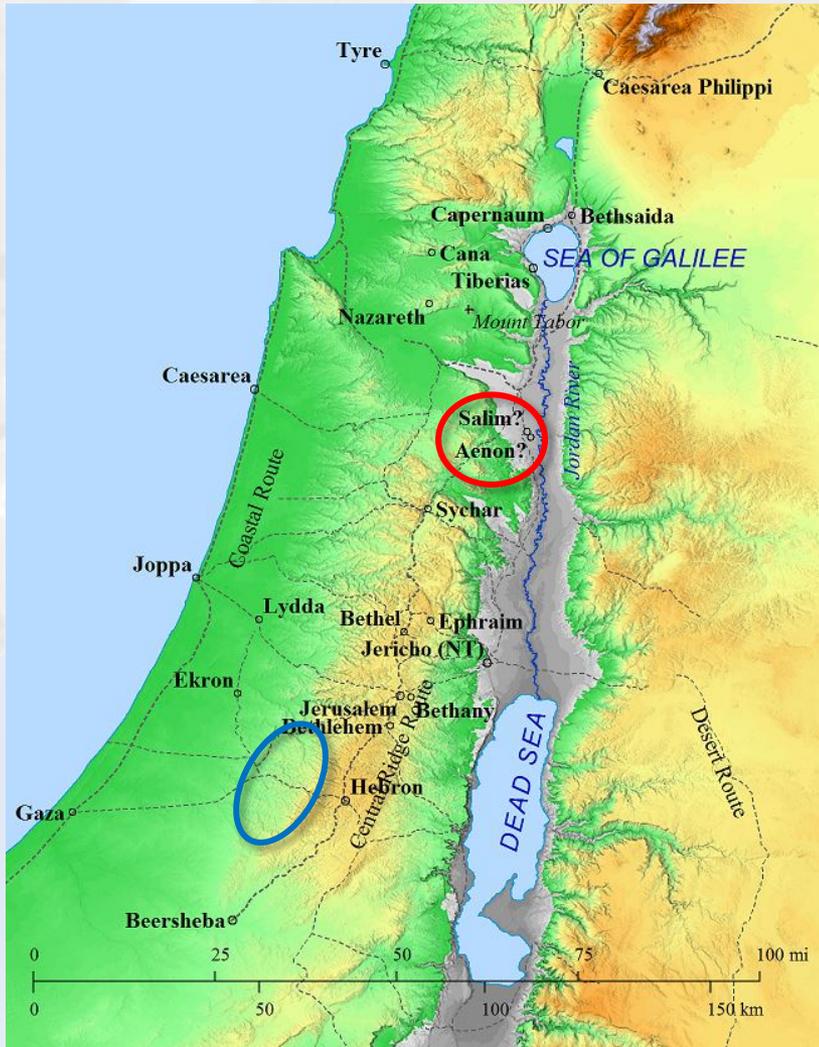


THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

Simultaneous ministry (3:22-23)

- Aenon near Salim
 - Approx 30 miles south of the Sea of Galilee
 - John continues to stay near the Jordan river to baptize
 - In the meantime, Jesus and His disciples are preaching and baptizing “in the Judaeian countryside”



A dispute arises (3:24-30)

- A dispute over “cleansing/purification”
 - It’s clear from the context that baptism is the issue
 - The conversation is not about:
 - The necessity of baptism
 - The method of baptism
 - The reason for baptism
 - No specifics given, but possible questions arise
 - Where to go for baptism: John or Jesus?
 - Is Jesus upstaging John?

A dispute arises (3:24-30)

- John reaffirms his position in relation to Jesus
 - 1:27, 30
 - John's role was preparatory
 - The superior replaces the subordinate
 - Inferior wine → Best wine
 - Bronze serpent → Son of Man

A dispute arises (3:24-30)

- An illustration: the friend of the Bridegroom
 - The *shashben* – the chief attendant
 - Arranger, inviter, presider, etc.
 - Of importance: temporary
 - He is necessary until his task is complete

Summary statement (3:31-36)

- Four relevant truths:
 - *“The One who comes from above is above all.”*
 - Jesus came from heaven and spoke with authority
 - *“He testifies to what He has seen and heard.”*
 - Jesus spoke from experience, not theory
 - *“For God sent Him and He speaks God’s words.”*
 - Jesus spoke the words of the Creator
 - *“The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hands.”*
 - God’s love for His Son caused Him to endow Him with complete authority

Summary statement (3:31-36)

- Four relevant truths:
 - These truths underline the superiority of Jesus over John
 - *“If we want information, we have to go to the person who possesses that information. If we want information about a family, we will get it first hand only from a member of that family. If we want information about a town we will get it first hand only from someone who comes from that town.”*

Summary statement (3:31-36)

- Four relevant truths:
 - These truths underline the superiority of Jesus over John
 - *“So, then, if we want information about God, we will get it only from the Son of God; and if we want information about heaven and heaven’s life, we will get it from Him who comes from heaven.”*

Summary statement (3:31-36)

- Four relevant truths:

- These truths underline the superiority of Jesus over John
- *When Jesus speaks about God and about heavenly things, says John, it is no carried story, no second-hand tale, no information from a secondary source; He tells us that which He himself has seen and heard.*

To put it very simply, because Jesus alone knows God, He alone can give us the facts about God, and these facts are the gospel.

Summary statement (3:31-36)

- A choice to be made:
 - Accept these truths or refuse them
 - Both choices have a result:
 - *“The one who believes the Son will have eternal life”*
 - *“...but the one who refuses to believe in the Son will not see life; instead the wrath of God remains on him.”*
 - Sole mention of “wrath” in John’s writings
 - GR, *orge*, “settled anger”