

# Geography of the Life of Jesus

---

Matthew 4:18-25

## **12-17 – The Place of Jesus' Ministry**

- Galilee (12, 15)
- Nazareth (13)
- Capernaum - by the sea (13)
- Territory of Zebulun and Naphtali (13, 15)
  - Way of the sea (15)
  - Beyond the Jordan (15)
  - Region and shadow of death (16)

## **18-22 – The Followers of Jesus' Ministry**

- Sea of Galilee (18)

## **23-25 – The Extent of Jesus' Ministry**

- Galilee (23, 25)
- Syria (24)
- Decapolis (25)
- Jerusalem (25)
- Judea (25)
- Beyond the Jordan (25)

# Bible History

*“You may press the words of Luke in a degree beyond any other historian's and they stand the keenest scrutiny and the hardest treatment...I found myself often brought in contact with the book of Acts as an authority for the topography, antiquities, and society of Asia Minor. It was gradually borne in upon me that in various details the narrative showed marvelous truth.”*

- Sir William Ramsey

# Bible Prophecy

*“Declare in Judah, and proclaim in Jerusalem, and say, ‘Blow the trumpet through the land; cry aloud and say, Assemble, and let us go into the fortified cities! Raise a standard toward Zion, flee for safety, stay not, for I bring disaster from the north, and great destruction...””*

Jeremiah 4:5-6





# Bible Topography

*“Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.”*

Mark 7:31



# Israel

in  
Old Testament  
Times



10 Miles

MEDITERRANEAN SEA









# Geography of Jesus' life in Matthew 1-4

- Bethlehem (2:1-13)
- Egypt (2:14-20)
- Nazareth (2:21-23)
- Jordan River (3:13-17)
- The Wilderness (4:1-4)
- Jerusalem (4:5-7)
- A High Mountain (4:8-11)

# Geography of Jesus' life in the Gospels

- 30 years in Galilee
- 3 months in the wilderness (of Judea)
- 8 months in Judea
- A few days in Samaria
- 22 months in Galilee
- 3 months in Judea
- 3.5 months in Perea (east of Jordan)
- 1 week in Jerusalem
- 40 days in Jerusalem and Galilee

# Geography of Jesus' Life



***Why did Jesus settle in Galilee?***



## John 4:1-3

*“Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), he left Judea and departed again for Galilee.”*

## Isaiah 9:1-2

*“But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.”*

1. They have been called to walk in the light

*“O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.”*

Isaiah 2:5



2. They have been blinded in their wickedness

*“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”*

Isaiah 5:20

### 3. They have rejected the grace of God

*“Because this people has refused the waters of Shiloah that flow gently, and rejoice over Rezin and the son of Remaliah, therefore, behold, the Lord is bringing up against them the waters of the River, mighty and many, the king of Assyria and all his glory. And it will rise over all its channels and go over all its banks, and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel.”*

Isaiah 8:6-8

## 4. They have not sought God

*“And when they say to you, “Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter,” should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.”*

Isaiah 8:19–20



## 5. They have been plunged into darkness

*“They will pass through the land, greatly distressed and hungry. And when they are hungry, they will be enraged and will speak contemptuously against their king and their God, and turn their faces upward. And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.”*

