



1 John

Walking in the Light

Love Others the Way God Loves

- Those who walk in the light will love others the way God loves
- 1 John 2:7–11 and John 13:34–35; 15:9–12
- This is a continuation of the verse before it, what it looks like to “walk in the same way in which He walked” (2:6).
- John told his readers this wasn’t a new commandment but one they’d had from the beginning. This was not unique to Jesus’ teachings in the Bible. He continued to express and expound on things that were written in the Mosaic Law (Leviticus 19:18).

Love Others the Way God Loves

- Yet John said it's also a new commandment.
- Jesus had also told His disciples it was a “new” commandment even though He had told them that the command to love God and love others is the very essence of the entire Mosaic Law.
- The “new” part was to love one another “just as I have loved you” (John 13:34). The command itself wasn't new, but having the perfect example of love in Christ was. Because the “true light” is shining, we can see what it means to really love other people (2:8).

Love Others the Way God Loves

- Later in this letter, John defined love by the love God showed us by sending Christ as a sacrifice for our sins (4:10), that Christ's laying down His life for us is how we know what love is (3:16; Romans 5:8).
- The very definition of love was made manifest in Jesus, His life and ministry, and His death and Resurrection.
- Because Christ came and showed us what love really is, we can love other people the way God does.

Love Others the Way God Loves

- Because God is light, the light has always been shining in the world. But when Christ came, that light was made manifest (1 John 1:5–10).
- John was saying that the darkness will not be completely gone until the final kingdom in the consummation (Revelation 21:22–24).
- This is the theological idea of inaugurated eschatology – the kingdom of God is already here in Christ, but not yet here in all its fullness.
- The complete eradication of evil is still yet to come (Revelation 21:1–5).

Love Others the Way God Loves

- We will sometimes struggle with people who are difficult to love. As a "fruit of the spirit," love is something we will continue to grow in throughout our lives. Love is a choice that we make to love someone, even when it's hard.
- Hate is a stumbling block that leads to tragic falls. The believer who loves as Jesus does avoids these problems.
- The one who walks in the light can see, avoiding spiritual falls. This doesn't mean they don't have obstacles in their path (temptation to sin) but that they can see them clearly and see the way around them (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Overcome the Evil One

- Those who know God will overcome the Evil One
- 1 John 2:12–14 and Romans 7:21–25; 8:37
- Numerous times in the letter, John called all his readers “little children” (2:28; 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21), later he said all believers are “children of God” (3:1, 10; 5:2).
- Here he alternated between talking to “little children,” “young men,” and “fathers,” representing stages of spiritual maturity.

Overcome the Evil One

- John was fighting a Gnostic belief that only those on some higher spiritual level really “know” God.
- Knowing Him isn’t just knowledge about Him, it’s having intimate fellowship with Him, abiding in Christ.
- In John’s statement, even the little children know the Father. Even the children can be assured their sins are forgiven.
- The young men are strong, the Word of God abides in them, and they have overcome the Evil One.

Overcome the Evil One

- Both lines about the “fathers” say the same thing – “You know him who is from the beginning.” This most likely refers to Jesus.
- Even for the most spiritually mature, their assurance isn’t found in what they do but only in abiding in Christ.
- Paul wrote that he counted everything else garbage compared to the “surpassing worth of knowing Christ” (Philippians 3:7–11).
- That was all that mattered to him.

Overcome the Evil One

- John told the “young men” twice that they had overcome the Evil One.
- This doesn’t mean we won’t still struggle. We are in a constant battle with evil, no matter how spiritually mature we are (Ephesians 6:10–18).
- He was assuring his readers that they already had victory in Jesus.
- Toward the end of the letter, John repeated this idea, that everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. Because our victory is based in our faith in Christ, not in our own maturity.

Overcome the Evil One

- We still struggle with temptation, but Christ has already conquered sin (John 16:33; Romans 6:11–14; Colossians 2:15).
- It may feel hard for us to overcome evil, but we have the strength because we have the Holy Spirit and the Word of God abiding in us.
- The Word of God, the sword of the Spirit, is the best weapon against evil (Ephesians 6:17). We don't have to be afraid.
- We can stand firm and fight because, as John said later, He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world (4:4).

Will Not Love the Things of This World

- Those who love God will not love the things of this world
- 1 John 2:15–17 and Romans 12:1–2 and James 4:4
- John, along with other New Testament authors, drew a clear line between these two kingdoms.
 - Paul said the desires of the flesh are contrary to the desires of the Spirit; they are in conflict with each other (Galatians 5:16–26).
 - James said choosing to be a friend of the world makes you an enemy of God (James 4:4).

