

NEW TESTAMENT TIMELINE

1	2	3	4
Life of Christ	Birth and Growth of Church	Letters	Future
4 BC– AD 30	30–96 AD	44–96 AD	AD??

1. LIFE OF CHRIST
Matthew – John

4 Gospels. The word “gospel” means “good news.” Specifically, it is the good news about the forgiveness of sins offered through Jesus Christ. The four gospels [Matthew, Mark, Luke and John] give us the record of the life of Christ: his virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, teachings, death, resurrection and ascension.

Key Events in the life of Christ can be broken down into the chronological categories as shown in the table below. Summary of each category is given appropriately in the following pages.

LIFE OF CHRIST

← 4 BC – AD 30 →							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Birth & Early Childhood	Baptism & Temptation	Initial Ministry	Ministry In/Around Galilee	Ministry In Judea	Final Journey to Jerusalem	Final Week in Jerusalem	Resurrection & Ascension

Map 9: HOLY LAND IN THE TIME OF JESUS



LIFE OF CHRIST

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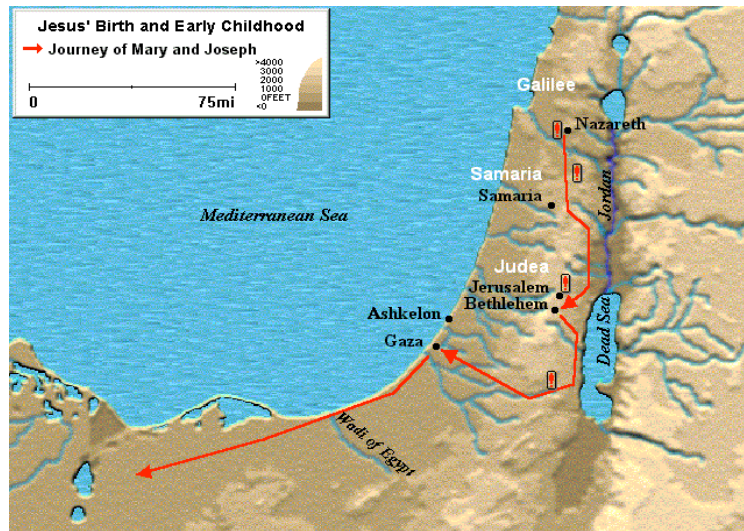
1. Birth and Early Childhood.

Birth. Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem [Luke 1:26-31; Matt 1:18-25].

Travel to Egypt. Since Herod the King planned to kill all the boys that were two years and younger in Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary took the child Jesus to Egypt [Matt 2:13-18].

Return to Nazareth. After a brief stay in Egypt, they returned to Nazareth, after the death of Herod [Matt 2:19-23].

Temple Visit at age 12. When Christ was 12 years of age, he was taken to the temple in Jerusalem. The parents lose him for a while and later find him discussing spiritual matters with the spiritual leaders in the Temple [Luke 2:41-51].



Model of Herod's Temple in the Time of Jesus



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2. Baptism and Temptation

Baptism. There is no record of Jesus' life from age 12 to 30. All we know about those years were that he was in Nazareth and was a carpenter [Mark 6:1–4]. When Jesus was about 30 years of age, he comes to be baptized by John the Baptist [his cousin] who was already baptizing many people. Jesus publicly launched his ministry by the act of baptism.

Temptation. Immediately after his baptism, led by the Holy Spirit, Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness of Judea where he faced temptation from Satan himself. He successfully overcame the devil and starts his preaching ministry [Matt 4:1-17].

Jordan River, Traditional site of the Baptism of Jesus



Mount of Temptation, Traditional site of the Temptation of Jesus



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3. Initial Ministry.

Calling of First Disciples. The first disciples of Christ were John and Andrew. Peter, Philip and Nathanael came to be disciples shortly thereafter [John 1:35–50].

First Miracle. The early disciples went with Christ to a wedding in Cana of Galilee where he changed water into wine [John 2:1–11].