Isaiah 8:21-22

## 6. They will witness the light of dawn

*“But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.”*

Isaiah 9:1-2



# Israel

in  
Old Testament  
Times



10 Miles

MEDITERRANEAN SEA



Ashdod

MANASSEH  
CANAANITES

Tirzah  
Shechem

GAD

MANASSEH

Hazor  
NAPHTALI

ZEBULUN

ISSACHAR

ASHER

DAN

Damascus

ARAMEAANS

HIVITES

Sidon

Tyre

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9



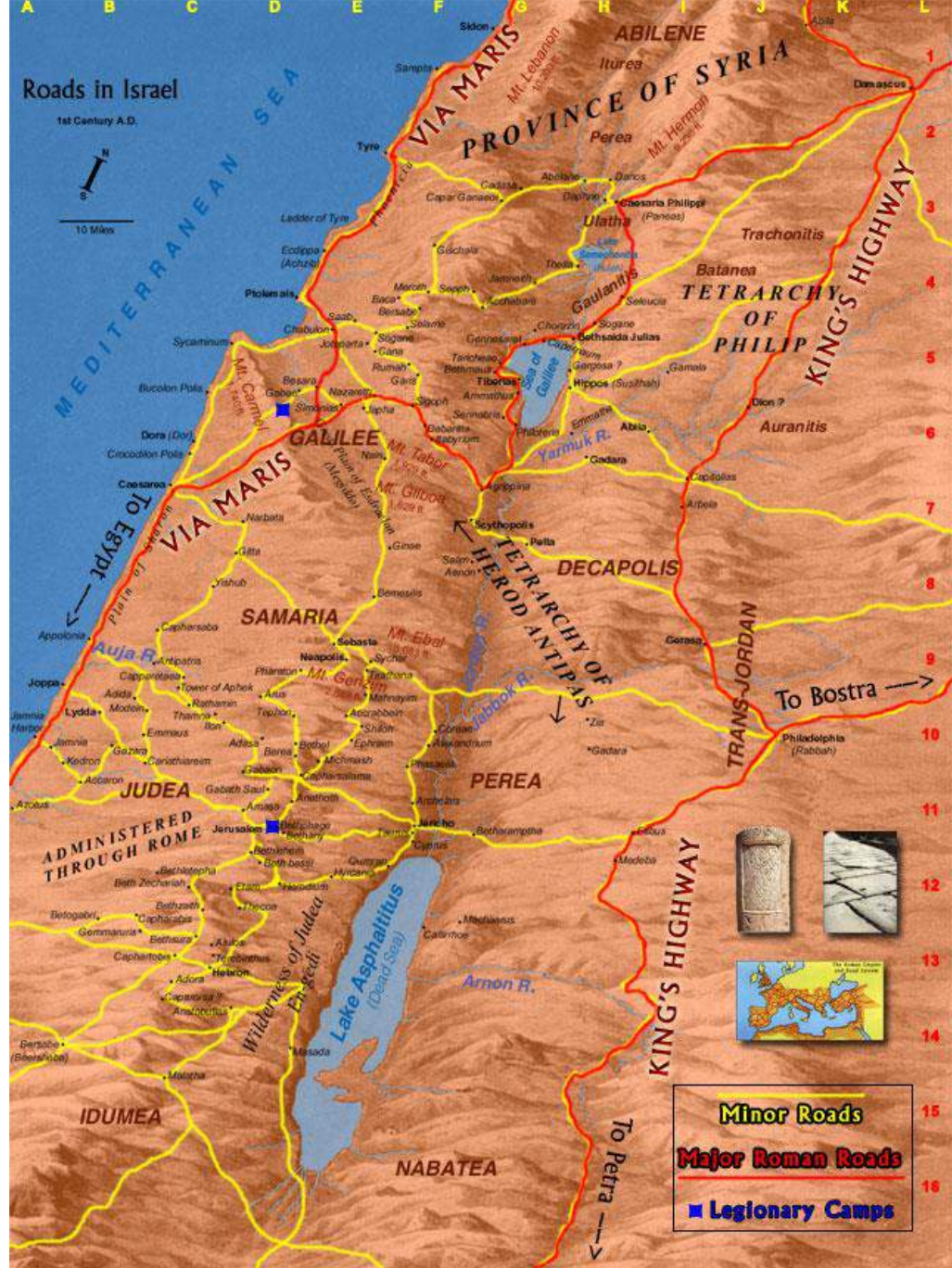


- "INTERNATIONAL ROUTES"**
- City
  - International Coastal Highway
  - King's Highway
  - Sea routes
  - Other routes



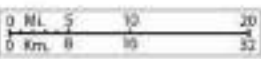
# Roads in Israel

1st Century A.D.



**Minor Roads**  
**Major Roman Roads**  
**Legionary Camps**





1. Acoo
2. Amon River
3. Bashan
4. Beersheba
5. Caesarea
6. Capernaum
7. Coastal Plain
8. Dead (Salt) Sea
9. Desert
10. Galilee (Lower)
11. Galilee (Upper)
12. Gaza
13. Gilead
14. Hebron
15. Hulah Valley
16. Jabbok River
17. Jaffa
18. Jenicho
19. Jersalem
20. Jezreel Valley
21. Jordan Rift Valley
22. Jordan River
23. Judea (Hil Country)
24. Judean Wilderness
25. Kir-heraseth
26. Lachish
27. Litani River
28. Megiddo
29. Mt. Carmel
30. Mt. Hermon
31. Mt. Nebo
32. Nazareth
33. Negov
34. Plateau
35. Rabbath-Ammon
36. Samana (Hil Country)
37. Sea of Galilee
38. Sharon Plain
39. Shechem
40. Shephelah
41. Tyre
42. Yarmuk River

## Matthew 28:16-20

*“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”*

## Matthew 4:24–25

*“So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.”*



What are the effects of the light of  
Jesus in our lives?

1 Peter 2:9; Psalm 107:14; Isaiah 42:16; Acts 26:18;  
1 John 1:7; Psalms 36:9; 2 Cor. 4:6; Ephesians 5:8