Will Not Love the Things of This World

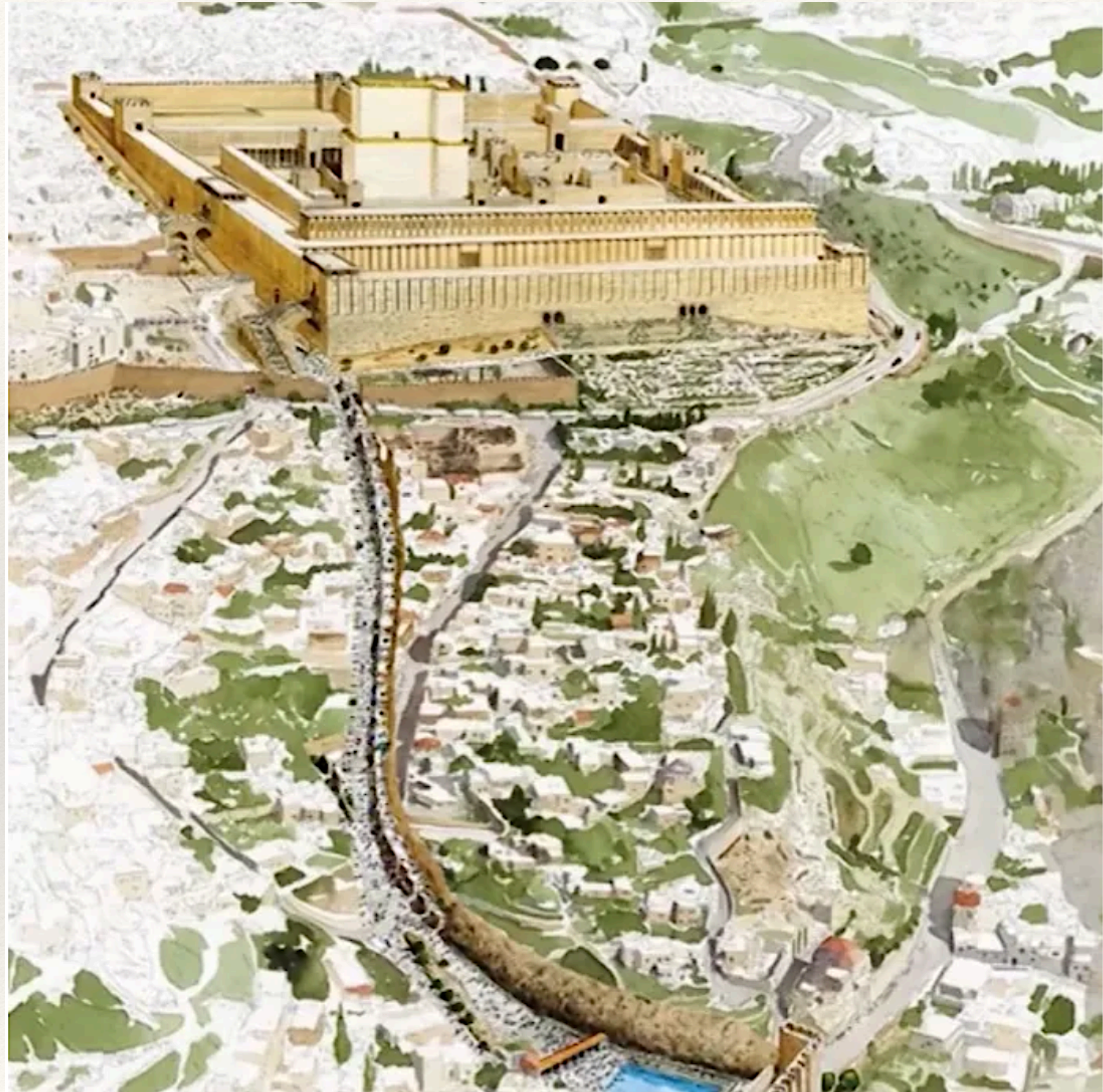
- When we love God, we choose to live differently. We choose not to be conformed to the pattern of the world but to be transformed by His Spirit (Romans 12:1–2).
- We take off the old self and put on the new self. Just as you cannot serve two masters, you cannot live with one foot in each world (Matthew 6:24).
- This doesn't mean we separate ourselves from the rest of the world in a "holy huddle" somewhere. We learn to live "in" the world but not "of" it.
- This is the message from John in his letter.

Archeological Discoveries



Pool of Siloam





John 9

***The pool of Siloam,
where Jesus healed the
blind man.***



Pool of Siloam



Pool of Siloam



King David's Palace



King David's Palace



Clay Seals



Isaiah the Prophet



Pontius Pilate - Caesarea Maritima



Pontius Pilate



Pontius Pilate

Pontius Pilate's Name Is Found on 2,000-Year-Old Ring



The ring bearing the name of Pontius Pilate was discovered in the late 1960s, one of thousands of artifacts found in the excavation of Herodium, an ancient fortress and palace south of Bethlehem, in the West Bank. Bernat Armangue/Associated Press

Pontius Pilate



A BIBLICAL VIEW ON
ARCHAEOLOGY



KERBY ANDERSON