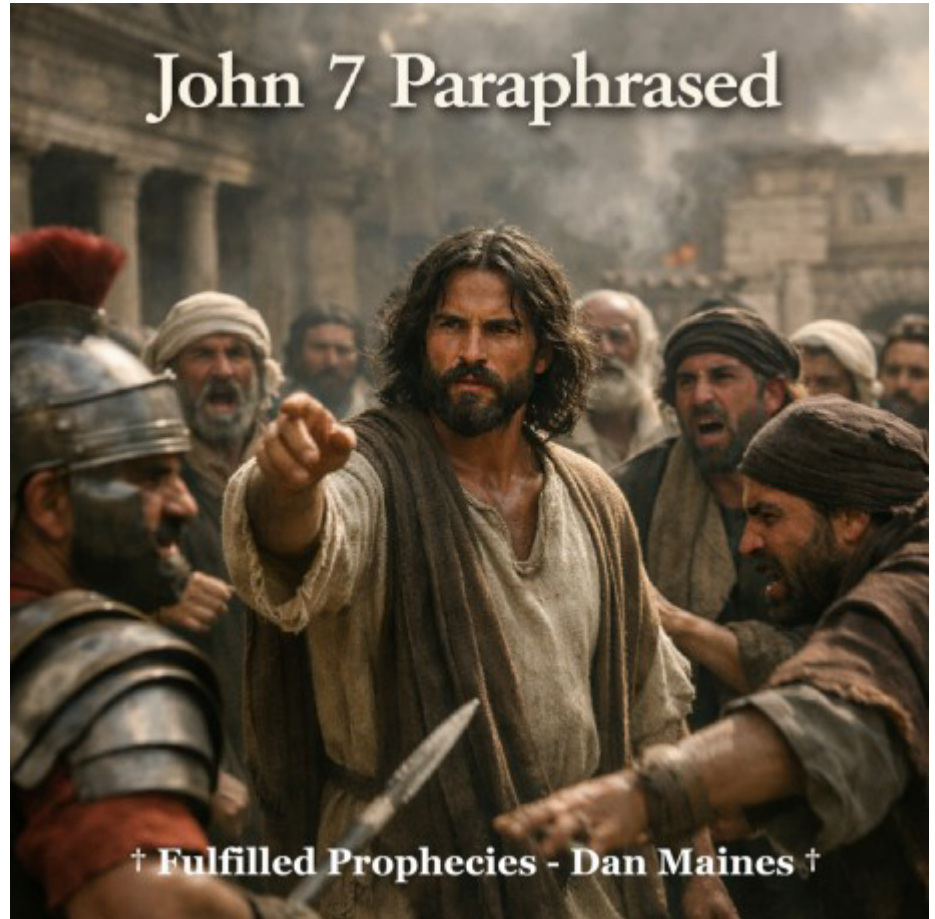
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John 7 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

John 7 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Jesus moves openly among the people while opposition grows, and everything is tied to timing, not failure (John 2:4)

† This chapter shows division, confusion, and the exposure of hearts as the old covenant system is nearing its end (Matthew 23:36)

† The focus is not future events, it's what was unfolding in their generation, leading to judgment on Jerusalem (Luke 21:20-22)

John 7:1

After this, Jesus moved around in Galilee, because he wouldn't stay in Judea since they were looking for a chance to kill him

† The leadership already had murder in their hearts, showing their rejection was deliberate (John 5:18)

† Jesus controlled the timing, he wasn't avoiding fear, he was fulfilling purpose (John 8:20)

John 7:2

Now the Feast of Tabernacles was near

† This feast pointed to God's dwelling with His people, which Christ was fulfilling (Leviticus 23:34)

† The timing is important, this was a major national gathering

John 7:3

So his brothers said to him, leave here and go to Judea so your disciples can see your works

† They misunderstood his mission and thought in earthly terms (John 6:26)

