



THE “SILENT” YEARS

How the time between the Old and New Testament shaped the world of Jesus

Participant Guide

Crossroads Bible Church
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WEEK 1: THE CULTURAL LIFE OF GOD'S PEOPLE BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS

JEWISH "RELIGIOUS" LIFE

During the first century, there were several prominent institutions that stood at the center of Jewish life.

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- ★ _____ (destroyed during Babylonian Captivity) – one of the great losses in Jewish history.
 - ★ Centerpiece of Jewish _____
 - ★ Place where people met with God
 - ★ _____ only at the Temple
 - ★ _____ defiled and desecrated.
 - ★ _____

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- ★ " _____ "
 - ★ Israel had a "law" to live by since the _____
 - ★ Torah = Law or " _____ "
 - ★ After exile, _____ led a movement of intensive study of Scripture
 - ★ By Jesus' day, this movement was still developing, aiming to spell out more fully how God's Law should be followed. (This gave rise to the role of the _____).

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- ★ After the destruction of the temple, the Jews emphasized the _____ and _____ of the OT Law.
 - ★ Established as gathering places for _____.
 - ★ By the first century, synagogues were all over _____ and the surrounding countries.
 - ★ By the first century, the synagogue was the center of _____, _____, and _____ life.
 - ★ Synagogue activities included:

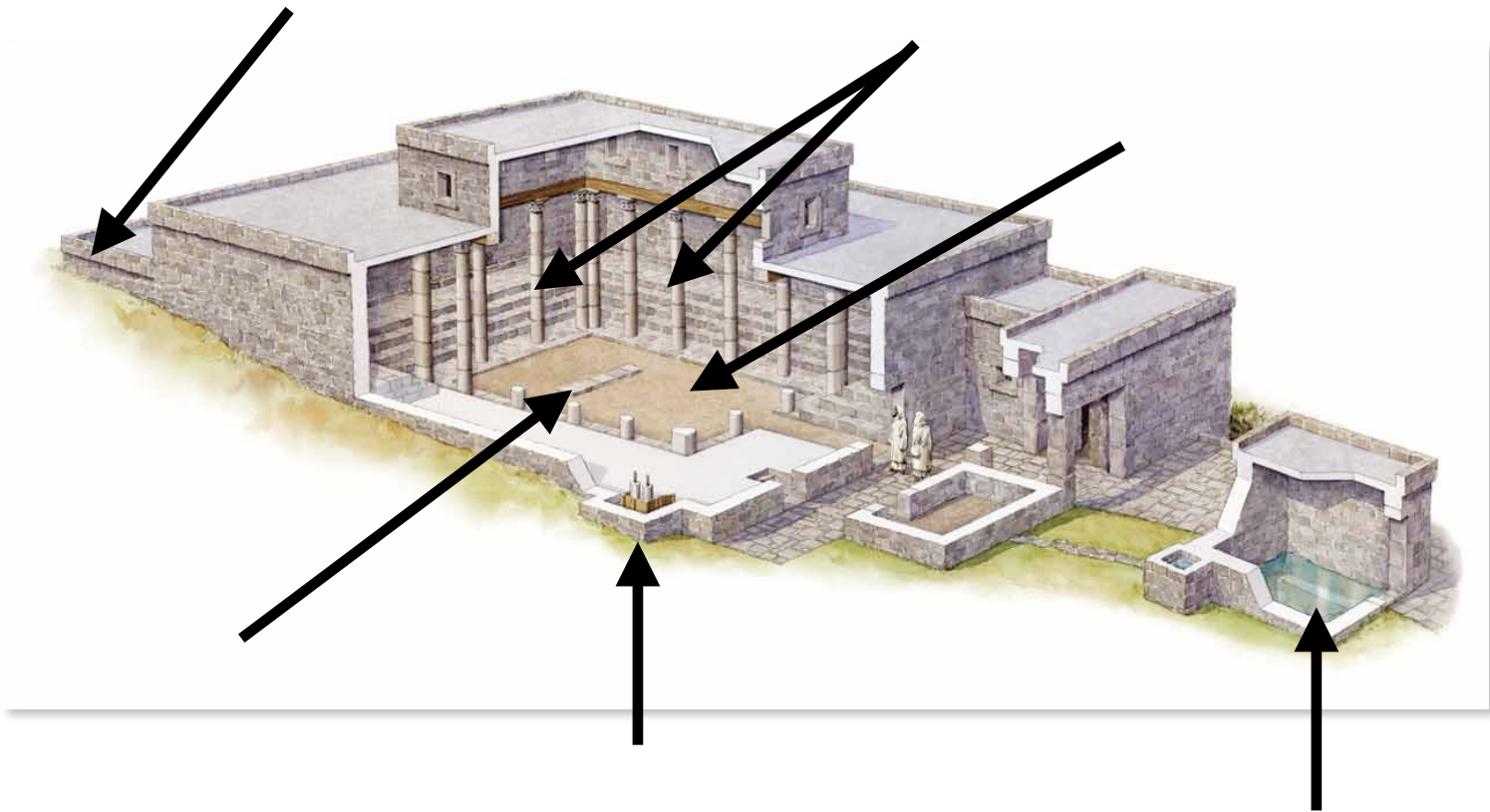
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- ★ Connected Jews to the _____ of their people - it is not just about us; we are a part of a bigger story
 - ★ Purpose: _____ and _____
 - ★ Weekly Sabbath - a _____ of the Jewish people
 - ★ Jewish Festivals (table below)

Festival	Purpose	Month
	Marking the Exodus from Egypt and beginning of grain harvest	April
		May-June
Trumpets or Rosh Hashanah	Beginning of Jewish new year	Sept-Oct
	Time of national repentance, fasting, and atonement	October
	Remembering the wilderness wanderings and completion of the grape harvest	October
Dedication or Hanukkah	Marks the rededication of the temple by the Maccabees	December
	Marks the deliverance of Israel in the time of Esther	March

Though the _____ was the visible center of religious life, by the first century, its significance was mostly symbolic and sentimental. The actual center of Jewish life in the time of Jesus was the _____.

The Synagogue



Additional Notes:

SYNAGOGUE GLOSSARY:

A _____ - “_____” prayers used as a part of the synagogue service

B _____ - An elevated platform where the _____.

C _____ - Reserved for the _____ of the community.

D _____ - A short teaching offered by the reader of the Torah or Haftarah in the synagogue.

Any _____ was eligible to speak _____, and it was frequently quite short.

H _____ - A reading from the _____ (or the Writings like Psalms, etc), read along with the weekly Torah portion.

H _____ - Synagogue _____ of the building, the scrolls, and organizing and leading the services.

M _____ - _____ for purification (not baptism or salvation). Shows commitment to God's path/the way of righteousness.

M _____ - Seat of honor for the Torah reader. Since Moses originally delivered the Torah to Israel at Mt. Sinai, the reader is standing in the place of Moses.

S _____ - A central Hebrew prayer from _____ (“Shema” means “Hear”, which is the first word of the verse - “Hear O Israel...”). This prayer was (and is) said by Jewish people both morning and evening.

T _____ - Location in the synagogue where the _____.

T _____ - A reading from the first _____ of the Bible (Genesis-Deuteronomy)

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Additional Notes:

SYNAGOGUE SCHOOL

BET _____

"House of the _____"

Subject: Studied the _____

Process: * _____

After this level, all would go and learn the family trade

.....

The best students would continue onto...

BET _____

"House of _____"

Subject: Studied the _____ & _____

Process: * _____ & Application

.....

After this level, the best of the best would seek to become a...

_____ = **DISCIPLE**

Studied with a _____

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Additional Notes: