



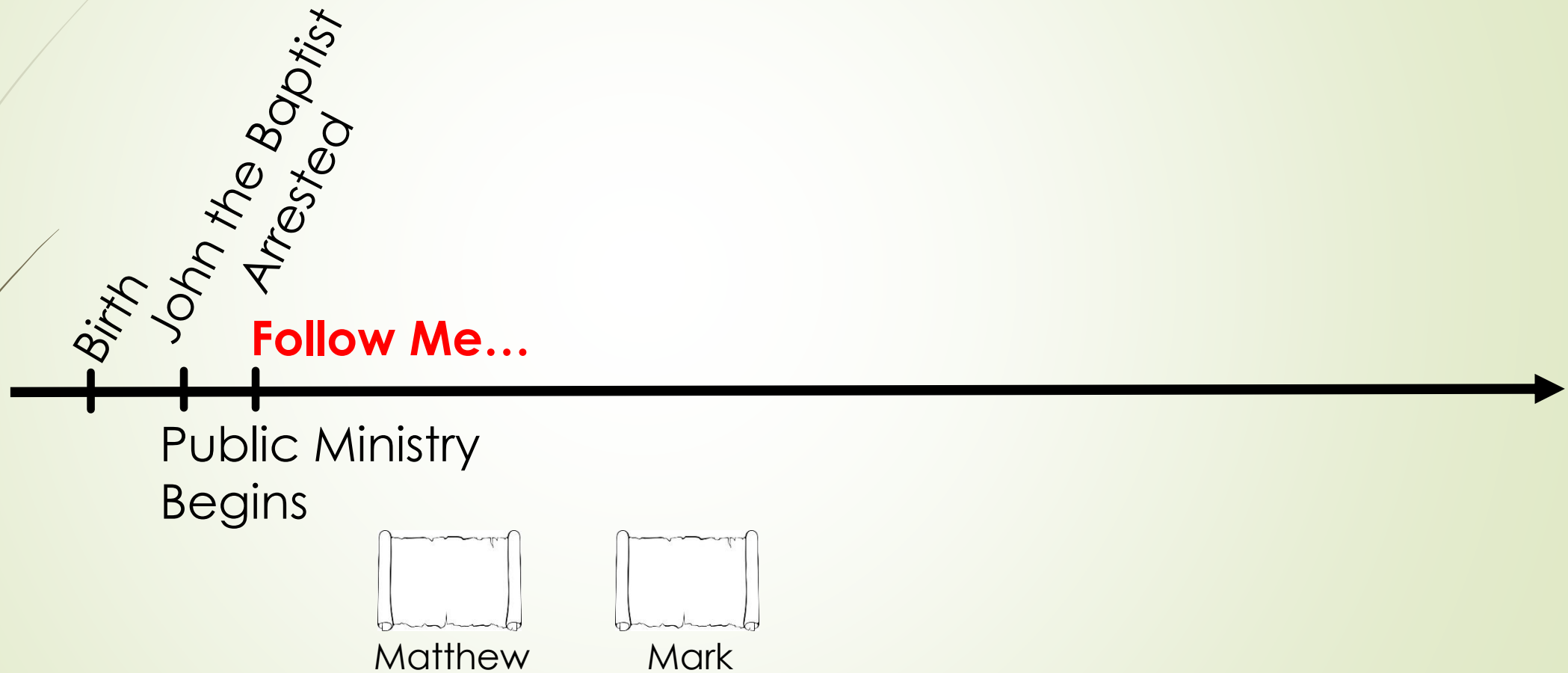
Follow Me –

Let the Dead Bury the Dead

Matthew 8:18-27; Luke 9:57-62

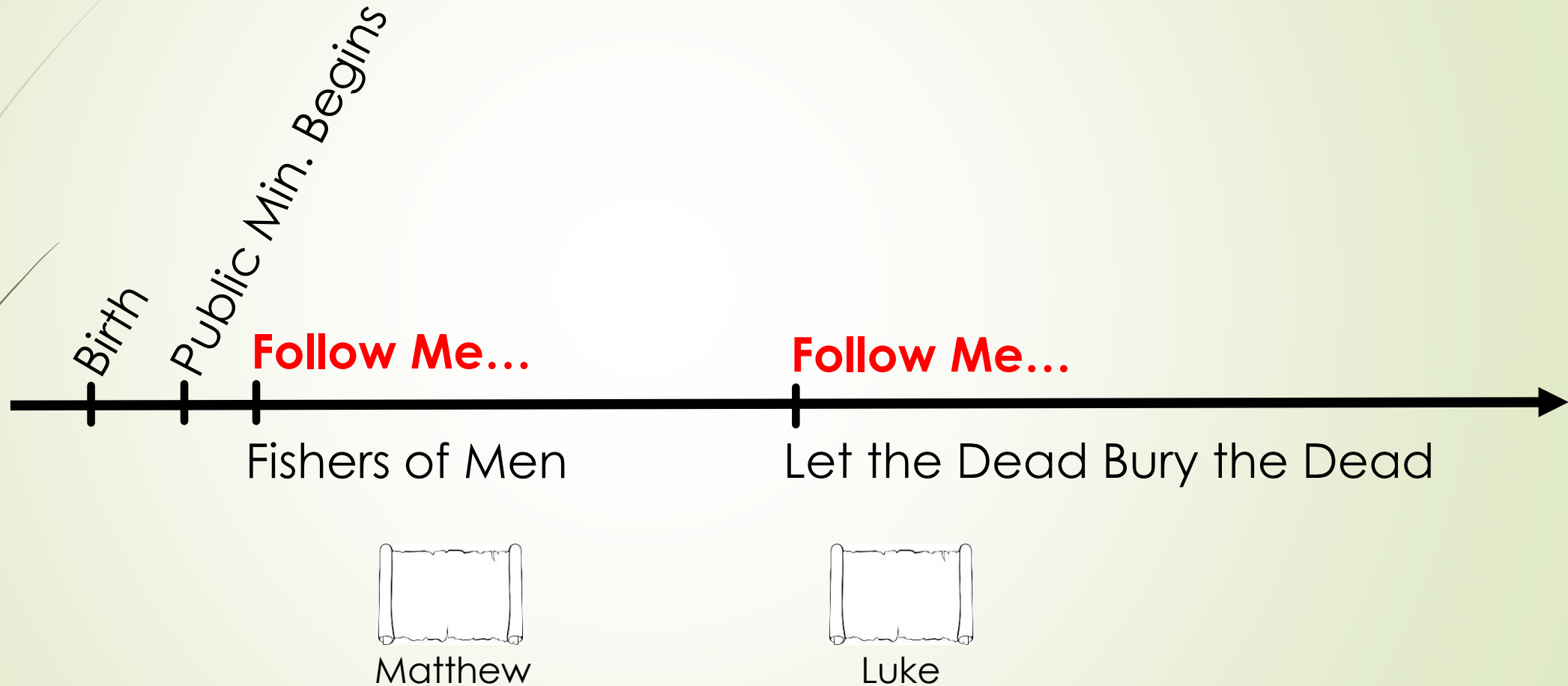
