

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

- Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)
- Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.
- Chp. 4 *The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)***
- Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)
- Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)
- Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.
- Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.
- Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.
- Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.
- Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.
- Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.
- Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.
- Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

Matthew orchestrates his letter to highlight the truth that Jesus is the prophesied coming Jewish Messiah. Everything up to 4:12 is preliminary to Christ’s public ministry. But it all serves to develop a Messianic KING theme. We see this in the genealogy of Christ; the unique virgin-birth of Christ; the recognition of the birth of the King of the Jews by Gentiles; Christ’s providential placement as a child in Nazareth; the fulfilled prophecy of a Messianic forerunner in the person of John the Baptist; Christ’s baptism as the fulfillment of all righteousness; and Christ’s victory over Satan’s intense temptation.

All of this was preliminary to Christ’s public ministry. But now Matthew 4:12 thematically transitions to Christ’s public ministry.

Between the end of Christ's temptation by Satan in Matt. 4:11 and the statement in 4:12 is a GAP of about 1 year, namely the first year of Christ's ministry which is sometimes called His "**Judean ministry**". The synoptic gospels largely omit this time period, but it is dealt with by John the apostle in John 1:19-3:36. Therefore, we see that Matthew wrote more thematically at times than chronologically. Again, he is writing to connect certain dots to showcase that Jesus is the promised Jewish Messiah.

Slide # 2

Christ's THREE-Year Ministry

A year of obscurity

A year of popularity (Mt. 4:12-25)

A year of rejection

Matthew, in effect, omits the year of obscurity and begins with the year of popularity. He skips year one of the Judean ministry and begins with the Galilean ministry.

We pick up the narrative as presented by Matthew now in 4:12.

Matthew 4:12–25 (NKJV)

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee.

As I say Jesus did have a public ministry before this, but not an explosively popular one like would happen now. John the Baptist's ministry overlapped a little bit with that of Jesus ministry. But John being put in prison signaled that his preparatory ministry for the Christ was essentially completed. Now the spotlight was to be on Christ ALONE. The transition was complete.

John the Baptist was put in prison, and Jesus departed to Galilee which would be the mainstay of His public ministry.

13 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali,

First stop into the territory of Galilee was Christ's hometown of Nazareth. We read in Luke 4:16-31 that after speaking in their synagogue that these hometown folk tried to kill Jesus - so He left. And we find here that He then went and dwelt in Capernaum which was about 20 miles north of Nazareth.

Slide # 3



Nazareth was a little obscure village (about 400 people), but in contrast Capernaum was a flourishing town (about 1500 people) on a major trade route. Capernaum means “**village of Nahum**”. Perhaps it was named after the prophet Nahum. **Matthew** was from this city (cf. Matt. 9:9) and it became Jesus’ headquarters for His Galilean ministry. Matt. 9:1 calls it “**His own city**”. It was also the home of **Peter** (see Matt. 8:5-14; Mk. 2:1; 9:33). And it is also thought that Andrew (Peter’s brother) probably lived there too, as well as James and John.

Note it is specifically says, “**by the sea**” and in “**the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali**”. These details are significant because they align perfectly with prophecy.

14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

Jesus relocation to Capernaum in Galilee was in accordance with Isaiah’s prophecy. It lines up perfectly with the prophecy in Isaiah 9:1-2. Isaiah 9:1-7 is very clearly a Messianic text involving the promised Child Who would be born to sit upon David’s throne and rule forever (see Isa. 9:6-7). Thus, Matthew continues to tether the life and ministry of Christ to the Old Testament Messianic prophecies showing that He is the fulfillment of them.

Matt. 4:15-16 constitute a paraphrased quote of Isaiah 9:1-2. And the level of detailed prophetic precision that is fulfilled is amazing!

15 “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles:

Zebulun and Naphtali were two of the 12 tribes in the OT that roughly corresponded to the region of Galilee in the time of Christ (cf. Josh. 19:10-39).

Slide # 4



Note Zebulun corresponds to where Nazareth was located and Capernaum to Naphtali. The Messiah lived in both places and His Galilean ministry identified with both places.

But note there are additional descriptive phrases that are of great prophetic significance because they were fulfilled to the letter. Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would dwell and identify with ministry 1) “By the way of the sea”, 2) “beyond the Jordan”, and 3) in “Galilee of the Gentiles”. Note these things all had to synchronize perfectly in order to fulfill Isaiah’s prophecy.

Slide # 5

Messiah’s Ministry would be identified with...

