

John 10:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.

Analysis

And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode (καὶ ἀπῆλθεν πάλιν πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου εἰς τὸν τόπον ὅπου ἦν Ἰωάννης τὸ πρῶτον βαπτίζων, καὶ ἔμεινεν ἐκεῖ, kai apēlthen palin peran tou Iordanou eis ton topon hopou ēn Iōannēs to prōton baptizōn, kai emeinen ekei)—Jesus returns to where His public ministry began, the site of John's testimony (John 1:28-34). The phrase πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου (peran tou Iordanou, 'beyond the Jordan') places Him outside Judean jurisdiction, providing temporary safety. ἔμεινεν (emeinen, 'He abode, remained') suggests extended stay, not mere passing through.

This strategic withdrawal serves multiple purposes: escaping immediate danger, allowing time for His message to resonate, and geographically connecting back to John's witness. Jesus returns to the beginning, where John testified 'Behold the Lamb of God' (John 1:29)—preparing for His journey back to Jerusalem for Passover sacrifice.

Historical Context

Bethany beyond Jordan (or Bethabara) was in Perea, territory ruled by Herod Antipas rather than the Judean authorities who sought Jesus's death. This provided temporary sanctuary. John had baptized there approximately two years earlier, and people still remembered his testimony about Jesus.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Why is it significant that Jesus returned to where John first testified about Him—what does this 'full circle' movement signify?
2. How does Jesus's strategic withdrawal demonstrate wisdom in ministry—knowing when to confront and when to retreat?
3. What does Jesus's return to John's baptismal site teach about the importance of testimony and witness in preparing hearts for Christ?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἀπῆλθεν πάλιν πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου εἰς τὸν τόπον
And went away again beyond G3588 Jordan into G3588 the place
G2532 G565 G3825 G4008 G2446 G1519 G5117

ὅπου ἦν Ἰωάννης τὸ πρῶτον βαπτίζων καὶ ἔμεινεν
where G2258 John G3588 G4413 baptized G907 And he abode G2532 G3306
G3699 G2491

ἐκεῖ

there
G1563

Additional Cross-References

John 1:28 (References John): These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.