Timeline

Follow Me – I will make you Fishers of Men



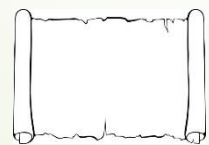
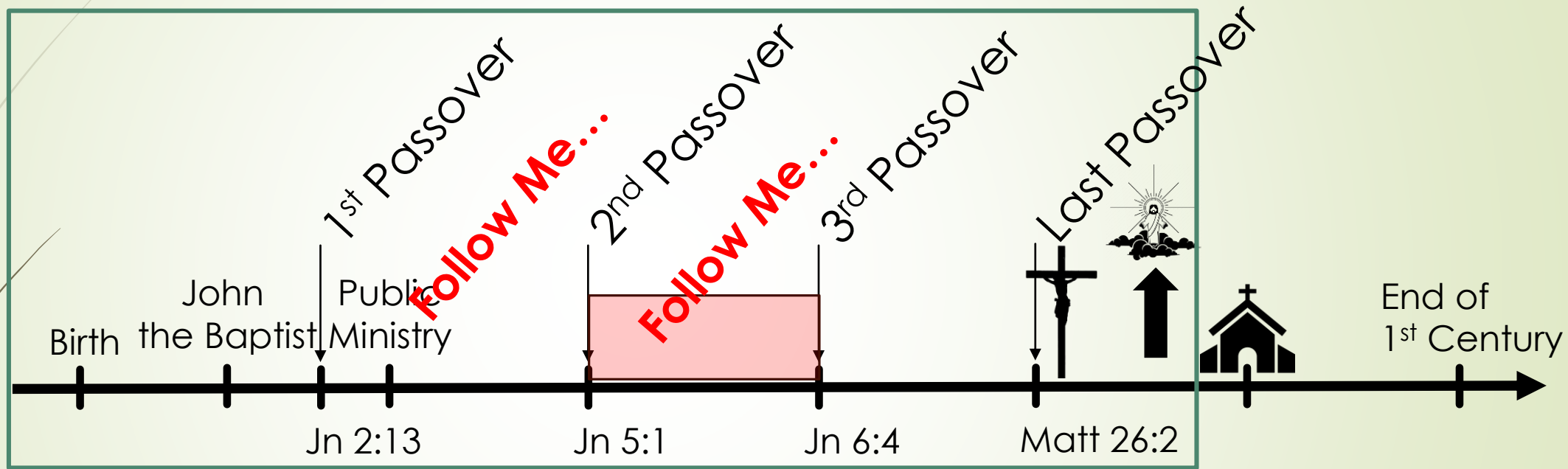
Timeline