- 1) Regions of Zebulun and Naphtali (Galilee)
- 2) By way of the sea (Ancient trade route)
- 3) Beyond the Jordan (Probably Area East of Jordan referring to Perea.)
- 4) Galilee of the Gentiles (Area in northern Israel associated with Gentiles)

Slide # 6



“***The Way of the Sea***” trade route ran from Damascus down through Capernaum then down to Caesarea Maritima on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and then on down to Egypt.

It is fascinating to realize that the Messiah's ministry would be intricately identified with "**Galilee of the Gentiles**". Galilee going way back was known for its mixed population. This area up north was the first to apostatize in the Old Testament days. In 721 BC the Assyrian's took the Northern Kingdom Captive and then transplanted Gentile peoples to live there resulting in integration with the few Jews left behind (cf. 1 Kg. 15:20; 2 Kg. 15:29; 17:6, 24-27; 1 Chron. 5:26). Galilee was bordered by the Gentile territory of Syria, etc. As such it was a main route through which Gentiles passed in and out of Israel. Thus, it became a major crossroads for trade and consisted of a mixture of Gentile and Jewish activity.

Someone has said that "*Judea was on the way to nowhere, whereas Galilee was on the way to everywhere.*"

Even way back in Isaiah's day, some 700 years before the time of Christ it was already called, "**Galilee of the Gentiles**". Consequently, the more racially pure Judea where Jerusalem was located looked down with scorn on the Galileans and ridiculed those up north with a Galilean accent. They were considered compromised at best.

Slide # 7 (Galilee borders Gentile Territory)



In John 7 when some were surmising that Jesus might be the Christ others recoiled saying, "**Will the Christ come out of Galilee?**" (Jn. 7:41, see also Jn. 7:51-52). The answer is YES, and the text was right there in Isaiah 9.

The fact alone that Jesus so completely fulfilled Old Testament prophecy should be enough to convince an honest mind of the Bible's truthfulness and authority. – **John MacArthur**

This emphasis on Messiah's ministry being identified with "**Galilee of the Gentiles**" is yet another echo that His ministry had a broader scope than merely that of Israel. It also involved the Gentiles. This was in effect a foreshadowing of Christ's commission to reach out to all nations as seen in the Great Commission at the end of Matthew.

16 The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.”

Verse 16 is a loose quote of Isa. 9:2, but if you really understand what is being said it is staggeringly marvelous.

The cultured pious Jews in the Jerusalem area considered this region up north so affected by Gentiles to be a place of darkness, and as it were the place where darkness was the most dense which is described as the ***shadow of death***. In contrast Jerusalem was considered to be the place of enlightenment.

Who would have ever thought this? This darkest of all places in the land of Israel would be the first to see the GREAT MESSIANIC LIGHT most brilliantly. The word “**dawned**” (Gk. *aneteilen*) indicates that the light first shone here most brilliantly! This is where the LIGHT of God’s Messiah dawned. It started here!

That is most amazing. Cultured Jews automatically assumed the LIGHT of the Messiah would shine first and foremost on Jerusalem the capital city – the holy city. After all, was not Jerusalem the most favored place before God? It was the place of learning, the place of worship, the place of pure Judaism.

But NO! Instead, God chose a location rejected by these religious leaders – a place associated with spiritual DARKNESS where He would FIRST shine the Messianic LIGHT in a major way. God’s ways are not man’s ways!

The birth of Christ in the most humble of circumstances; the Gentile welcoming committee; the strangeness of the forerunner, and now the DARK place of Messiah’s reveal are all totally unconventional and unexpected. And yet, there it was all the time – right there in the prophetic Scriptures as prophesied by Isaiah 700 years in advance. You can’t make this stuff up. You could never just make this fit. This is a total God-thing!

The context of the Isaiah 9 Messianic prophecy is this. Isaiah 8 predicted a coming Assyrian invasion in which the Northern Kingdom would be taken captive. But that message of gloom was then followed by a message of future hope as seen in Isaiah 9. This message of HOPE was centered in the Davidic Messiah Who would bring about deliverance and establish an everlasting kingdom of peace. But the “**first dawn**” of this HOPE would not be seen in Judea or in Jerusalem, but rather in the dark shadowy land of “**Galilee of the Gentiles**”. This my friends was fulfilled to the letter!

Note the DOUBLE emphasis on LIGHT here in Matt. 4:16 as quoted from Isaiah 9:2. These people in this region would see a GREAT LIGHT. This was the LIGHT of the Messiah Who Himself said, “***I am the light of the world***” (Jn. 8:12).