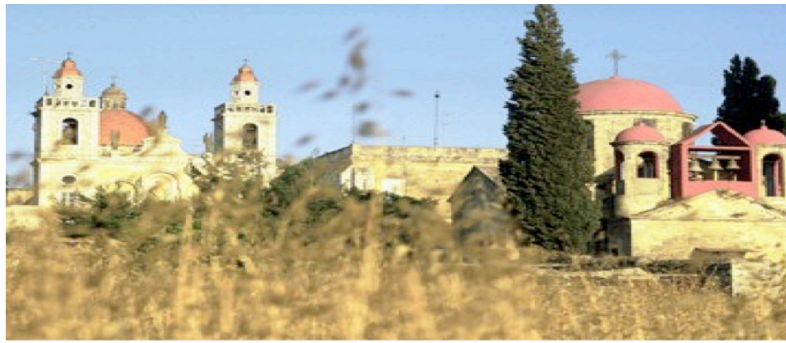
Other Incidents.

From Galilee, Jesus goes to the temple in Jerusalem [John 2:12]. The Lord performed the first cleansing of the temple as he threw the moneychangers out of the temple [John 2:13–21].

Later, he had a very important discussion with Nicodemus where he explained the need to be “born again” [John 3].

On his way back to Galilee, Christ met with the Samaritan woman and revealed that he was the promised Messiah [John 4]. She is the first person to whom he revealed that he is the Messiah.

The Church at Cana of Galilee on the site where tradition places Jesus's miracle at the wedding.



Modern City of Cana of Galilee



Court of Gentiles surrounding the Temple where animals were sold and moneychangers were present.



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4. Ministry in and around Galilee

With Capernaum as his headquarters, Christ began his ministry in and around the area of Galilee.

Rejection at Nazareth. Christ was rejected at his hometown synagogue after preaching that he was the Messiah and that God extended his grace even to Gentiles [Luke 4:16–31]. he moved to Capernaum after this incident.

Calling of Matthew. Matthew, a tax collector, was called to be a disciple and he immediately started to follow Christ [Mark 2:14].

Trip to Jerusalem. During the ministry at Galilee, Christ takes a brief trip to Jerusalem. There he healed a lame man on the Sabbath and also made claims of being equal with God. On account of those two issues, the Jews tried to kill him [John 5:1–18].

Sermon on the Mount. Christ returned to Galilee and preached one of the greatest sermons ever recorded, “Sermon on the Mount” [Matthew 5–7].

Unpardonable Sin. Despite seeing many miracles, the Pharisees accused Christ of doing those miracles by the power of Satan. Christ pronounced them guilty of committing the “unpardonable sin,” a sin that was a result of rejecting Christ after repeated exposure and knowledge about Christ and his message [Mark 3:22–30; Matt 12:22–32].

Teaching of Parables. After the clear rejection by the Pharisees and the unpardonable sin incident, Christ started teaching in parables. Parabolic teaching was a form of judgment against Israel that refused to listen to their Messiah [Mark 4:1–34; Matthew 13].

Healing of Demoniac in Gerasenes. Crossing over the Sea of Galilee, Christ healed the demoniac in Gerasenes [non-Jewish territory] and sent the demon spirits into the pigs [Mark 5:1–20].

Killing of John the Baptist. Herod, at the instigation of his wife Herodias, beheads John the Baptist [Mark 6:14–29].

Feeding of 5000. Christ fed the five thousand [Mark 6:32–44] and followed this miracle by walking on the water.

Transfiguration. After Peter’s confession of Christ, Christ revealed his glory along with Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration to Peter, James and John [Mark 8:27–9:13].

MODERN DAY NAZARETH



Mount of Precipitation [left], Traditional spot where crowd tried to throw Jesus from the hill.