Follow Me – Let the Dead Bury the Dead

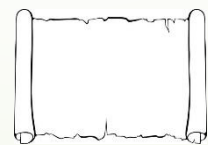


Timeline

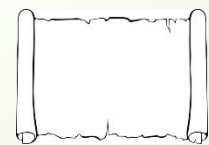
The Public Ministry of Jesus Christ



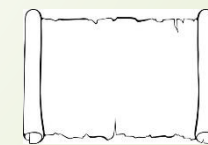
Matthew



Mark



Luke



John



Mark / John

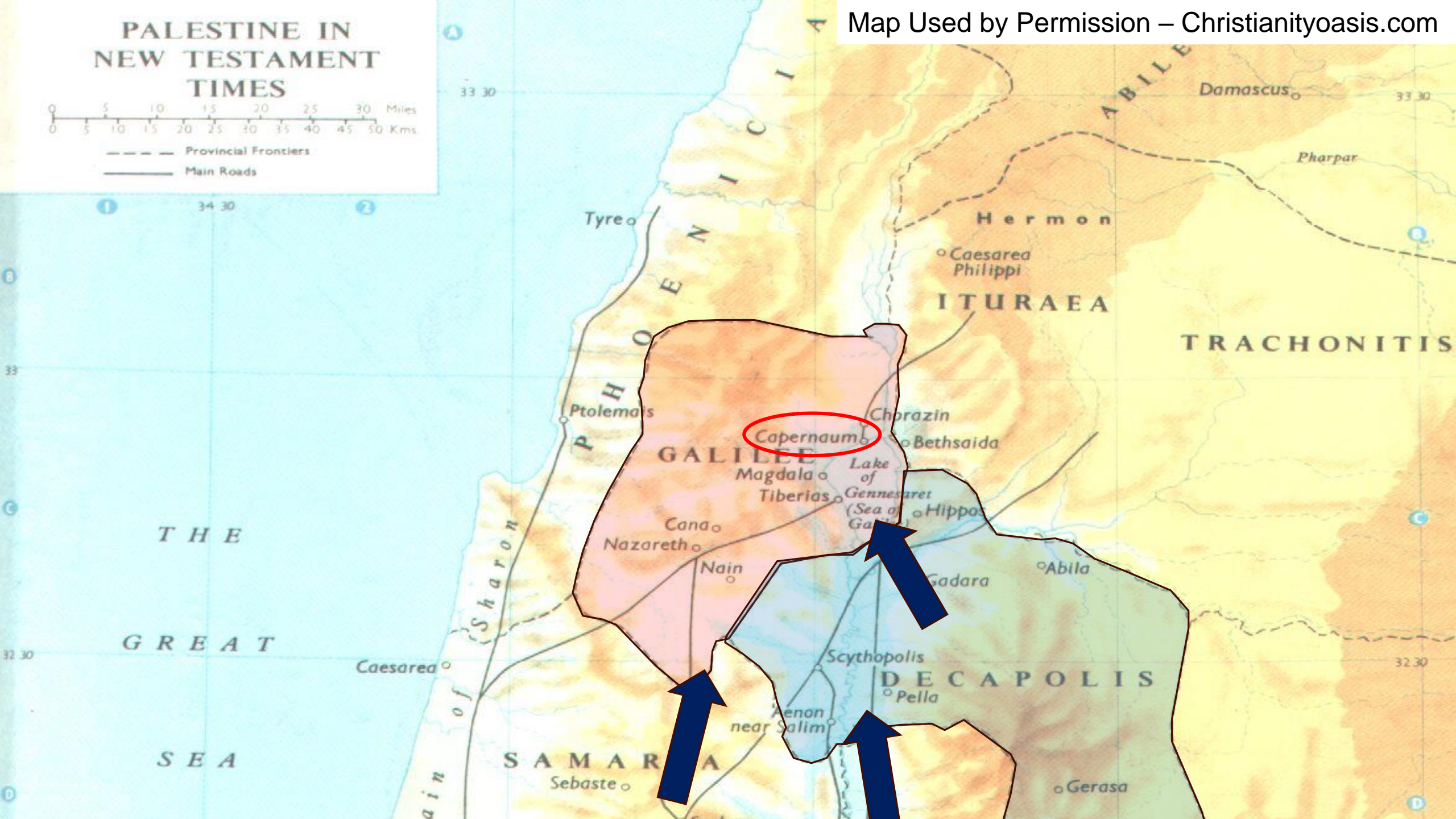
Matthew 4:23-25 (NASB)

- 23** Jesus was going about in all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.
- 24** And the news about Him spread throughout Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and severe pain, demon-possessed, people with epilepsy, and people who were paralyzed; and He healed them.
- 25** Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and Jerusalem, and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

PALESTINE IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES



--- Provincial Frontiers
— Main Roads

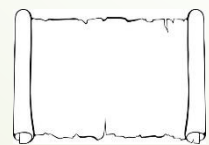
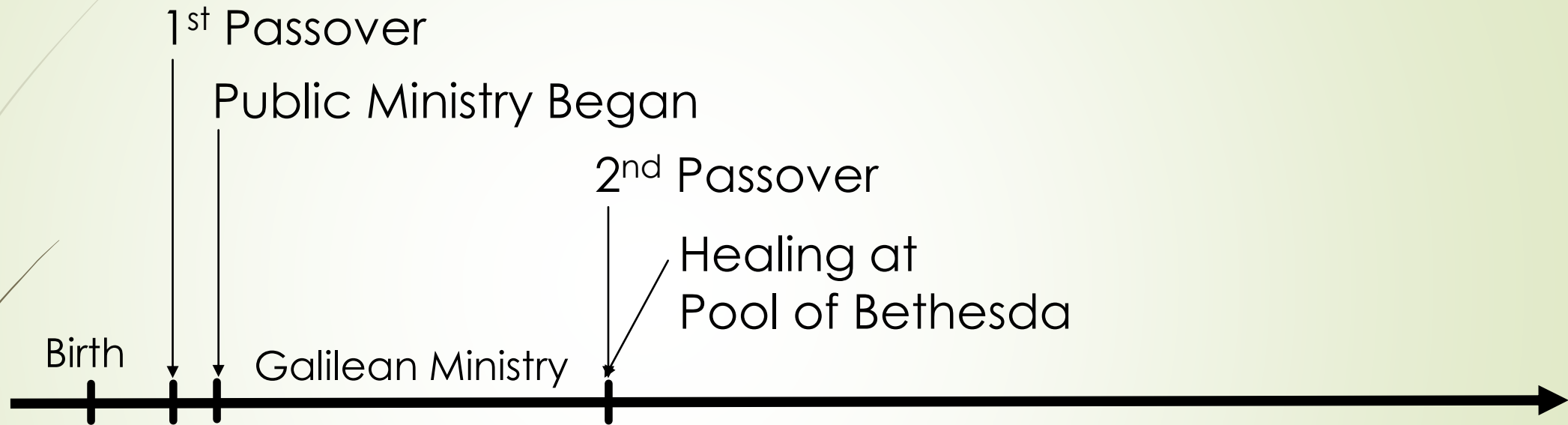