This LIGHT was the TRUTH of Who Jesus is as the divine-human Messiah Who brings in the kingdom! Nobody ever imagined this LIGHT would shine first and foremost on “***Galilee of the Gentiles***”. But here it was literally being fulfilled in the person of Jesus of Nazareth who came to dwell in Capernaum in perfect accord with prophetic truth.

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

It appears that the phrase “***From that time***” denotes a definite turning point. It is used again in Matt. 16:21 where it marks the beginning of Christ’s emphasis on His coming suffering, death, and resurrection. Here in 4:17 it marks a definite turning point in His ministry. It marked the point when Christ’s LIGHT as the Messiah would now clearly be revealed in a most distinct and brilliant manner in the context of “***Galilee of the Gentiles***.”

Slide # 8

[Verse] 17 is the summary of Jesus’ message in the first part of His ministry (cf. 16:21 for His message in the second part).

– ***The New Bible Commentary***

The word ***preach*** (Gk. *kerusso*) means “to proclaim”, “herald”, or “announce”. This is the initial proclamation of the KING Who has now arrived in earnest. The time of preparation is over. It was now time to RESPOND.

The word “***repent***” means to “***change your mind***” and align with the truth of God. In context it meant to align with the LIGHT of God’s truth that is found in the person of Jesus Christ. Repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of direction in the life. It’s more that just an intellectual thing. It also involves the HEART – a heart commitment that results in sold out devotion to Christ. A truly repentant person is a CHANGED person.

Jesus takes over where John the Baptist left off. John the Baptist preached the same message saying in Matt. 3:2, “***Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!***” And he did this in preparation of the Messiah Who was soon to be presented to Israel.

Now John was removed from the scene and Jesus begins His ministry exactly where John left off. The message was this: ***The way to the KINGDOM is by way of repentance.*** Only the repentant will see the kingdom.

When Christ used the phrase “***the kingdom of heaven***” we find that it is interchangeable in parallel texts in the other gospels with “***the kingdom of God***”. So, these two phrases: kingdom of heaven and kingdom of God are essentially interchangeable meaning the exact same thing.

Remember Matthew was written with a Jewish audience in mind. Because of the fear of using God’s Name in vain the Jews often substituted “***heaven***” in the place of “***God***”. This scruple we believe is reflected in the gospel of Matthew.

In many places where Matthew uses *kingdom of heaven*, the parallel passages in Mark and Luke use *kingdom of God*. – **Warren Wiersbe**

The word “***kingdom***” (Gk. *basileia*) in reference to the Messiah refers to the rule of God on earth in the person of the Messiah.

There is a slight contextual nuance difference between John the Baptist’s message and that of Christs. John was merely preparing the people for the Messiah Who was to come. Now Jesus as the Messiah was calling on people to repent in view of the fact that He Himself was actually offering the kingdom on the condition of repentance. John prepared the way, Jesus actually made the offer.

Slide # 9

“*Repent; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*” This was the theme of His ministry until it became evident that He would be rejected. The kingdom being at hand meant that it was being offered in the person of the prophesied King, but it did not mean that it would be immediately fulfilled. – **John Walvoord**

Keep this in mind! Almost everything in Matthew is geared toward the KINGDOM. Remember the theme of the book is “***Christ the King***”. The goal is to get people into the kingdom. The King came and clearly presented the condition of REPENTANCE to enter. The way to the KINGDOM is through repentance. Unless one repents, they will never enter the kingdom. Until the nation of Israel repents the kingdom will not come.

Slide # 10

John the Baptist: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” – Mt. 3:2

Jesus: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” – Mt. 4:17

Peter: “Repent...be converted...that He may send Jesus...” – Acts 3:19-21

The goal of Jesus is to get people into the kingdom. And to help Him with this goal He enlists “*kingdom helpers*” to assist Him as seen in verses 18-22.

18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

The Sea of Galilee goes by various other names including “Lake of Gennesaret”, “Kinnereth”, “and “The Sea of Tiberias”. The Sea of Galilee provides fresh water for much of the land of Israel. It is 682 feet below sea level. The lake is about 13 miles long and 7 miles wide. It is known for sudden violent squalls that can come up quickly making the lake very dangerous to be out on when that happens. But normally it is a very beautiful lake – a perfect fisherman’s lake.

