

# The Fourfold Gospel

Beginning of Jesus' Ministry

XVIII-XX

# John baptizes Jesus

- Matt 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22
  - Jesus travelled from Nazareth to the Jordan river. Although we are not told where in the Jordan river Jesus was baptized, tradition holds it was in the area of the Jordan where the Israelites crossed into the promised land, at a fjord east of Jericho, about 80 miles SE of Nazareth. Since we are told John's ministry was in the wilderness of Judea, an area south of Jerusalem, it makes sense he was baptizing in the Jordan river in an area close to his ministry.



# John baptizes Jesus

- Matt 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22
  - Jesus travels to John for baptism before even hearing John preach. This act was NOT a result of hearing John's word or a result of persuasion by men, but a determined act of His own righteousness.
  - Why did John hesitate to baptize Jesus? What was John's baptism for?
    - It was for forgiveness of sins – Jesus did not need forgiveness since he had not sinned
    - It was too great an honor for John and too great a humiliation for Jesus to be baptized like all the other sinners that John was baptizing
    - "Suffer it now" - McGarvey quote
  - What did Jesus do immediately after coming up out of the water?
    - As with all things Jesus did, He prayed to His Father.

# John baptizes Jesus

- Matt 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22
  - What miraculous occurrence happened when Jesus came up out of the water?
    - The Heavens opened up, and the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus as a dove.
    - Recognize 2 important things here
      - The heavens opened up at the beginning of His ministry to honor Him and at the end of His ministry to receive Him – Jesus is the opener of heaven for ALL men
      - The Holy Spirit descended AS A DOVE. It was a miraculous manifestation not a real dove.
  - What other event occurred at this time
    - The Father spoke from heaven
      - “This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.”

# Jesus' temptation in the wilderness

- Matt 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13
  - When was Jesus tempted?
    - Just after he received the Spirit and had been praised by His Father
  - Why was Jesus tempted?
    - To demonstrate that a man can be tempted but can overcome. Jesus was just like us, a man with wants and desires. But he controlled his body and emotions, demonstrating to all mankind that it is possible to overcome.
  - Who tempted Jesus?
    - Notice, the Spirit LED him to the wilderness, and the Father ALLOWED Him to be tempted but God is NEVER the TEMPTER.
    - SATAN – the arch spiritual enemy of all mankind tempted Jesus.
  - How was Jesus tempted?
    - 40 days of fasting, then
    - In all possible forms of temptation we can endure – The lust of the Flesh, the Lust of the eyes, and the Pride of life.

# Jesus' temptation in the wilderness

- Matt 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13
  - 40 days of fasting. Is it humanly possible?
    - There are many documented fastings of 40 days and longer in the bible and in recent history
    - Most hunger strikers do not survive longer than 70 days, dying from metabolic imbalances. Fasting DOES NOT imply no water. Just no sustenance. The fact that Moses, Elijah, and Jesus all fasted 40 days means it is humanly possible, but it can be dangerous.
    - The first Adam fasted from a particular fruit he was not allowed to eat – the second Adam forsook all things edible so as to prove that even in his weakened state and VERY desirous of sustenance it is still possible to overcome temptation.
    - Jesus did suffer from our physical needs. He was weak and hungry as we all would be from 40 days of no food. He was a man. He could be tempted just like us

# Jesus' temptation in the wilderness

- Matt 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

- Temptation #1

- And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

- JESUS RESPONSE?

- “It is written: ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.’”

- Temptation #2 (#3)

- And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “I will give You all this domain and its glory, for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I want. “Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.”

- Satan does not claim absolute right to this power – it was given to him by men

- JESUS RESPONSE?

- “It is written: ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’”

# Jesus' temptation in the wilderness

- Matt 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

- Temptation #3 (#2)

- And he brought Him into Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written: 'HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS ORDERS CONCERNING YOU, TO PROTECT YOU,' and, 'ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL LIFT YOU UP, SO THAT YOU DO NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'"
- NOTICE – the devil's head is full of scripture but to no good end because his heart is empty
- JESUS RESPONSE?
  - "It has been stated, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'"

