

Removal to Capernaum

Matthew 4:13-16

Jesus Moves to Capernaum

Text:

Matthew 4:13-16,

13. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—

14. To fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

15. “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

16. the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

Commentary:

I. Jesus left Nazareth because of the attempt made on his life, the attempt to throw him off the cliff on which the town was built.

A. Capernaum was located on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

B. Capernaum was the chief city of Galilee, a Roman tax station, and the headquarters of a Roman garrison.

C. At least five of the twelve disciples lived there; that is, Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Matthew.

Note: The Sea of Galilee was also known by other names.

A. **Luke 5:1**, One day as Jesus was standing by the **Lake of Gennesaret**, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God,

B. **John 6:1**, Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the **Sea of Galilee** (that is, the **Sea of Tiberias**),

C. This body of water lies 700 feet below sea level. It is 12 miles long (North to South) and 6 miles wide (East to West).

II. Capernaum was located in the territory allotted to Zebulun and near the border of the territory allotted to Naphtali.

A. Christ, the light of the world, shone from Capernaum.

B. **Isaiah 9:1, 2**, **Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan – The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**

C. Isaiah was not the speaker. God spoke through him. “. . . which was spoken through the prophet.”

1. A prophet is one who speaks forth the word of God, not a fortune teller; thus, prophecy is just words from God whether about the present, the future, or both.

III. Isaiah foretold that:

A. Jesus would preach “**beyond the Jordan,**” east of the Jordan. He crossed the Jordan many times.

B. “**Galilee of the Gentiles**” indicated that Gentile customs, morals, and culture dominated the area.

C. **“The people that sat in darkness in the shadow of death”** refers to the spiritual poverty and the absence of religious knowledge which characterized the people of this area.

1. The Lord can lead us safely through any valley, no matter how dark.

2. But we must not forget that it is the Lord who leads us.

3. **Psalm 23:4, Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

4. **Jeremiah 2:6, They did not ask, ‘Where is the LORD, who brought us up out of Egypt and led us through the barren wilderness, through a land of deserts and rifts, a land of drought and darkness, a land where no one travels and no one lives?’**

D. The Light of the world appeared in the form of Jesus Christ.

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Questions

1. Following the attempt on his life Jesus went and lived in _____ which was by the _____ of _____ which was in the area of _____ and _____.
2. This move fulfilled the word of _____ spoken through the prophet _____.
3. Isaiah said, “The _____ living in _____ have seen a _____; on those _____ in the _____ of the _____ of _____ a _____ has _____.”
4. “Galilee of the Gentiles” indicated that Gentile _____ and _____ were prominent in that district.
5. The “sea” mentioned in verse 15 is known by other names; viz., _____ of _____, _____ of _____ and the _____ of _____. This sea is _____ feet below sea level. It is _____ miles long and _____ miles wide.