OVERVIEW OF PARTIALLY RECONSTRUCTED 3RD CENTURY SYNAGOGUE AT CAPERNAUM [Over the site of the Synagogue of Jesus' day]



SYNAGOGUE AT CAPERNAUM



**SERMON ON THE MOUNT/FEEDING OF 5000
[BY SEA OF GALILEE]**



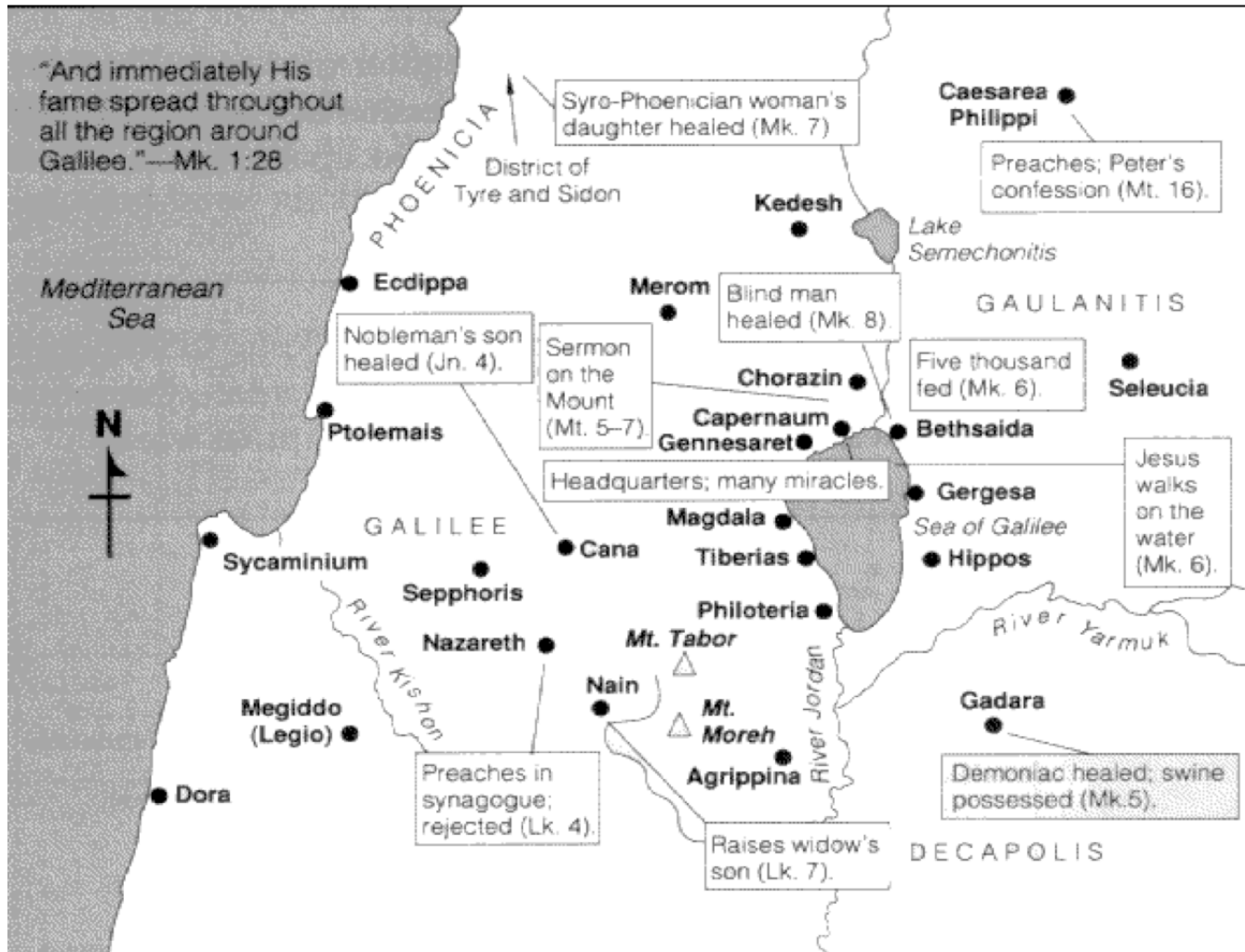
**Church of the Beatitudes Beside Sea of Galilee
[Built on the Traditional site where Christ preached the Beatitudes]**



