

John 7–10

The **Feast of Tabernacles** (also called **Feast of Booths** or **Sukkot**) forms the **backdrop for John 7–10** and provides rich symbolic context for many of Jesus’ statements. Below is a breakdown of **which scriptures in John 7–10 occur during or because of Jesus’ trip to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles**.



Feast of Tabernacles Context:

- **Feast Duration:** 7 days + 1 (the “great day” on the 8th day) — see Leviticus 23:33–36
- **Location:** Jerusalem (pilgrimage festival)
- **Timing in John:** Begins in **John 7:2** and is the setting through at least **John 10:21**, with a transition to the **Feast of Dedication** in **John 10:22**



John 7–10 Breakdown: Feast of Tabernacles Timeline

Passage	Event	Relation to the Feast of Tabernacles
John 7:1-2	Jesus stays in Galilee	Introduces that the "Feast of Booths was at hand"
John 7:3-10	Jesus’ brothers urge Him to go; He goes secretly	Sets the stage for Jesus’ arrival during the feast
John 7:11-13	People murmuring about Jesus	Occurs during the feast, but before Jesus reveals Himself
John 7:14-24	Jesus teaches in the temple mid-feast	Happens "about the middle of the feast" (v.14)
John 7:25-31	Public reaction to His teaching	Ongoing feast setting
John 7:32-36	Pharisees send officers to arrest Jesus	Still within the feast setting
John 7:37-39	Jesus’ great invitation: “If anyone thirsts...”	On the “ last and greatest day of the feast ” <i>Hoshanah Rabbah</i> (the Great Praise Day)
John 7:40-52	Division among the people; Nicodemus speaks up	Final events during the feast
John 8:1-11 (Textual note)	Woman caught in adultery	Not in earliest manuscripts; placement is debated. Probably 8th day of Assembly = Shemini Atzeret
John 8:12-59	Jesus says: “I am the Light of the World”	Likely still during the feast , linking to the lamp-lighting ceremony at the Temple
John 9:1–41	Healing of the man born blind	May have occurred soon after the feast, still in Jerusalem
John 10:1–21	Good Shepherd discourse	Continues Jesus’ teaching in Jerusalem post-feast
John 10:22	Feast of Dedication begins	New time marker; ~2 months later than Tabernacles



Key Themes Tied to the Feast:

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- **John 7:37-39 – Living Water:** At the water-pouring ceremony, Jesus invites people to come to Him to drink.
- **John 8:12 – Light of the World:** Tied to the lighting of giant lamps in the Temple courtyard during the feast.
- **John 9 – Healing the Blind Man:** Follows the theme of light vs. darkness.
- **John 10 – Good Shepherd:** Builds on the idea of God shepherding His people through the wilderness (a key theme during Tabernacles).

Here's a verified overview of the key scripture passages in John 7–10 that take place during Jesus' visit to Jerusalem for the **Feast of Tabernacles** (Sukkot):

John 7:1–52 – Feast of Tabernacles Events

- **John 7:2** — “The Feast of Booths was at hand,” situates the entire chapter firmly in the Tabernacles festival period
- **John 7:10** — Jesus goes up to Jerusalem “not publicly, but as it were in secret,” part of the Tabernacles pilgrimage
- **John 7:14** — “About the midst of the feast” Jesus teaches in the temple courts
- **John 7:37–39** — On the “last and great day” of the feast, during the water-pouring ceremony, Jesus proclaims:
“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink...”
This aligns with the Feast's ritual of pouring water from the Pool of Siloam

John 8:12 – "I am the Light of the World"

- This declaration occurs shortly after the Feast, but it draws directly on the **lamp-lighting ceremony**—giant lamps and torches illuminating Jerusalem during Tabernacles

John 9:1–41 – Healing of the Man Born Blind

- While John doesn't specifically say it happens at the Feast, it follows directly after and continues themes of **light versus darkness** rooted in the Tabernacles lamp symbolism .

