

Episode #1-48 – What About the Greeks?

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. In John 12, the Lord has arrived at Jerusalem for the Passover, and we begin to trace out the events of the last few days before His death on the cross. Now, we read of the story of the Greeks who wanted to see the Lord.

III. John 12:20-36. The request of the Greeks.

- A. V.20. Greeks=Hellenes, Hellen was the legendary founder of Greece.
- B. V.21. See=get to know. Philip was the only disciple with a Greek name. Perhaps these were Greeks who lived in Galilee, so they might have known Philip.
- C. V.22. Andrew was of the “first group” of disciples, Philip of the second.
- D. V.23. The Lord had a timetable to follow. Now is the time for His glorification. He does not answer the question? Maybe means not time to minister to Greeks now.
- E. V.24. Double amen for emphasis. One grain of wheat produces many. “Dies” is only a figure, for truly dead seed would produce nothing.
- F. V.25. Life=soul, Greek *psuche* = desires, comforts. He who loves his comfortable life will lose it eventually. He who gives it up in this world will keep it ultimately. World = *kosmos*, system or order of things. Eternal = *aionion* = life in God’s eon
- G. V.26. What God asked at that time. His servants would be with Him. Could imply that these Greeks just wanted to meet Him out of curiosity.
- H. V.27. Soul=emotions. Because of the terror He was facing. Was not going to ask for rescue. He came to do this. He was not going to leave us lost!
- I. V.28. He IS going to say this. What an attitude! This was the “miracle of the voice,” since God has no organs of speech. He already glorified His name many times (in the Bible, and others not recorded,) is going to again through the death of His Son.
- J. V.29. They only heard a loud noise. Some thought it was thunder, others an angel. They did not know for certain what had happened.
- K. V.30. He answers their confusion. The voice was not for Him, but for them.
- L. V.31. Time for judgment? Now it is 2,000 years later. Judgment=*krisis*, a turning point. Think judging, not judgment. They would do the judging and cast the Ruler of this world out. Not Satan, but the Lord Jesus. This casting out only lasted 3 days!
- M. V.32. Here we can see He was referring to Himself. He will be lifted up, and so draw all people to Him. “Draw” not like a magnet drawing iron filings, but like drawing a glass of water=allow it to flow. Cp. John 6:44, 6:65. Settles the question of the Greeks. Only Jews have permission to come now. After the cross, this will change.
- N. V.33. He would be lifted up not by preaching, but referring to on the cross. Those stoned were thrown to the ground, those crucified were lifted up. So He reveals the manner of His death.

IV. Conclusion: The Lord did not seem interesting in ministering to the Greeks. He had a timetable He had to follow, and that would come later. Yet the Lord used this occasion to teach certain truths. He revealed what time it was: about time for His death on the cross. The Lord came to die. His death was no accident, but was all part of God’s plan.