**TRADITIONAL BEHEADING ROOM OF JOHN THE BAPTIST
[MACHAERUS IN PEREA]**



MINISTRY OF CHRIST IN GALILEE



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5. Ministry in Judea

This period was characterized by the following teachings and miracles;

- Jesus - Light of the world [John 8:12–20].
- Sending of the seventy disciples for ministry [Luke 10:1–24].
- Healing of a man who was blind from the birth [John 9]. See **Pool of Siloam picture**.
- Jesus—Good Shepherd [John 10].
- Raising of Lazarus from the dead [John 11:1–44]. See **Burial Cave picture**.

Pool of Siloam



Entrance to a Burial Cave [sealed by a rolling stone]



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6. Final Journey to Jerusalem

This period was characterized more with Christ's teachings to his disciples. Miracles were also a part of this journey.

- Teachings about divorce, dangers of riches, pride, etc. [Mark 10:1–45].
- Healing of blind Bartimaeus [Mark 10:46–52].
- Salvation of Zacchaeus [Luke 19:1–10].

SYCAMORE TREE



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7. Final Week in Jerusalem

- Mary Anoints Jesus [John 12:2–11].
- Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem [Mark 11:1–11].
- Second Cleansing of the temple [Mark 11:15–18].
- Olivet Discourse; Christ’s teachings on the Mount of Olives about his second coming [Matthew 24–25; Mark 13]. **See Mount of Olives picture**
- Last Supper – Washing of Disciples Feet, Betrayal by Judas, Teachings for the 11 Disciples [John 13–17].
- Arrest and Crucifixion. Christ arrested [Thursday night], tried by the Sanhedrin, Pilate and Herod. Later, he was crucified [Friday morning, 9am] along with two other criminals of whom one repents later [Luke 22:47–23:43].
- Death. After hanging on the cross for nearly 6 hours, Christ dies shortly after 3pm. He is buried in Joseph of Arimathea’s tomb [Luke 23:44–56].

**Mount of Olives [as seen from the Temple Mount]
Church of All Nations in the foreground**



**ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE
[Church built over one possible site of Jesus's Death and Burial]**