Slide # 11

We know from John’s gospel that Peter and Andrew had been introduced to Jesus as the Messiah about a year earlier (cf. Jn. 1:35-42). Evidently, at that time they still continued on with their fishing occupation. The point is they already knew about Jesus and Who He was. Their response at this time was not a spur of the moment thing. They had undoubtedly already given this some serious thought.

Now in the context of His Galilean ministry, which became the center of His operations, and the HEIGHT of His ministry in terms of expansive ministry, in that context Jesus called His first disciples to be full time followers of His.

19 Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

This was not a call to salvation, but rather a call to specialized service; and really a call to specialized preparation for specialized service. **“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”** Christ is a Master at taking the ordinary things of life and metaphorically transitioning to a spiritual application.

These men caught fish for a living. They were fisherman. But now Christ wants to make them to be catchers of men. Christ wanted them to learn how to catch people for the kingdom. It would involve a learning process. It would involve leaving their old profession behind and becoming full-time followers of Christ day in and day out.

To follow Christ for these men meant entering into a **“mentoring relationship”** with Christ. This would involve not only oral instruction but also watching how Jesus did it – watching both His methods and attitudes – how He responded to people and circumstances. This truly was a **“Way of the Master”** training program.

People need to be discipled. They need to be taught. They don't just automatically become **“fishers of men”**. We need to be taught and then once taught we need to teach others. That's the way it works. The **“Way of the Master”** amounts to an invested discipleship commitment in which we build into the lives of other people. There are no shortcuts – just hard work!

Yes, formal teaching is important, but what was involved here was a **“way of life”** learning as they spent life with Jesus day in and day out. When you see someone living it out there is no more powerful form of being taught than this.

Christ was all about winning people to the kingdom, and now He wanted to provide specialized training to these men so they too could enter into this kingdom work of catching men (cf. Mk. 1:16-20; Lk. 5:1-11).

20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

At this point in their lives, understanding the background of their previous contact with Jesus, at this point they understood Jesus command to follow Him was a life-style, full time commitment, and they responded IMMEDIATELY. They were all in! Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

**21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them,
22 and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.**

A little further down the way Jesus saw two other brothers by the name of James and John. In Mark 3:17 we see that Jesus gave them the nickname "**Sons of Thunder**". Wow! Thunder is LOUD! Thunder is strong! And yet God could change them, mold them and make them, and use them. He can use "**Sons of Thunder**" of which I think I might be one.

And note the Lord called both sets of brothers while they were busy at work. The Lord tends to use those already hard at work. John Phillips says, "**God always calls busy people. The Lord's work is no place for lazy individuals.**" They say if you want something to get done don't ask the person who isn't doing anything, rather ask the person who is already too busy. God wants His people to be hard workers - yes, balanced, but busy!

They were with their father Zebedee. It would appear that Zebedee was a man of some means as we see he had hired servants in Mk. 1:20. John knew Annas the high priest, so it seems they were a well-respected family (cf. Jn. 18:15). Zebedee was married to Salome. She once asked Jesus to grant her sons to sit on His right and His left hand in the kingdom (cf. Mt. 20:20-21). She was watching out for those boys. They may have gotten that spark of thunder from her.

A comparison of Mk. 15:40 and Jn. 19:25 may indicate that Salome was the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus. If so, this would mean that James and John were cousins of Jesus. Salome was one of the women who went to the tomb early on Resurrection Sunday (cf. Mk. 16:1).

James and John were also fisherman. Luke 5:10 says they were partners with Peter (and therefore possibly with Andrew as well). This means they too would have known the identity of Jesus and that this decision to follow Him was not merely a spontaneous (out of the blue) commitment without any forethought.

Peter, James, and John became prominent among the apostles. Peter was the recognized leader of the entire group. James became the first martyr of the twelve (Acts 12:2). And John became the apostle of LOVE who outlived all the others and was given the book of Revelation in his old age.

Just as Peter and Andrew immediately followed Jesus, so also James and John. And the text makes the point of immediacy saying, ***“immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.”*** *“See you later dad. Oh, would you mind picking up the nets Peter and Andrew just left behind.”* As I say, Zebedee had servants, so I think it was not a situation of father abuse. When the Lord calls, He and His mission are the TOP priority!

Now in verses 23-25 we are introduced to a little feel of what it was like to follow Jesus around Galilee. It was an intense time of ministry. There was a lot to see and learn. In these verses we have a summary of Jesus Galilean ministry at the HEIGHT of His popularity. We have the essence of what defined the nature of His ministry. And we have here an overview of Christ’s KINGDOM miracle credentials.

