BIBLE TOPICS · NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus' Ministry

From the Jordan to Jerusalem · c. A.D. 27–30

About 3 Years	12 Apostles	20+ Miracles	7 "I Am" Sayings
c. A.D. 27–30	Chosen after prayer	Told in detail	In John's Gospel

C. A.D. 27–30

From the Jordan to Jerusalem

The ministry of Jesus moves in eight stages.

1

Preparing the Way

John baptizes Jesus; Jesus overcomes temptation.

MATTHEW 3–4

2

The First Signs

Water into wine, Nicodemus, the woman at the well.

JOHN 2–4

3

The Kingdom Comes to Galilee

Rejected at Nazareth, He makes Capernaum His home.

LUKE 4

4

Teaching with Authority

The Sermon on the Mount and the parables.

MATTHEW 5–7

5

Mighty Works

Storms stilled, the sick healed, thousands fed.

MARK 4–6

6

The Turning Point

Peter's confession and the transfiguration.

MATTHEW 16–17

7

The Road to Jerusalem

The prodigal son, Lazarus raised, Zacchaeus.

LUKE 9:51–19:27

8

The King Comes

Palms, the temple cleansed, the Last Supper.

MATTHEW 21–26

KEY VERSE

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Mark 1:15 (KJV)

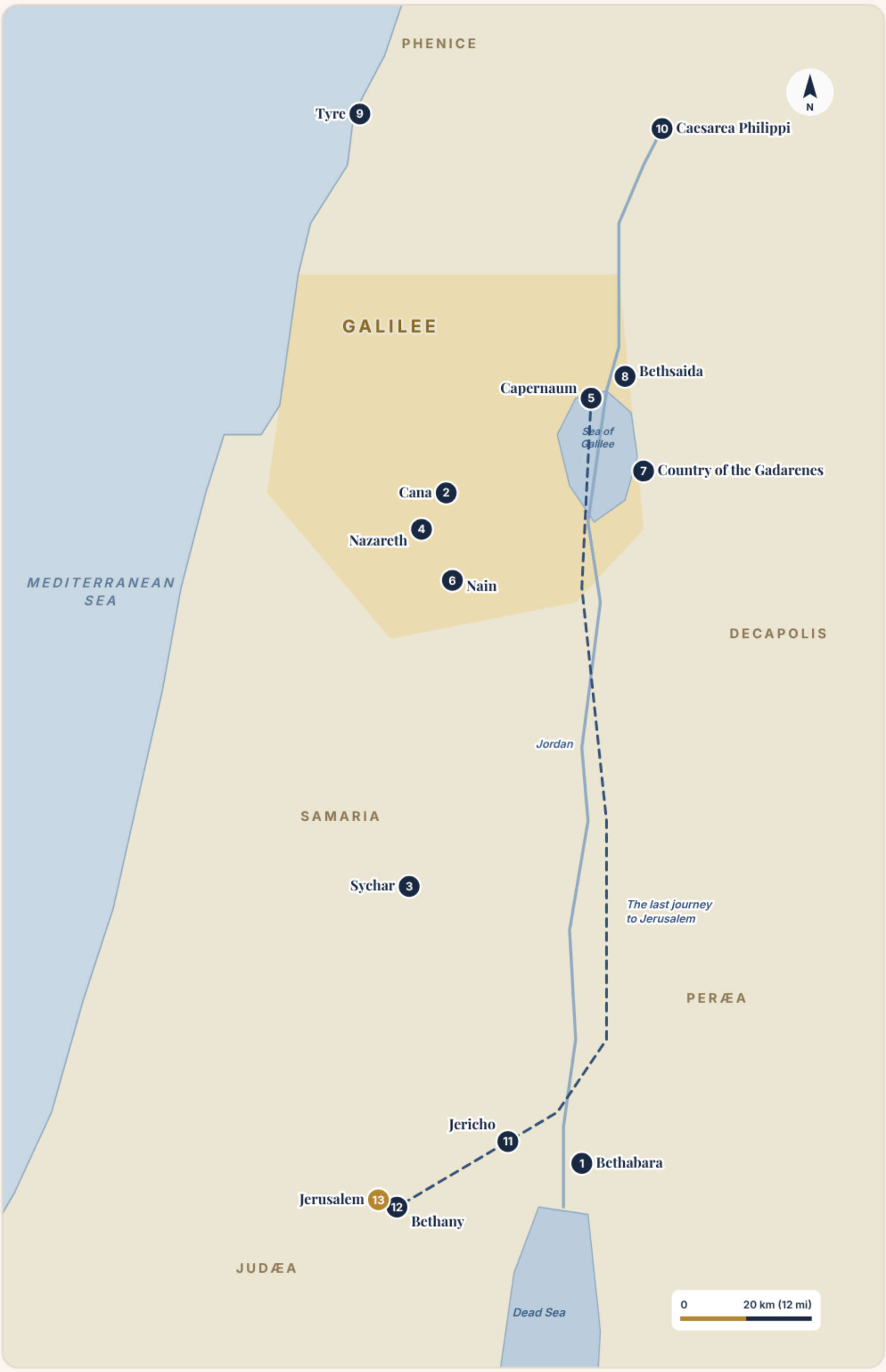
Where Jesus Ministered

MATTHEW · MARK · LUKE · JOHN

Where Jesus Ministered

From the Jordan to Jerusalem

c. A.D. 27–30 · Positions approximate



THE PLACES IN ORDER

1. **Bethabara** — John baptizes Jesus — JOHN 1:28–34
2. **Cana** — Water turned into wine — JOHN 2:1–11
3. **Sychar** — The woman at the well — JOHN 4:5–42
4. **Nazareth** — His hometown rejects Him — LUKE 4:16–30
5. **Capernaum** — His home base by the sea — MATTHEW 4:13
6. **Nain** — A widow's son raised — LUKE 7:11–17
7. **Country of the Gadarenes** — Legion cast out — MARK 5:1–20
8. **Bethsaida** — Five thousand fed nearby — LUKE 9:10–17
9. **Tyre** — The Syrophenician woman — MARK 7:24–30
10. **Caesarea Philippi** — Thou art the Christ — MATTHEW 16:13–20
11. **Jericho** — Bartimaeus and Zacchaeus — LUKE 19:1–10
12. **Bethany** — Lazarus raised — JOHN 11:1–44
13. **Jerusalem** — The feasts and the final week — MATTHEW 21:1–17

"Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom"

MATTHEW 9:35

Bethabara, Sychar and the country of the Gadarenes cannot be located exactly; positions are approximate.

BibleStudyForAll.com · Scripture quotations from the King James Version

