JOHN 11

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

the seventh sign — a friend four days dead, a Savior who weeps, and a council that votes for His death

> *"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?""*
> JOHN 11:25–26

A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

Where we are in John

1. John 10 ended with Jesus out of reach of His enemies.

2. This is the seventh and greatest of the signs John chose to record (20:30–31) — after Cana, the official's son, the lame man at Bethesda, the five thousand, the walk on the sea and the man born blind.

3. Bethany lay on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives, "near Jerusalem, about two miles off" (11:18) — fifteen stadia in the Greek.

He Whom You Love Is Sick

Love that waits two days — and a walk back into the danger zone

JOHN 11:4

But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

DAVID GUZIK

The most remarkable miracle; Thomas's "cry of loyal despair."

R.C. SPROUL

Four days make death certain; the night of His soul has not yet come.

C.H. SPURGEON

Faith untried is little faith; the beloved get more of the rod.

MATTHEW HENRY

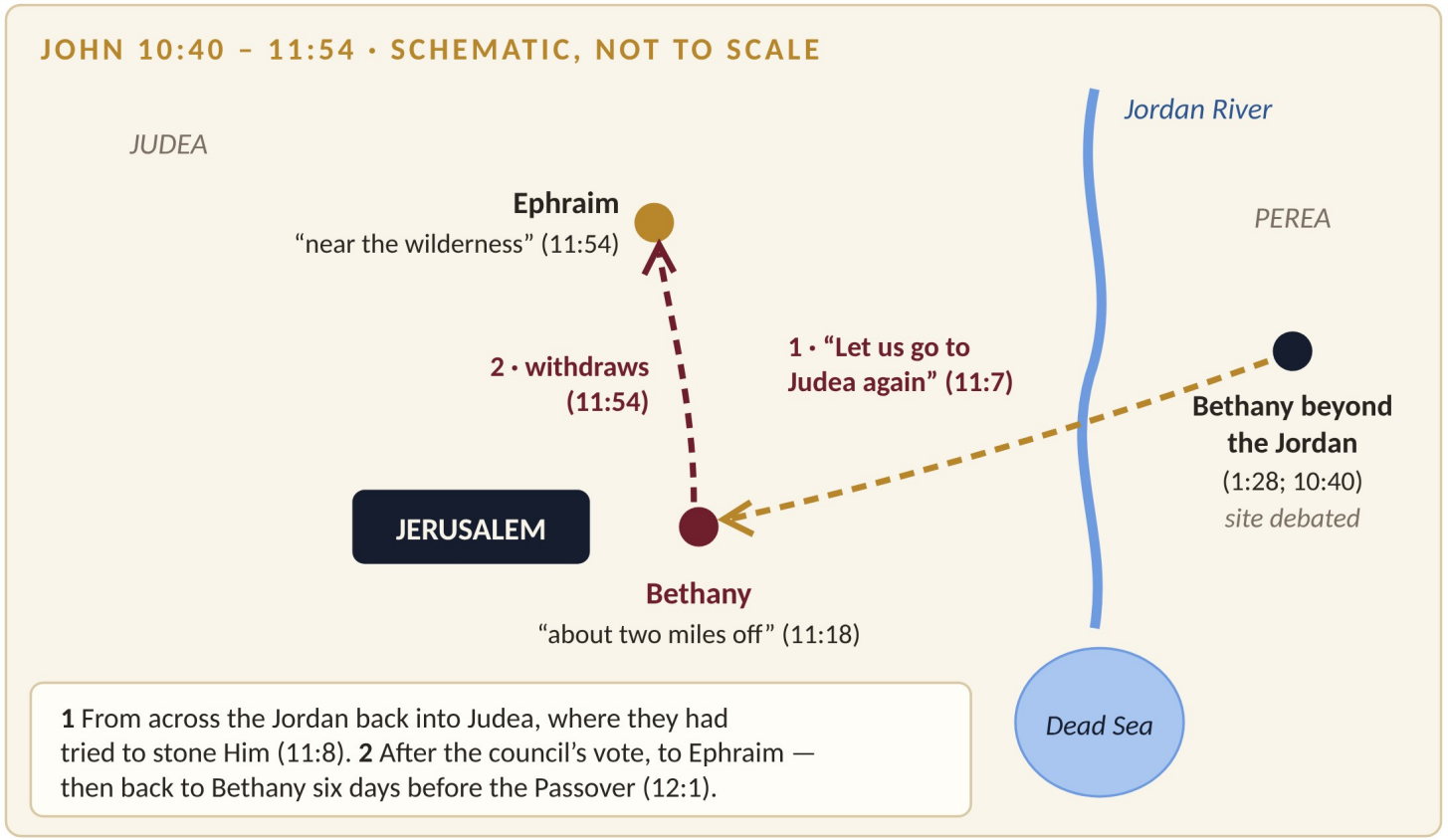
Plead His love; man's extremity is God's opportunity.