23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

The territory of Galilee was approximately 70 by 35 miles. It is estimated that Galilee had about 200 villages and towns with a total population of about 300,000 people, although Josephus claimed it had around 3 million people. Capernaum was among the largest of the cities.

No matter how you look at it this was a time of intense ministry activity involving the whole of Galilee (cf. Mk. 3:7-12; Lk. 6:17-19). Realize they didn’t have cars and walked most everywhere on foot. Perhaps there was a reason Jesus called young men to be His disciples.

Jesus ministry is described in terms of three things.

Slide # 12

Jesus’ Galilean Ministry

Teaching
Preaching
Healing

Christ’s teaching ministry is exhibited in the Sermon on the Mount in chapters 5-7. His preaching (proclaiming) ministry is illustrated in Him saying, ***“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”*** as seen in 4:17. And His healing ministry was on display in healing all manner of sickness and disease in the course of His Galilean ministry as illustrated by documenting 9 miracles in chapters 8-9.

Jesus taught in their synagogues. When the Jewish Temple was destroyed and the Jews were taken in the Babylonian Captivity – out of that came the development of a synagogue system. The establishment of a local synagogue required a quorum of 10 adult Jewish men.

The synagogue building was a place of religious gathering on the Sabbath where it served as place of prayer and teaching from the Scriptures. During the week it served as an educational center. The leader of the synagogue was not so much a preacher as an administrator. He was constantly looking for rabbis to come and teach or preach. It was common to let visiting Jews read the Scripture or to share from them. And it would seem that Jesus used this format to share in many synagogues (cf. Lk. 4:16-21).

Teaching involved more in depth explanation God's truth to help people understand it. Preaching was more an authoritative proclamation. We are told here the content of Christ's preaching was "*the gospel of the kingdom*".

The word "***gospel***" means "***good news***". The good news in this context is that the KING was now here and was offering the Kingdom to the people on the condition of repentance. The good news of the kingdom was about deliverance from the effects of sin & Satan. That is GOOD NEWS indeed.

Jesus did "***kingdom miracles***" of healing to prove that indeed He was the promised Messiah and that His offer of the kingdom was legitimate. He wasn't just talking about these wonderful things; rather He was giving an actual taste of the kingdom to the people in the form of His healing ministry. His message of kingdom good news and that of Him being the KING matched perfectly with His "kingdom miracles".

Isaiah 35 is a Messianic Kingdom passage which prophesies HEALING will come in the kingdom.

Slide # 13

Isaiah 35:5–6 (NKJV)

5 Then the eyes of **the blind** shall be opened, And **the ears** of the deaf shall be unstopped.

6 Then **the lame** shall leap like a deer, And **the tongue** of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.

The Messiah brings in the kingdom and when He does universal HEALING will take place. Jesus proved He was the Messiah by doing kingdom healing miracles.

Slide # 14

“healing **all** kinds of sickness”

“**all** kinds of disease”

There was no sickness or disease that Jesus couldn't heal! Covid? Bring it! No problem for Jesus. He healed all kinds of sickness and disease. Kingdom power in the form of HEALING was on display through Him.

We have all kinds of supposed faith healers on the scene, but I notice they have been pretty quiet as the course of the pandemic has gone along. Why? They claim based on John 14:12 (wrongfully understood) to be able to do greater works than Jesus? Bring it? Let's see it? They are all phonies!

Slide # 15

You know what the problem with these phony false faith healers is? They are not the Messiah and they are not presenting kingdom miracles? Miracles in the gospel of John are consistently called SIGNS. These miracles that Jesus did ALWAYS had sign value – pointing to Him as the King Who was presenting the kingdom.

Slide # 16

Hebrews 6:5 (NKJV)

5 and have **tasted** the good word of God and the **powers** [miracles] **of the age to come** [the kingdom age],

The early Church in the ministry of Christ and His special representatives (the apostles) were actually able to have a TASTE of kingdom powers in the form of KINGDOM HEALINGS. Technically these sign-miracles belong to the era of the kingdom and the KING (cf. Heb. 2:3-4).

This is what the ministry of Christ was all about. He was the KING presenting kingdom miracles as credentials that indeed He was the promised Messiah now present and offering the kingdom!