The Sermon on the Mount and the Parables

HIS TEACHING

The Sermon on the Mount and the Parables

Matthew 5–7 gathers Jesus' teaching on life in God's kingdom into one sermon. A parable is a short story from everyday life that teaches a truth about God's kingdom; the Gospels record about forty.

MATTHEW 5:3–12

The Beatitudes

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

MATTHEW 5:3

MATTHEW 5:13–16

Salt and Light

"Ye are the light of the world."

MATTHEW 5:14

MATTHEW 5:17–48

The Law Fulfilled

"I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."

MATTHEW 5:17

MATTHEW 6:5–15

The Lord's Prayer

"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name."

MATTHEW 6:9

MATTHEW 6:25–34

Do Not Worry

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness"

MATTHEW 6:33

MATTHEW 7:12

The Golden Rule

"all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them"

MATTHEW 7:12

Sixteen Parables to Start With

The Wise and Foolish Builders

Build on hearing and doing Jesus' words.

MATTHEW 7:24–27

The Sower

Good ground bears fruit.

MATTHEW 13:1–23

The Wheat and the Tares

Good and evil grow together until the harvest.

MATTHEW 13:24–30

The Mustard Seed

The kingdom starts small and grows.

MATTHEW 13:31–33

The Treasure and the Pearl

The kingdom is worth everything.

MATTHEW 13:44–46

The Unforgiving Servant

Those forgiven much must forgive.

MATTHEW 18:21–35

The Labourers in the Vineyard

God's grace is generous, not earned.

MATTHEW 20:1–16

The Good Samaritan

A neighbour is anyone who needs mercy.

LUKE 10:25–37

The Rich Fool

Be rich toward God.

LUKE 12:13–21

The Lost Sheep and Coin

Heaven rejoices over one sinner who repents.

LUKE 15:1–10

The Prodigal Son

The father runs to welcome his son home.

LUKE 15:11–32

The Pharisee and the Publican

God justifies the humble.

LUKE 18:9–14

The Wicked Husbandmen

Rejecting the Son brings judgment.

MATTHEW 21:33–46

The Ten Virgins

Be ready for the Bridegroom.

MATTHEW 25:1–13

The Talents

Use what God has entrusted to you.

MATTHEW 25:14–30

The Sheep and the Goats

What we do for the least, we do for Christ.

MATTHEW 25:31–46

The Miracles of Jesus

HIS MIGHTY WORKS

The Miracles of Jesus

John calls Jesus' miracles "signs": they point beyond themselves to who He is. The Gospels describe more than twenty in detail.

