

Then Jesus Went Back Across the Jordan

John 10: 40-42

As **Christ's** ministry progressed, the spiritual distance between **His** sheep - **His** own - and the unbelieving world grew wider. The truth **He** proclaimed about **Himself** and **His** mission was **the Shepherd's** voice calling **His** sheep to follow: this truth not only identified **His** enemies, however, it also incited them to violence. Later, **the Chief Shepherd** would tell **His** talmidim that the purpose for **His** confronting the apostate religious authorities with the truth was to give an occasion for them to consummate their sin (**John 15:22-25**). As the feast of Dedication came to a close, **Jesus** retreated from the Holy City of David. **He** had important work to do **across the Jordan**. **Christ** continued **His** ministry, not in hopes of reversing the trend, but rather to teach the Twelve concerning their ministry on **His** behalf. The division between non-believers grew steadily wider, though not yet to the point of breaking. That would happen soon enough.¹⁰⁷¹

For **Jesus**, time was running out, and **He** knew it. The great Galilean campaign was over, and the religious authorities in Jerusalem were looking for an opportunity to murder **Him**.¹⁰⁷² Herod Antipas had killed **the forerunner** (see FI - **John the Baptist Beheaded**), leaving his disciples without a leader. Unlike the religious leaders in the Sanhedrin, they compared the predictions of **the forerunner** to the works of **Yeshua** and responded in belief. Therefore, **Yeshua** would give **Himself** during **His** last months to an effort to evangelize Perea. **The Savior of sinners** was not running away; on the contrary, **He** was preparing **Himself** for the final contest.¹⁰⁷³ Once more **the Jordan** flowed between **Jesus** and **His** bitter enemies.

Then **Jesus** went back across the **Jordan** to Perea, the place where **John the Baptizer** had been baptizing in the early days. The place to which **Jesus** went is most significance. **He** went to the place where **the Forerunner** had baptized **Him**. It was there that the voice of **God** had come to **Him** and assured **Him** that **He** had made the right decision and was on the right path. It would often do our souls a world of good to make a pilgrimage to the place where we first found **YHVH**. When Jacob fled to Haran for his life because he thought Esau would kill him, **God** found him at Bethel (see **Genesis Hd - Jacob Saw the Angels of God Ascending and Descending**). And after the disastrous results of his disobedience at Shechem, Ya'akov went back to Bethel (see **Genesis Ig - Jacob's Spiritual Renewal at Bethel**). When Jacob needed **God**, he went back to the place where the pre-incarnate **Messiah** had found him. Therefore, **the Son of Righteousness**, before the end, went back to the place where the beginning had happened.¹⁰⁷⁴

There He stayed, and many people poured in from the surrounding parts of this province and **came to Him. John the Baptizer**, even though dead, was still having influence in people's lives as they remembered **his witness. They said: Though John never performed a sign, all that John said about this man, Yeshua ha-Meshiach, was true. And** undisturbed by the evils of pharisaic Judaism, **in that place many** simple-minded, faithful followers **believed in Jesus (John 10:40-42).** These were the posthumous children of **the Immerser.** And so, all who are sown for **Christ**, who have labored in faith and gone to rest in hope, though they lie buried in the ground will at the trumpet of **God**, spring up and ripen to everlasting joy.¹⁰⁷⁵