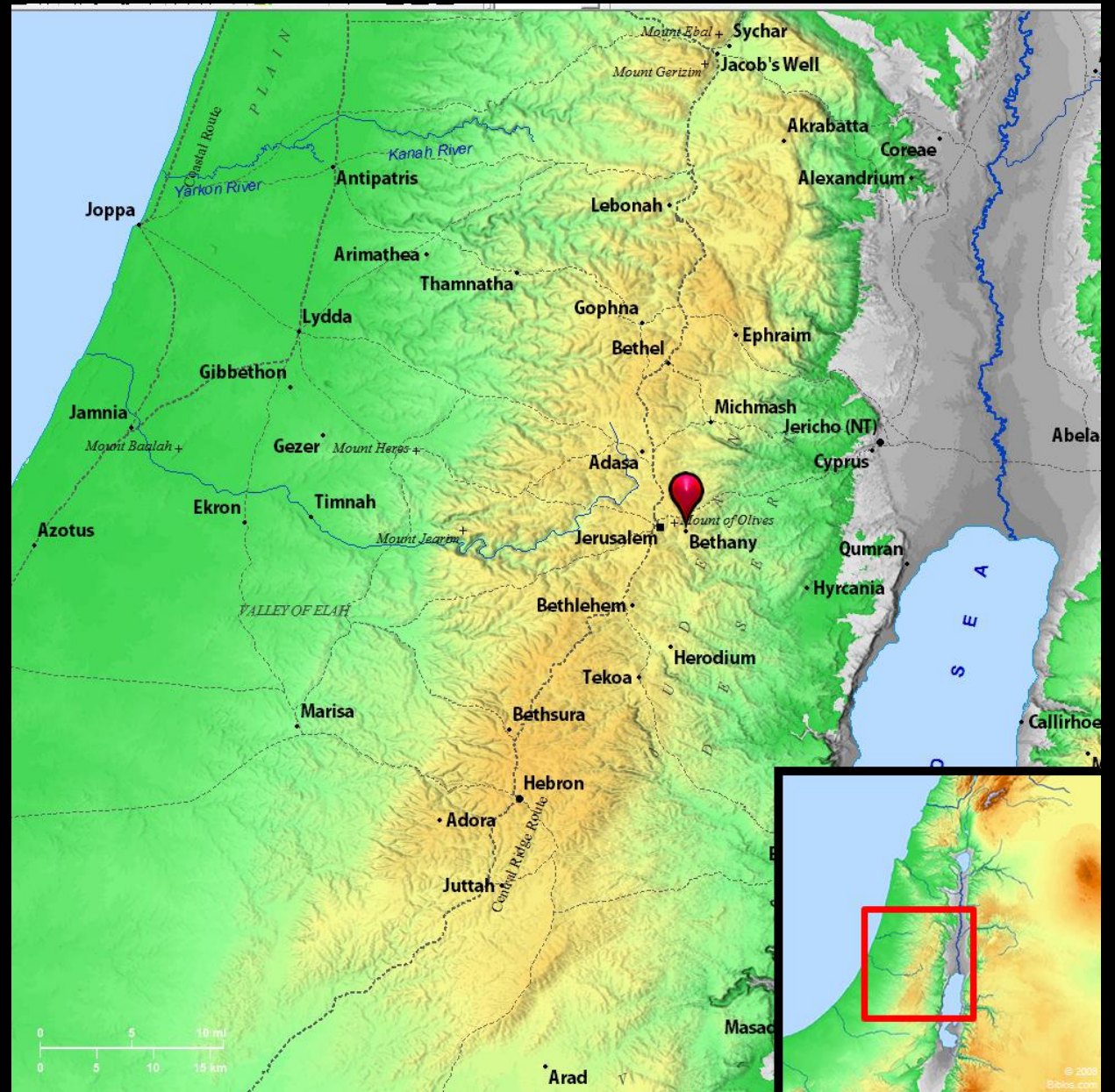


# John's first testimony to Jesus

- John 1:19-34
  - Who did the priests and Levites think John was?
    - Christ, Elijah, a prophet
  - Who did John say he was?
    - "I am THE VOICE OF ONE CALLING OUT IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE THE WAY OF THE LORD STRAIGHT,' as Isaiah the prophet said."
  - What was the next question the Pharisee's tempters asked John?
    - "Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"
  - How did John reply?
    - "I baptize in water, *but* among you stands One whom you do not know. "*It is* He who comes after me, of whom I am not worthy *even* to untie the strap of His sandal."

# John's first testimony to Jesus

- Where was John confronted by these Pharisaical interrogators?
  - Bethany



# John's first testimony to Jesus

- John 1:19-34
  - Did John recognize Jesus as the Son of God? Why?
    - The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and \*said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
  - After the questions John was asked the previous day, what statement does he make that finishes the thought he had made the previous day?
    - "This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me is coming a Man who has proved to be my superior, because He existed before me.'
    - John now recognizes Jesus' immortality
  - What event opened John's eyes to the true nature of Jesus?
    - John's baptism of Jesus and all that followed especially the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus and remaining on Him
    - John testifies "And I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."

# Next week

- XXI-XXIV
- Jesus calls disciples, Jesus first miracle, Jesus at Capernaum, Jesus cleanses the temple