

**LESSON 7 – THE SYNAGOGUE**

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Assignments: Tapes 13 & 14  
Textbook – Chapter 17  
Bible: None

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5) Maintenance

- (a) Annual temple tax
  
- (b) Gifts and offerings
  
- (c) Profit from the “bazaar”

B) The Synagogue

1) Meaning of the word

Hebrew - “bet kneset”: “house of assembly”

Greek - “sunagoge”: “a gathering together”

2) Origin and influence of the synagogue

- (a) Originated in the “diaspora,” probably either in Babylonia or Egypt
  
- (b) Widespread in New Testament times in Judea, Galilee, and as far as Rome (Acts 15:21)
  
- (c) Minimum of 10 males for a “minyan” or quorum – see Acts 16:13

3) Organization of the synagogue

- (a) Two men responsible  
“ruler of synagogue” (Mk. 5:22)

“attendant” (Lk. 4:20)

- (b) Scribes and Pharisees often provided visiting teachers, but there were no resident “rabbis” (an institution that appeared later)

#### 4) Worship of the Synagogue

##### Normal order of Sabbath Service

- (a) Reciting of the “Shema” (Dt. 6:4-9; 11:13-21; Num. 15:37-41)

- (b) Recitation by a leader of the “Shemoneh Esreh” (eighteen benedictions)

- (c) Reading of the “Law” (Torah)

- (d) Reading from the “Prophets” (Haftarah) - cf. Luke 4:17ff.

- (e) Delivering of the “Sermon” - cf. Acts 13:15-41

- (f) Pronunciation of “Aaronic benediction” (Num. 6:24-26)

#### 5) Communal Service of the Synagogue

- (a) A “community center” as well as place of prayer

- (b) A school for children

- (c) Officials served in floggings and excommunication  
Matthew 10:17; Luke 6:22; 2 Cor. 11:24 (Dt. 25:3)