



NEWSCAST 16. THE GATHERING STORM

..... The Festival of Tabernacles was one of the three major festivals of the Jewish religious year.

This festival was originally intended as a reminder of the exodus from Egypt. But in New Testament times it had the additional significance of being a time of prayers for rain after the dry summer months. Furthermore, it was probably a time when thoughts and prayers were particularly directed to the coming of the Messiah. Jesus' statement in the temple must be seen in the light of these Messianic aspirations.

Jesus' visit to Caesarea Philippi represented an important turning point in Jesus' ministry. The disciples at last firmly acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah, but he began to explain to them that his Messianic role was completely different from what they had expected — suffering and death were essential to his bringing in God's kingdom. Jesus rejected the idea of a triumphant military figure, interpreting his mission in the light of the suffering servant of Isaiah Chapter 53 and the son of man in Daniel Chapter 7.

Biblical references:

John Chapter 7 v.37-52;

John Chapter 6 v.66 – 71;

Mark Chapter 3 v.24 — Chapter 9 v. 1;

Mark Chapter 3 v.1 – 6.