φιλεῖς … ἠγάπα

PHILEIS … ĒGAPA · "YOU LOVE … LOVED"

The sisters' message uses phileō (v. 3), the warm word of friendship — "he whom You are fond of."

Where John 11 happens



Follow the two journeys: back into Judea to a tomb two miles from Jerusalem, then away to Ephraim once the council has voted.

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

Four days in the tomb — and Martha's "last day" brought into the present tense

JOHN 11:25

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,

DAVID GUZIK

To have Jesus is to have resurrection and life.

R.C. SPROUL

"I don't just teach the resurrection"; thanatos is not zōē.

C.H. SPURGEON

Martha set the promise at a distance; look to the Promiser.

MATTHEW HENRY

Promised salvations come surely, but often slowly.

ἀνάστασις

ANASTASIS · "RESURRECTION"

Literally a "standing up again," from anistēmi, to stand up — the word Jesus uses in verse 23 ("Your brother will rise again," anastēsetai) and Martha echoes in verse 24.

Jesus Wept

Mary at His feet, mourners all around — and the Lord of life deeply moved at a grave

JOHN 11:33

When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled,

DAVID GUZIK

Quiet tears, not wailing; anger at death itself.

R.C. SPROUL

God does not know how to be late; He grieves before He fixes.

C.H. SPURGEON

No lightning without rain, no indignation without tears.

MATTHEW HENRY

He troubled Himself; tears of compassion make us like Christ.

ἐνεβριμήσατο

ENEBRIMĒSATO · "HE WAS DEEPLY MOVED"

Embrimaomai occurs only five times in the New Testament — twice here (vv. 33, 38) and three times of a stern warning or indignant rebuke (Matthew 9:30; Mark 1:43; 14:5).

The seven signs

THE SEVEN SIGNS JOHN CHOSE · JOHN 20:30–31

#	JOHN	THE SIGN	WHAT IT SHOWS · THE "I AM" BESIDE IT
1	2:1–11	**Water into wine at Cana**	*"manifested His glory" (2:11)*
2	4:46–54	**The royal official's son**	*healed from a distance*
3	5:1–9	**The lame man at Bethesda**	*ill thirty-eight years*
4	6:1–14	**Five thousand fed**	*"I am the bread of life" (6:35)*
5	6:16–21	**Walking on the sea**	*"It is I" (6:20)*
6	9:1–7	**The man born blind**	*"I am the Light of the world" (9:5)*
7	11:1–44	**Lazarus raised**	*"I am the resurrection and the life" (11:25)*

"These have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God" (20:31).

John records seven signs; the seventh is the greatest, and three of them stand beside an "I am" saying that tells what the sign means.

Lazarus, Come Forth

The stone removed, a prayer said aloud, a loud voice — and a dead man walks out bound

JOHN 11:39

Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days."

DAVID GUZIK

He plundered the grave; resuscitated, not resurrected.

R.C. SPROUL

Believing God, not just in God; noisy enough to wake the dead.

C.H. SPURGEON

Economical with miracles: human hands must unbind.

MATTHEW HENRY

Prayer may preach; the grave is no place for the quickened.

δεῦρο ἔξω

DEURO EXŌ · "COME FORTH"

Literally "Here! Out!" — deuro, an adverb used as a command, "come here," and exō, "outside."

One Man for the People

Belief and betrayal, a council's calculation — and a high priest who prophesied more than he knew

JOHN 11:46

But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done.

DAVID GUZIK

Logical but not moral; John's world-wide vision.

R.C. SPROUL

The king of the pragmatists; God speaks even through a donkey.