John 5:1-9 (NASB)

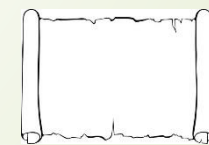
- 1 After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to **Jerusalem**.
- 2 Now in Jerusalem, by the Sheep Gate, there is a pool which in Hebrew is called **Bethesda**, having five porticoes. In these porticoes lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, limping, or paralyzed. Now a man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. Jesus, upon seeing this man lying there and knowing that he had already been in that condition for a long time, *said to him, "Do you want to get well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus *said to him, "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk."
- 9 Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk. **Now it was a Sabbath on that day**

Timeline

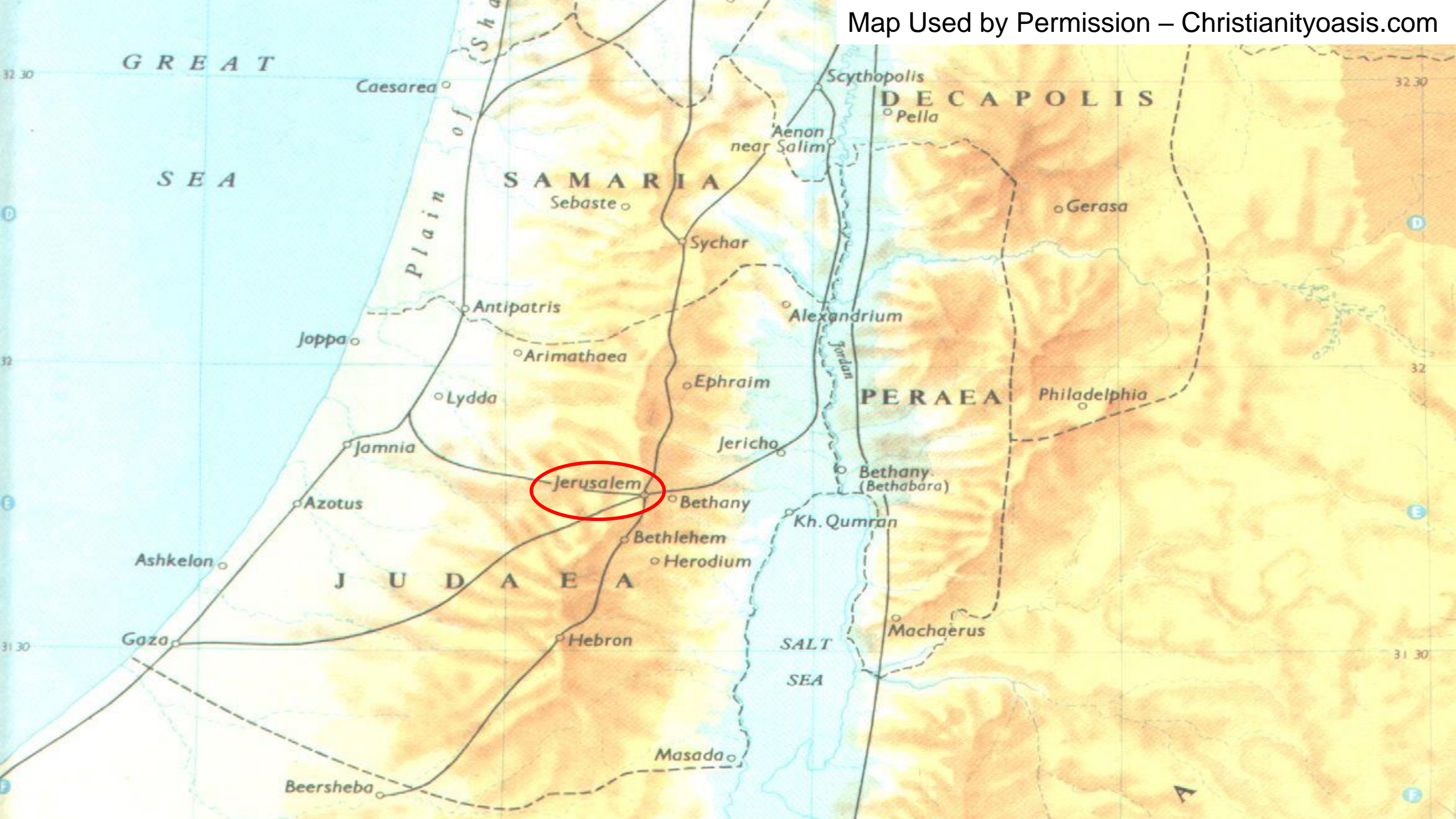
Follow Me – Let the Dead Bury the Dead



Matthew

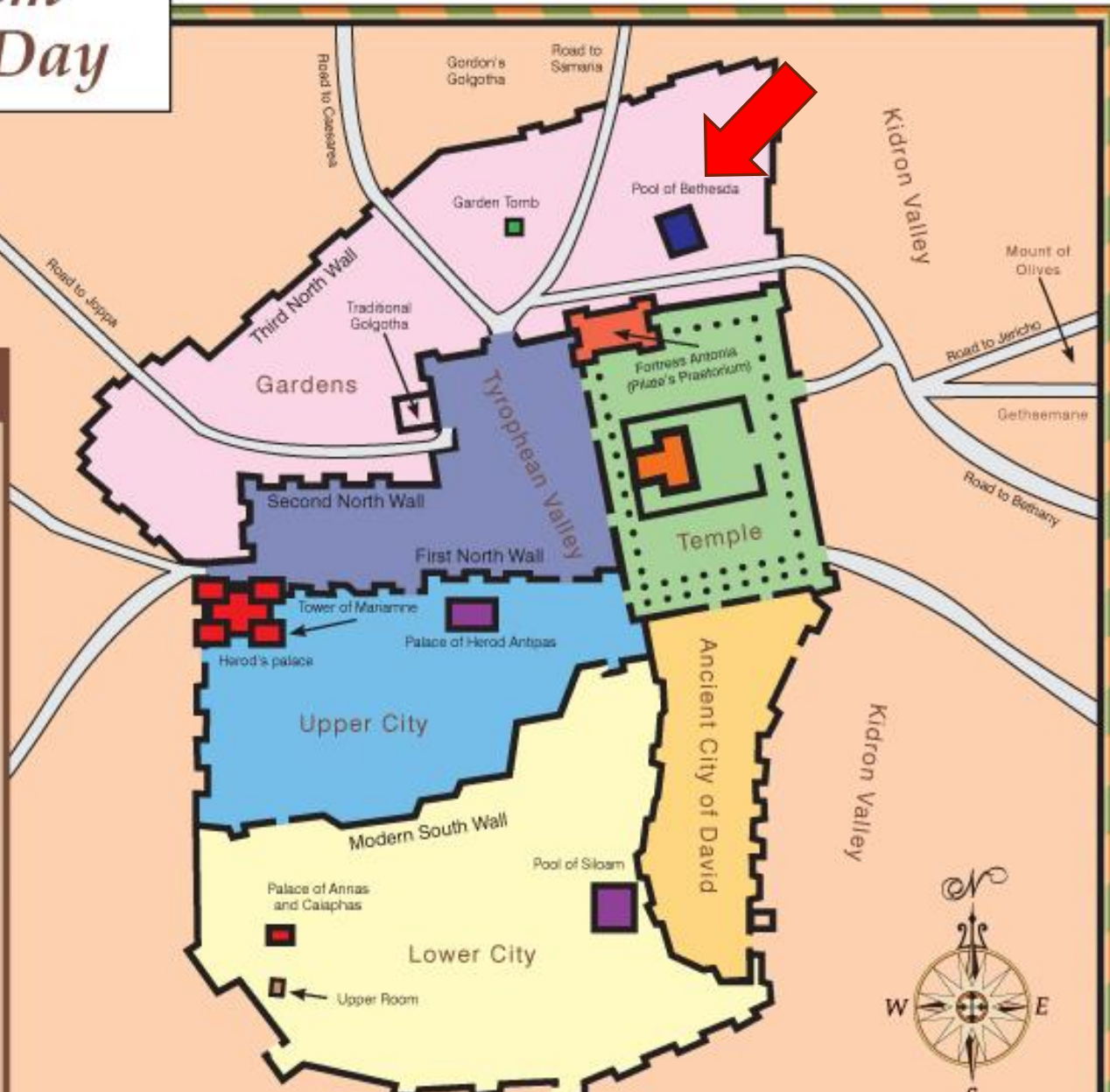
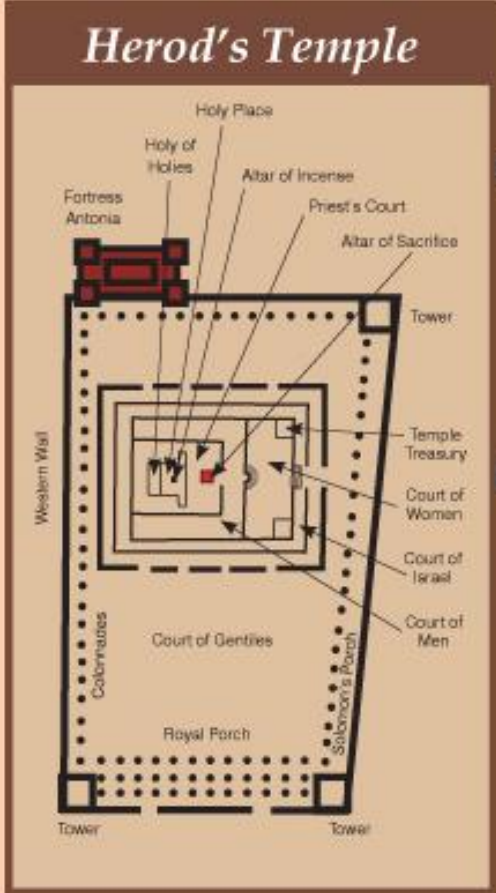


John



Jerusalem

Jerusalem in Jesus' Day



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Matthew 5-7 (NASB)

1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, **He went up on the mountain;** and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

2 ...