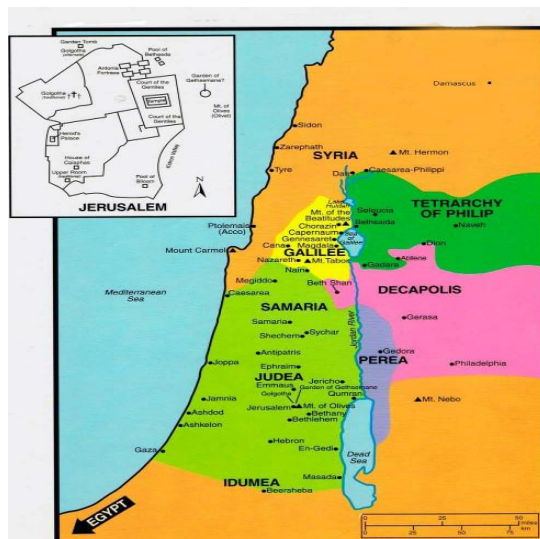
But folks, that is not where we are today! Israel rejected the King and the Kingdom offer was then withdrawn and delayed as Christ then went to the cross. That's what chapter 13 is all about! Remember the distinction between 4:17 which denotes the beginning of Christ's ministry and that of 16:21 which indicates a change of course in His ministry.

Footnote: John the Baptist did no miracles as so stated in John 10:41-42. The reason for this is because John was not the Messiah – he was not offering the kingdom. He was just preparing the way. He was followed by the Messiah who did an unparalleled amount of “*kingdom miracles*” showing that He was indeed the Messiah legitimately offering the kingdom.

24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.

If you can legitimately heal EVERYBODY fame will most certainly follow. There is always plenty of sick people to ensure it happens. After a few thousand people were healed the word spread all over the place even across all borders - even deep into the Gentile area of Syria. The text says “*throughout ALL Syria*”.

Slide # 17 – Syria (Big area – all of it)



Note verse 24 says they brought to Him “**all sick people**” who were afflicted with all kinds of diseases and torments. They also brought demon possessed people – showing Christ’s power over the devil who afflicts these people. And they also brought epileptics (cf. Mt. 17:15), and paralytics, “and He healed them.” There was no disease or demon challenge to great!

Note the text makes a clear distinction between demon possession and ordinary physical illness or disease. They are two different things.

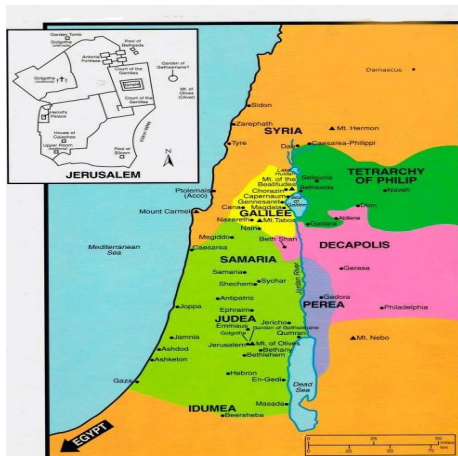
There had been occasional healings in past times on rare occasion by a prophet here and there, but this was unprecedented. You see God used miracles to authenticate His special messengers and their message whenever He introduced some new stage of redemptive history.

But what Jesus did was completely unique. He healed EVERYONE of EVERYTHING whatever their problem was. You know what that is indicative of? ***THE KINGDOM!*** This was kingdom stuff and the King was presenting His kingdom credentials. In the land of darkness, in Galilee of the Gentiles the LIGHT was on full bright in perfect fulfillment of the prophetic Scriptures.

25 Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

Masses of people – great multitudes followed Him from all over. They came from Galilee, from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan – probably referring to Perea.

Slide # 18 (Whole surrounding Area)



Disease and death must have been almost eliminated for a brief season from...the region. – **B.B. Warfield**

One Solitary Life (By James Allen Francis – Selected Portion)

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant. He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was 30. Then, for three years, he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a home. He didn't go to college. He never lived in a big city. He never traveled 200 miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had **no credentials but Himself**.

How can one account for this? He had no credentials but Himself – but all that He was about aligned perfectly with the prophetic Scriptures! The only logical explanation is that Jesus is indeed the fulfillment of the divine/human Davidic Messiah prophesied in the OT Scriptures.

His genealogy proves it. His place of birth proves it. His forerunner proves it. His unparalleled “kingdom” miracles prove it. All of this is in exact fulfillment of prophecy right down to the precise details.

The only question that remains is this: Do you believe it? Do you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ? The KINGDOM is coming and everyone here is either going to enter into that kingdom or will be cast out of it – depending on what we do with Jesus in the here and now.

Jesus is the KING Who will reign supreme in the KINGDOM? Will you be there? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will ensure your place in His kingdom. Do it today! Now is the accepted time!