† Even those close to him didn't yet believe

John 7:4

No one acts in secret if he wants to be known publicly, if you do these things, show yourself to the world

† They were pushing him toward public display, not understanding divine timing

† This reflects worldly thinking, seeking recognition

John 7:5

For not even his brothers believed in him

† Unbelief existed even in his own household (Mark 3:21)

† This shows how hidden truth was before the cross

John 7:6

Jesus said, my time hasn't come yet, but your time is always ready

† His mission followed a set timetable, not human pressure (John 12:23)

† The world operates on its own timing, but Christ doesn't

John 7:7

The world can't hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil

† Truth exposes darkness, that's why hatred rises (John 3:19-

20)

† The issue wasn't misunderstanding, it was conviction

John 7:8

Go up to the feast yourselves, I'm not going yet because my time hasn't fully come

† Again, timing is central to everything Jesus does

† He isn't avoiding the feast, he's controlling the moment

John 7:9

After saying this, he stayed in Galilee

† He remains until the appointed time

† Nothing is random in his movements

John 7:10

But after his brothers went up, he also went, not openly but quietly

† He moves with intention, not for show

† His mission wasn't about public spectacle

John 7:11

The Jews were looking for him at the feast and saying, where is he

† They were actively searching, not out of faith but hostility

† Tension was building

John 7:12

There was much whispering among the crowd, some said he's good, others said no, he's misleading people

† Division always follows truth (Luke 12:51)

† People choose sides based on their hearts

John 7:13

But no one spoke openly about him because they feared the Jews

† Fear of authority silenced truth (John 9:22)

† This shows the power structure controlling the people

John 7:14

About the middle of the feast, Jesus went into the temple and began teaching

† He steps forward at the right moment

† His authority comes from truth, not position

John 7:15

The Jews were amazed, saying how does this man know so much without being trained

† They judged by their system, not by truth

† They couldn't recognize divine authority

John 7:16

Jesus answered, my teaching isn't mine, but his who sent me

† He points directly to the Father

† His authority is divine, not human

John 7:17

If anyone wants to do his will, he'll know if the teaching is from God or if I speak on my own

† Obedience reveals truth (Psalm 25:14)

† The issue is willingness, not lack of evidence

John 7:18

Whoever speaks on his own seeks his own glory, but the one who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is true

† Christ exposes false motives

† True teaching points to God, not self

John 7:19

Didn't Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps it, why are you trying to kill me

† He exposes their hypocrisy (Romans 2:21-23)

† They claim the law but break it

John 7:20

The crowd answered, you have a demon, who's trying to kill you

† Denial and accusation replace truth

† This is how truth is often rejected

John 7:21

Jesus said, I did one work and you all marvel

† Referring to healing on the Sabbath (John 5:8-9)

† They focused on rules instead of mercy

John 7:22

Moses gave you circumcision, and you do it on the Sabbath

† He exposes inconsistency

† They allow some works but condemn others

John 7:23

If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, why are you

angry at me for making a man completely well

† Their judgment was selective

† Mercy should outweigh tradition

John 7:24

Don't judge by appearance, but judge with right judgment

† True judgment looks at truth, not surface

† They judged wrongly because of bias

John 7:25

Some people of Jerusalem said, isn't this the man they're trying to kill

† Awareness of the plot was spreading

† The tension was public

John 7:26

Look, he's speaking openly and they say nothing, have the rulers decided he's the Christ

† Confusion grows among the people

† Authority influences perception

John 7:27

But we know where this man is from, when the Christ comes, no one will know where he's from

† Their expectations were flawed

† They misunderstood prophecy

John 7:28

Jesus cried out, you know me and where I'm from, but I haven't come on my own, he who sent me is true

† He confronts their false assumptions

† They knew him physically but not spiritually

John 7:29

I know him because I am from him and he sent me

† Clear claim of divine origin

† This challenges their entire system

John 7:30

They tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him because his hour hadn't come