[SERMON ON THE MOUNT]

Matthew 8:1-5 (NASB)

- 1** When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him.
- 2** And a man with leprosy came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."
- 3** Jesus reached out with His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.
- 4** And Jesus *said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest and present the offering that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."
- 5** And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, begging Him,

PALESTINE IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

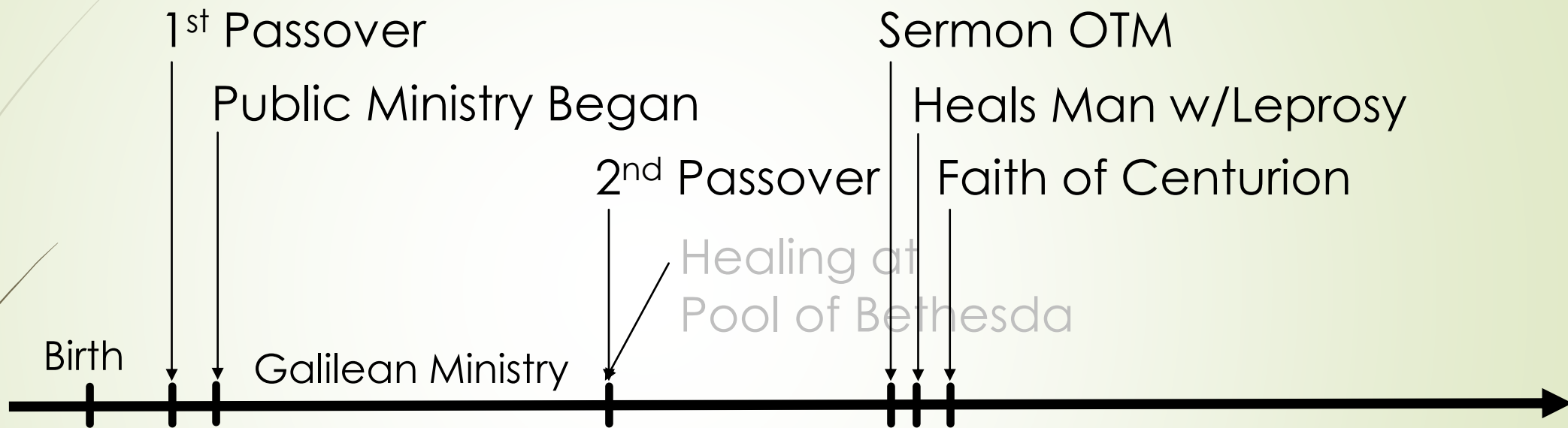


- Provincial Frontiers
- Main Roads



Timeline

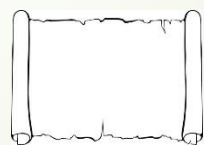
Follow Me – Let the Dead Bury the Dead



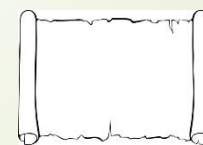
Matthew



Mark



Luke



John

Matthew 8:14-17 (NASB)

- 14** When Jesus came into **Peter's home**, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever.
- 15** And He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him.
- 16** Now when evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill.
- 17** This happened so that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled: "He Himself took our illnesses and carried away our diseases."

Where is "Peter's Home?"

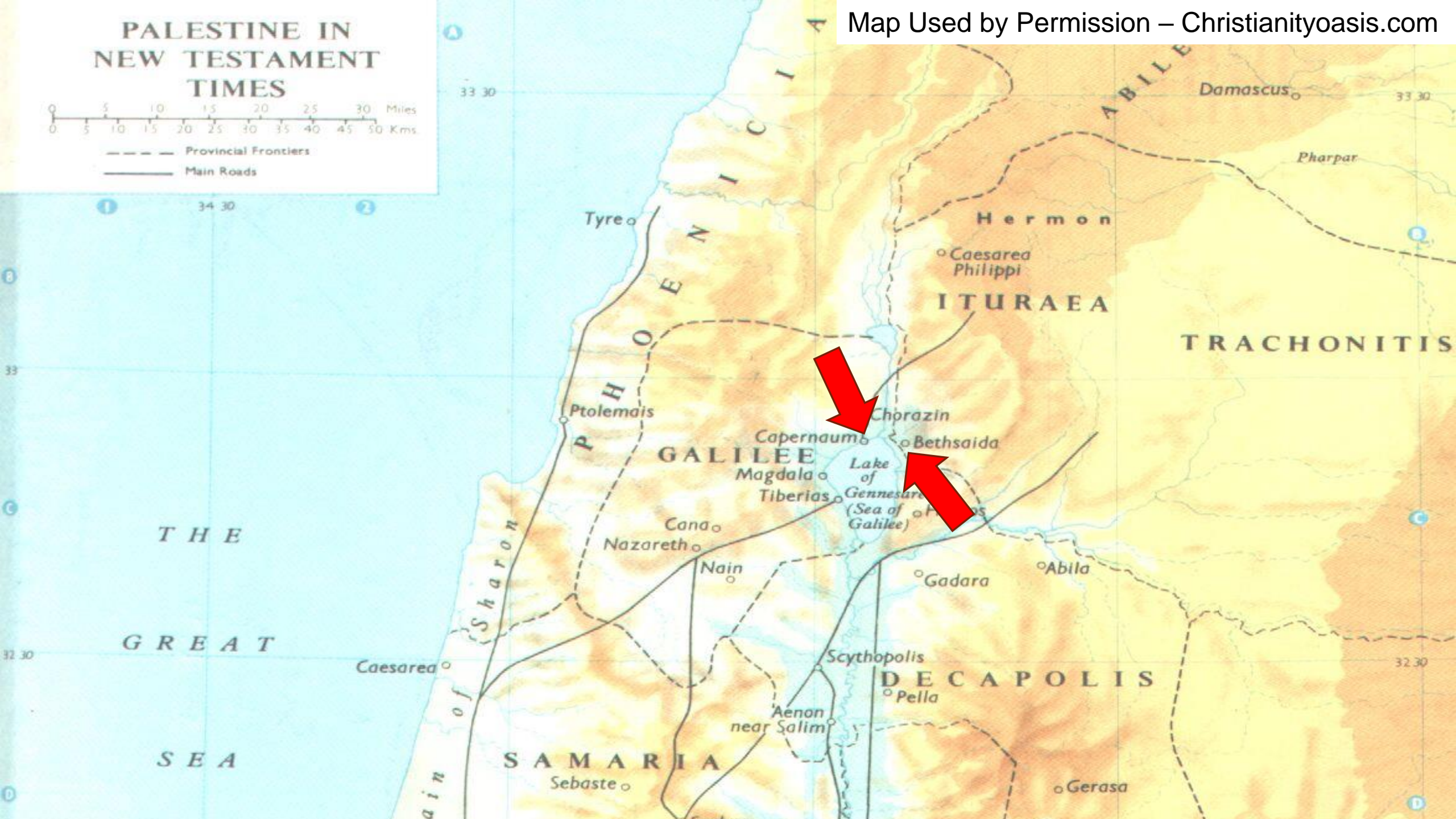
John 1:44 (NASB)