John 10:1–21 – Good Shepherd Discourse

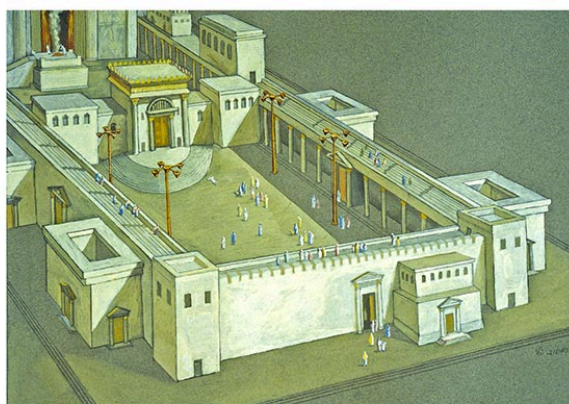
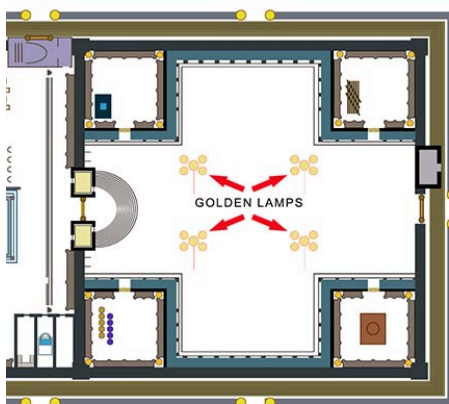
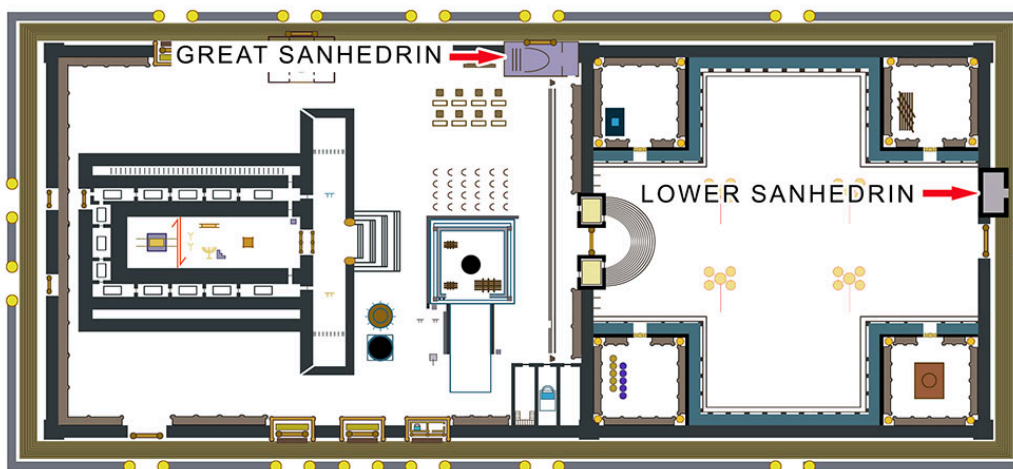
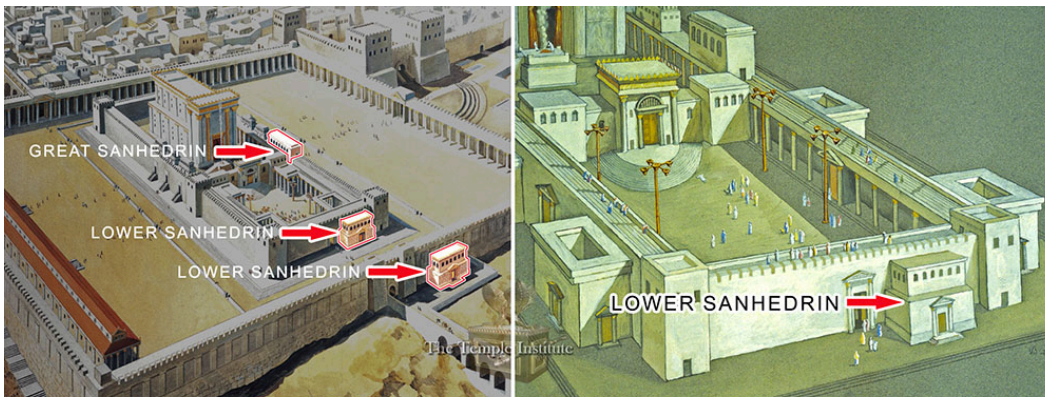
- Occurs within the same timeframe and setting: Jesus teaching in Jerusalem soon after the feast, weaving in imagery of **shepherding God's people**, echoing Israel's wilderness Tabernacle theme .
- **John 10:22** marks the start of the **Feast of Dedication** (~two months later), signaling the close of the Tabernacles setting .

Summary

- **Definitely during Tabernacles:**
 - *John 7:2, 10, 11–14, 25–31, 32–36, 37–39, 40–52*
- **Drawing heavily from feast symbolism—even if slightly after:**
 - *John 8:12–59* (Light imagery)
 - *John 9* (Themes of light & spiritual sight)
 - *John 10:1–21* (Wilderness/Tabernacle echoes)

This aligns with scholarly consensus: John sets chapters 7–10 against the backdrop of the Feast of Tabernacles to deepen themes like water, light, and shepherding in light of ancient Jewish rituals

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