MATTHEW HENRY

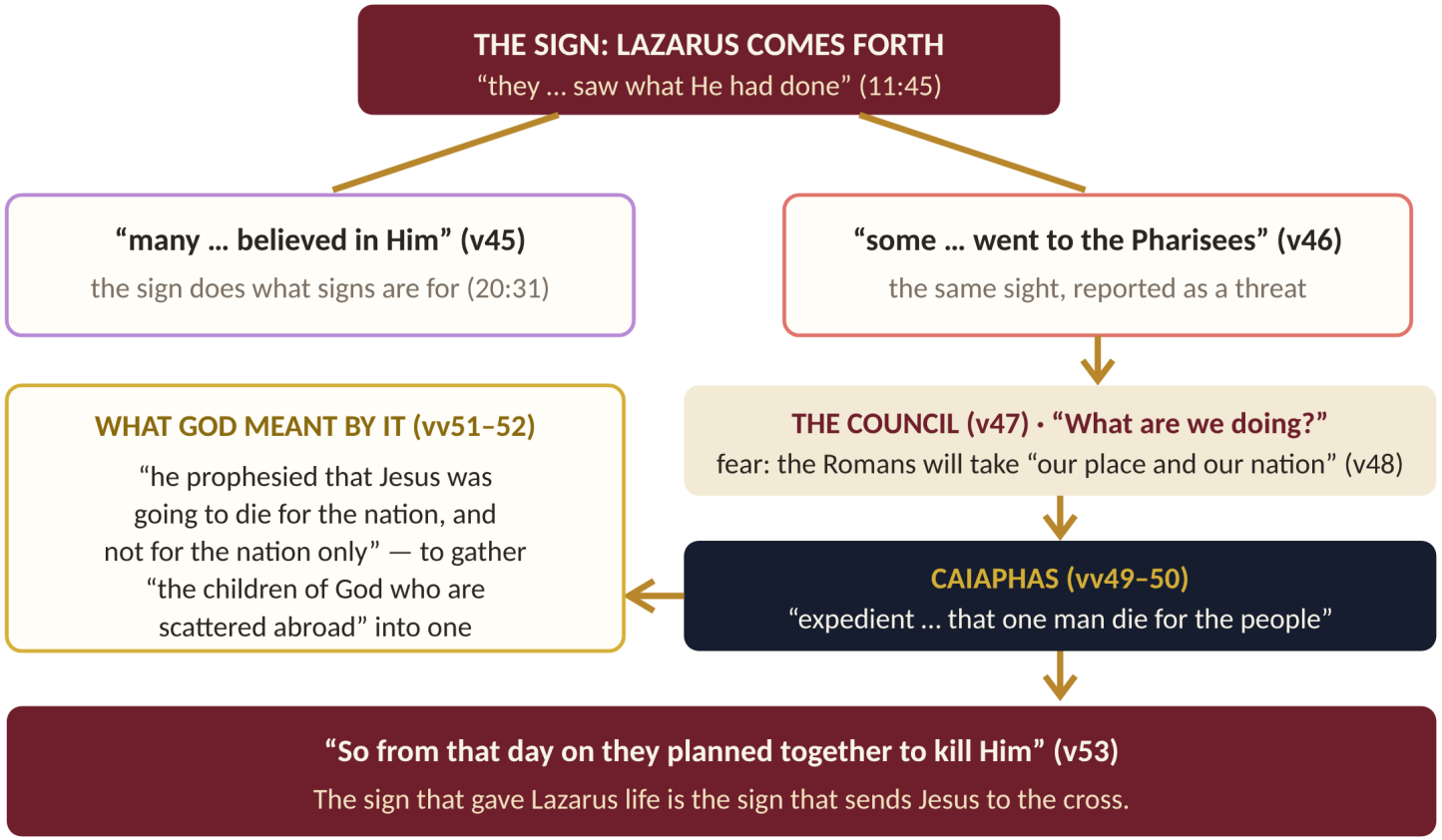
Pretended fears cloak malice; God overruled the prophecy.

συμφέρει

SYMPHEREI · "IT IS EXPEDIENT"

From sympherō, "to bring together," then "to be profitable, advantageous."

One sign, two responses



Read down the right side to see how unbelief turns a resurrection into a death sentence — and across to the left to see what God meant by it.

What to carry from this chapter

1

Love waited on purpose.

Verse 5 says Jesus loved them; verse 6 begins “So” — and He stayed two days.

2

The fourth day closed every loophole.

Sproul: Jewish belief held the spirit lingered about three days; by the fourth, no one could call it a revival.

3

Sleep is a word for waking up.

Koimaō (v. 11) is the New Testament’s word for believers who die (1 Thess 4:14).

4

Jesus brings the last day into the present tense.

Martha believed in the resurrection “on the last day”; Jesus said, “I am the resurrection.”

More to carry

5

He was angry before He wept.

Embrimaomai (vv. 33, 38) is indignation.

6

God weeps before He fixes.

Jesus knew what He was about to do and still wept.

7

Believing God is harder than believing in God.

Martha had confessed Him as the Christ (v. 27) and still balked at the stone (v. 39).

8

Christ raises; we unbind.

Only Jesus could call Lazarus out; anyone could loosen the cloths.

Talk it through

1. Where has God's timing felt like neglect to me — a prayer for someone I love that seemed to go unanswered for "two days longer"?

2. Martha believed the right doctrine about the last day. Where do I keep Jesus' promises at a safe distance instead of letting Him say "I am" about my situation today?

3. Jesus wept with people He was about to help. Who around me is grieving, and what would it look like to be present before I try to fix anything?

4. What "stone" am I afraid to let Jesus remove because of what it might expose — the stench of something long dead?

5. Lazarus came out alive but still bound. What grave-clothes am I still wearing — and which brother has Jesus told to help unbind me (or me to help unbind)?

CLOSING

John 11 begins with a man sick and ends with a Savior marked for death. In between, Jesus waits, walks into danger, weeps at a grave, and calls a dead man out by name. The One who said "I am the resurrection and the life" is the One who went to the cross so that everyone who believes in Him will never die. Do you believe this?

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the John study page.