44 Now Philip was from **Bethsaida**, the city of Andrew and Peter

PALESTINE IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES



--- Provincial Frontiers
— Main Roads



Matthew 8:18-27 (NASB)

- 18** Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to **depart to the other side of the sea.**
- 19** Then a scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”
- 20** Jesus *said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”
- 21** Another of the disciples said to Him, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.”
- 22** But Jesus *said to him, “Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead.”

Matthew 8:18-27 (NASB)

- 28** When he **arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes**, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way.
- 29** “What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?”
- 30** Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. **31** The demons begged Jesus, “If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.”

PALESTINE IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

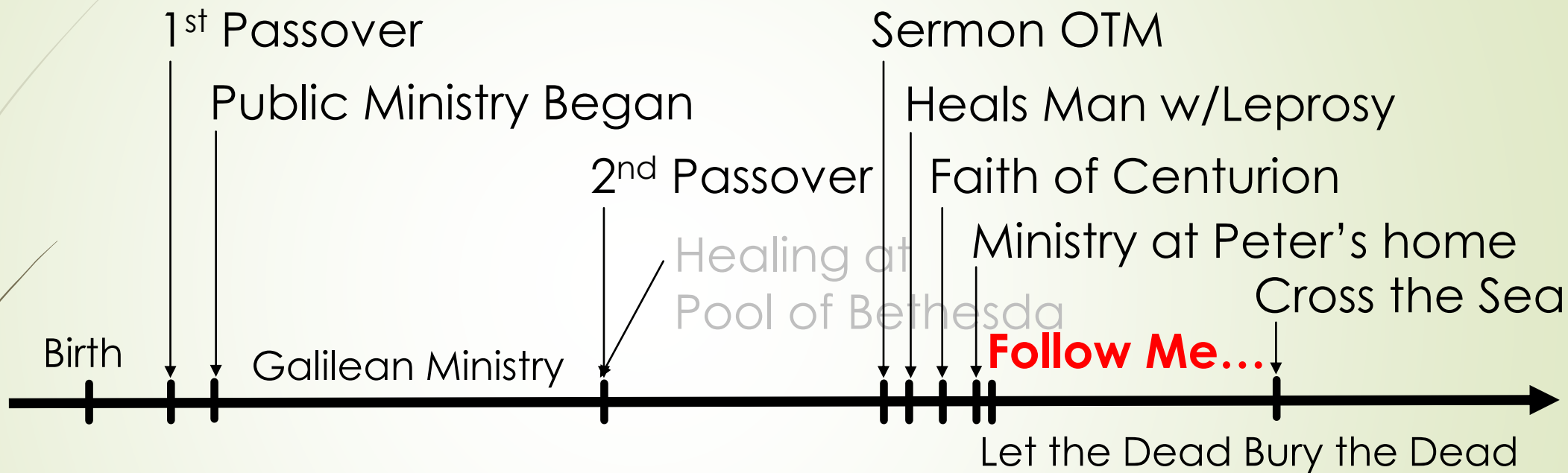


--- Provincial Frontiers
— Main Roads

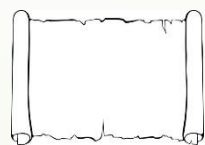


Timeline

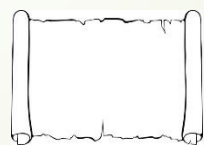
Follow Me – Let the Dead Bury the Dead



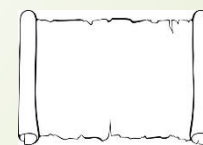
Matthew



Mark



Luke

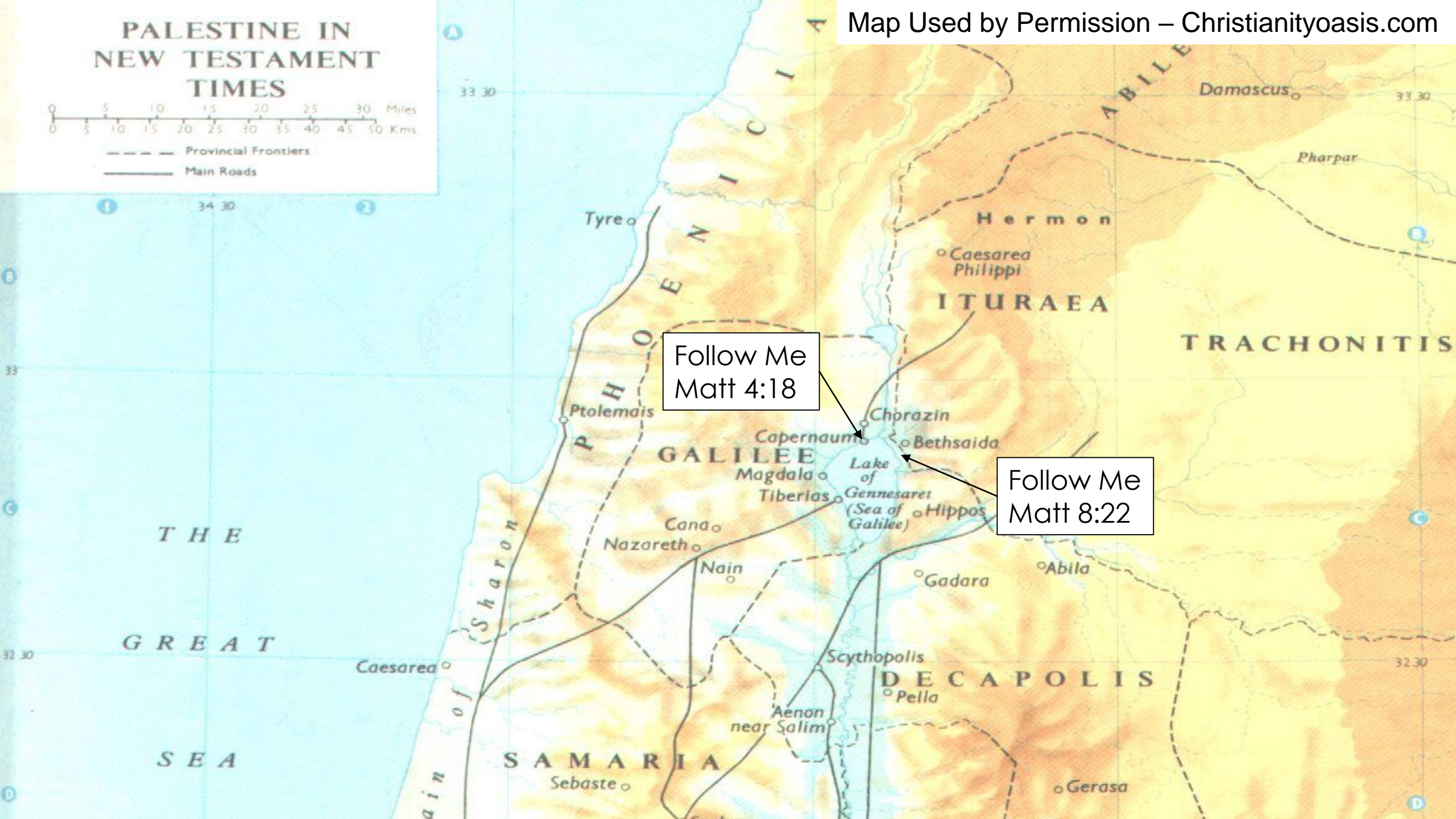


John

PALESTINE IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES



--- Provincial Frontiers
— Main Roads



Matthew 8:18-27 (NASB)

- 18** Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea.
- 19** Then a scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”
- 20** Jesus *said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”
- 21** Another of the disciples said to Him, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.”
- 22** But Jesus *said to him, “Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead.”

Matthew 8:18-27 (NASB)

- 23** When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him.
- 24** And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep.
- 25** And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing!”
- 26** He *said to them, “Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm.
- 27** The men were amazed, and said, “What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

Luke 9:57-62 (NASB)

- 57** As they were going on the road, **someone** said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.”
- 58** And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”
- 59** And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.”
- 60** But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.”
- 61** Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say goodbye to those at my home.”
- 62** But Jesus said to him, **“No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”**