HEALING
Made Whole
The blind, the lame, lepers and the sick.
MATTHEW 11:5

DELIVERANCE
Devils Cast Out
Unclean spirits obey His word.
MARK 1:27

NATURE
Wind and Sea Obey
Storms stilled, bread multiplied.
MARK 4:41

LIFE
The Dead Raised
A widow's son, Jairus' daughter, Lazarus.
JOHN 11:43–44

MIRACLE	WHERE
Water turned into wine JOHN 2:1–11	Cana NATURE
Paralyzed man let down through the roof MARK 2:1–12	Capernaum HEALING
Centurion's servant healed LUKE 7:1–10	Capernaum HEALING
The storm calmed MARK 4:35–41	Sea of Galilee NATURE
Legion cast out MARK 5:1–20	Country of the Gadarenes DELIVERANCE
Jairus' daughter raised MARK 5:35–43	Capernaum RAISING THE DEAD
Five thousand fed JOHN 6:1–14	Near Bethsaida NATURE
Walking on the water MATTHEW 14:22–33	Sea of Galilee NATURE
Man born blind healed JOHN 9:1–41	Jerusalem HEALING
Ten lepers cleansed LUKE 17:11–19	Between Samaria and Galilee HEALING
Lazarus raised JOHN 11:1–44	Bethany RAISING THE DEAD
Blind Bartimaeus healed MARK 10:46–52	Jericho HEALING

The feeding of the five thousand is the only miracle besides the resurrection told in all four Gospels.

I Am and Promises Fulfilled

WHO HE IS

The Seven "I Am" Sayings

In John's Gospel Jesus describes Himself seven times with "I am" and a picture. He also said, "Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58), the name God gave Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:14).

The Bread of Life

"I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger"

JOHN 6:35

The Light of the World

"I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness"

JOHN 8:12

The Door

"I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved"

JOHN 10:9

The Good Shepherd

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep."

JOHN 10:11

The Resurrection and the Life

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live"

JOHN 11:25

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."

JOHN 14:6

> *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing."*
>
> John 15:5 (KJV)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Promises Fulfilled in His Ministry

Jesus said of the Old Testament Scriptures, "they are they which testify of Me" (John 5:39). The Gospel writers saw the promises coming true in what He said and did.

FORETOLD	FULFILLED
"Prepare ye the way of the LORD" ISAIAH 40:3	**John the Baptist prepares the way** MATTHEW 3:1–3
"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light" ISAIAH 9:2	**Jesus makes Galilee the center of His ministry** MATTHEW 4:12–16
"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me" ISAIAH 61:1	**"This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears"** LUKE 4:16–21
"Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows" ISAIAH 53:4	**Jesus heals all who are brought to Him** MATTHEW 8:16–17
"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened" ISAIAH 35:5	**The blind see and the lame walk** MATTHEW 11:2–6
"I will open my mouth in a parable" PSALM 78:2	**Jesus teaches the crowds in parables** MATTHEW 13:34–35

Lessons for Today

FOR TODAY

Five Things to Remember

Jesus' teaching is simple to read and hard to live. Take one saying at a time and ask what it would look like to obey it this week.

1
About Three Years
Jesus began about age thirty and taught for about three years.
LUKE 3:23

2
The Kingdom of God
God's rule has come near in Him, so repent and believe.
MARK 1:15

3
Words and Works
He taught with authority and did mighty works as signs of who He is.
JOHN 20:30–31

4
Good News for the Lost
He welcomed sinners, outsiders and the poor.
LUKE 19:10

5
Headed for the Cross
Every stage led to Jerusalem, where He gave His life.
MARK 10:45

6
Come unto Me
His invitation still stands.
"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
MATTHEW 11:28

THINK ABOUT IT

Questions for Reflection

Jesus answered every temptation with Scripture: which verses could you hold on to when you are tempted? Even on His busiest days He rose early to pray: where could you make room to be alone with God? Jesus asks every reader, "But whom say ye that I am?" How would you answer Him?

KEY THEMES

Six Themes of Jesus' Ministry

These six truths run through everything Jesus said and did.

1
The Kingdom Is Here
In Jesus, God's rule has come near.
"the kingdom of God is at hand"
MARK 1:15

2
Authority
He taught, healed and forgave sins with authority.
"For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."
MATTHEW 7:29

3
Compassion
He saw the crowds as sheep with no shepherd.
"He was moved with compassion on them"
MATTHEW 9:36

4
Grace for Sinners
He ate with tax collectors and sinners.
"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."
MARK 2:17

5
Prayer
He rose early to pray, even with crowds waiting.
"and there prayed."
MARK 1:35

6
The Road to the Cross
He set His face toward Jerusalem.
"He stedfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem"
LUKE 9:51