† Timing again controls events

† God restrains their actions

John 7:31

Many believed, saying when the Christ comes, will he do more signs than this man

† Some saw the evidence clearly

† Faith was growing despite opposition

John 7:32

The Pharisees heard the crowd and sent officers to arrest him

† Authority reacts to preserve control

† Truth threatens power

John 7:33

Jesus said, I'm with you a little longer, then I go to him who sent me

† He speaks of his departure

† Time is short

John 7:34

You'll seek me and not find me, where I am you can't come

† Refers to separation after judgment

† They would miss their opportunity

John 7:35

They wondered where he would go

† They thought physically, not spiritually

† Their understanding was limited

John 7:36

What does he mean by this

† Confusion continues

† They couldn't grasp spiritual truth

John 7:37

On the last day of the feast, Jesus cried out, if anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink

† He fulfills the meaning of the feast

† He is the source of life (Isaiah 55:1)

John 7:38

Whoever believes in me, rivers of living water will flow from within him

† This points to the Spirit

† Life flows through believers

John 7:39

He spoke of the Spirit, who hadn't yet been given because

Jesus wasn't yet glorified

† The Spirit would come after fulfillment (Acts 2:1-4)

† This ties to covenant transition

John 7:40

Some said, this is truly the Prophet

† Recognition of prophecy

† Some saw clearly

John 7:41

Others said, this is the Christ, but others questioned his origin

† Division continues

† Misunderstanding blocks belief

John 7:42

They argued about where the Christ would come from

† They misapplied scripture

† Knowledge without understanding

John 7:43

So there was division among the people

† Truth always divides

† Hearts are revealed

John 7:44

Some wanted to arrest him, but no one touched him

† Again, timing restrains them

† God's plan stands firm

John 7:45

The officers returned without him

† They failed to carry out orders

† Something stopped them

John 7:46

They said, no one ever spoke like this man

† His authority was undeniable

† Truth impacted even the officers

John 7:47

The Pharisees answered, have you also been deceived

† Pride rejects truth

† They dismiss instead of examine

John 7:48

Have any rulers believed in him

- † They appeal to authority
- † Truth isn't determined by majority

John 7:49

This crowd is ignorant and cursed

- † They insult the people
- † Arrogance blinds them

John 7:50

Nicodemus said, does our law judge a man without hearing him

- † A voice of reason appears
- † Justice requires fairness

John 7:51

Does it judge without knowing what he does

- † He challenges their process
- † The law they claim to uphold is ignored

John 7:52

They answered, are you from Galilee too

- † They respond with mockery
- † Truth is rejected through insult

John 7:53

Everyone went to his own house

- † The moment ends, but tension remains
- † Events are moving toward fulfillment

Historical References

- † Josephus records the unrest and division among the Jews leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem
- † Eusebius writes about the growing conflict between believers and Jewish leadership in the first century
- † Irenaeus speaks of the rejection of Christ by Israel and the resulting judgment

How It Applies To Us Today

- † Truth still divides, people either receive it or reject it (John 3:21)
- † Religious systems can still resist truth when it threatens control (Matthew 15:8-9)
- † We must judge with right judgment, not by appearance or tradition (John 7:24)
- † The living water Christ gives is life now, not something future

(John 4:14)

† God's timing is perfect, nothing happens outside His plan
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Q & A Appendix:

Q: Why did Jesus delay going to the feast

A: Because his time was controlled by the Father, not by human pressure (John 7:6)

Q: What caused division among the people

A: His teaching exposed hearts, leading some to believe and others to reject (Luke 12:51)

Q: What is the living water

A: It is the Spirit given through Christ, bringing life within (John 7:38-39)

Q: Why didn't they arrest him

A: His hour hadn't come yet, showing divine control over events (John 7:30)

Q: What does this chapter reveal about Israel

A: That they rejected truth despite clear evidence, leading to coming judgment (Matthew 23:36)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† John 7

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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