**Dome of the Rock Mosque
[El Aqsa Mosque]**



**View of Jerusalem and Mount of Olives
from Mount Scopus**



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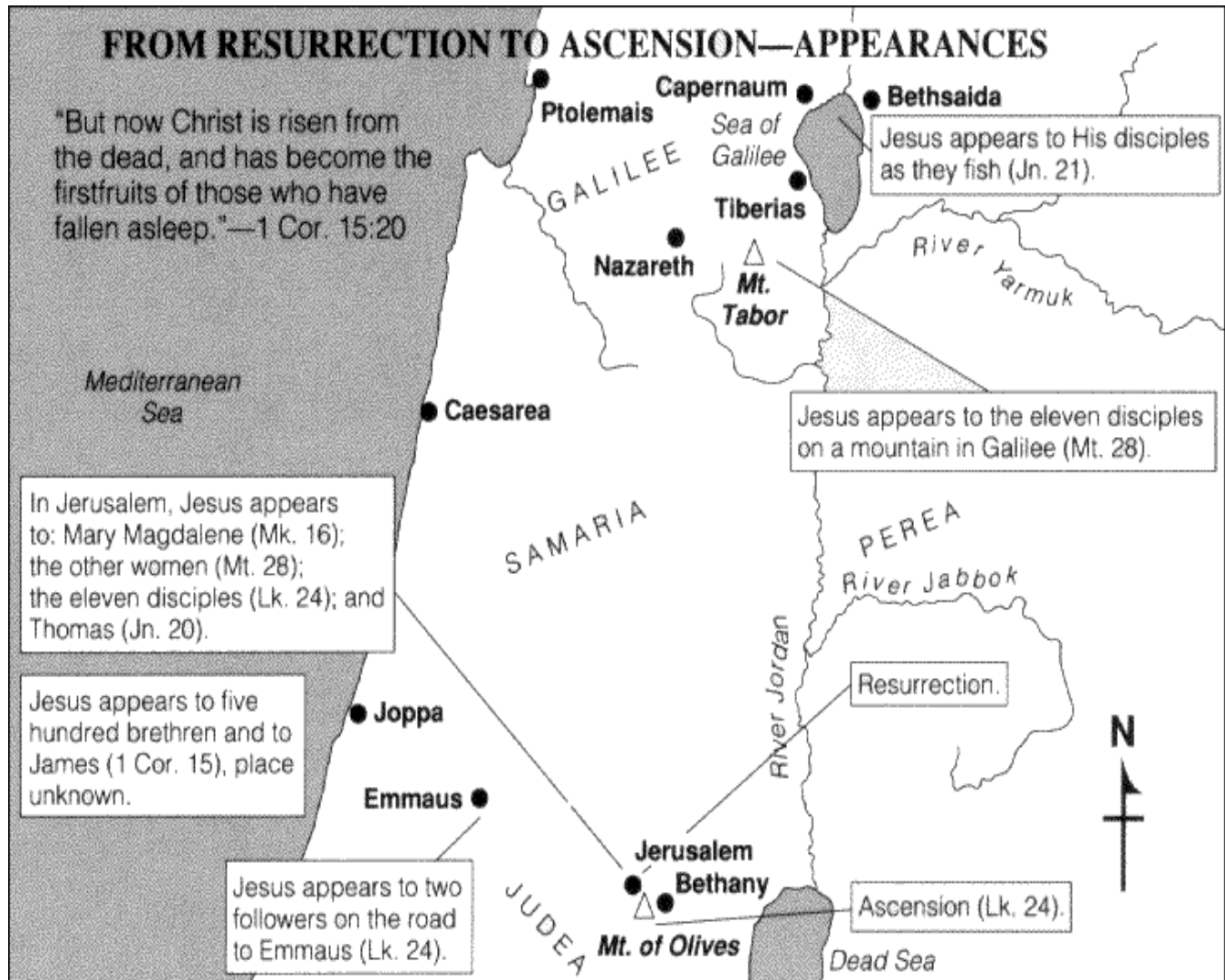
8. Resurrection and Ascension.

The chart below explains the various resurrection appearances of the Lord.

No.	Individual[s]	Location	Time	Reference
1.	Mary Magdalene	Near Tomb	Resurrection Sunday	John 20:11–18
2.	Other women	On the Road	Resurrection Sunday	Matthew 28:9–10
3.	Two men	Emmaus Road	Resurrection Sunday	Luke 24:13–32
4.	Peter	Jerusalem	Resurrection Sunday	Luke 24:34
5.	10 Disciples [no Thomas]	Jerusalem	Resurrection Sunday	Luke 24:36–43
6.	11 Disciples	Jerusalem	Next Sunday	John 20:26–31
7.	7 Disciples	Sea of Galilee	During 40 day period	John 21:1–25
8.	More than 500	Unknown	During 40 day period	1 Corinthians 15:6
9.	11 Disciples	Mountain in Galilee	During 40 day period	Matthew 28:16–20
10.	Disciples	Mount of Olives	At Ascension	Acts 1:3–8
11.	James	Unknown	During 40 day period [cannot be certain, could have also been after Ascension]	1 Corinthians 15:7
12.	Paul	Road to Damascus	After Ascension	Acts 9:1–6

FROM RESURRECTION TO ASCENSION—APPEARANCES

"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."—1 Cor. 15:20



Map 11: JESUS' MINISTRY