Four Types of People Following Jesus

- **Type 1: The Fan Base Followers**
- **Type 2: The Scribe (the Educated)**
- **Type 3: The Undecided**
- **Type 4: The Trainees**

Type 1: The Fan Base Followers

➤ **Matthew 4:25-8:18**

Matthew 4:23-25 (NASB)

- 23** Jesus was going about in all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.
- 24** And the news about Him spread throughout Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and severe pain, demon-possessed, people with epilepsy, and people who were paralyzed; and He healed them.
- 25** Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and Jerusalem, and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Matthew 5-7 (NASB)

1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

2 ...

[SERMON ON THE MOUNT]

Matthew 7

28 When Jesus had finished these words, **the crowds were amazed at His teaching;**

29 for He was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Matthew 8:1-5 (NASB)

- 1** When Jesus came down from the mountain, **large crowds followed Him.**
- 2** And **a man with leprosy came to Him** and bowed down before Him, and said, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."
- 3** Jesus reached out with His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.
- 4** And Jesus *said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest and present the offering that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."
- 5** And when Jesus entered Capernaum, **a centurion came to Him,** begging Him,

Matthew 8:14-17 (NASB)

- 14** When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever.
- 15** And He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him.
- 16** Now when evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill.
- 17** This happened so that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled: "He Himself took our illnesses and carried away our diseases."

Type 1: The Fan Base Followers

- **Matthew 4:25-8:18**
 - **Followed others in the crowd**
 - **Followed what they like (Like the preaching)**
 - **Sought His healing powers (Self-Interest Seeking)**

**The Problem with “Fan base followers” – Luke 17:11-19;
John 6:60-66**

Luke 17:11-19 (NASB)

- 11** While He was on the way to Jerusalem, He was passing between Samaria and Galilee.
- 12** And as He entered a village, ten men with leprosy who stood at a distance met Him;
- 13** and they raised their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”
- 14** When He saw them, He said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they were going, they were cleansed.
- 15** Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice,
- 16** and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan.
- 17** But Jesus responded and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they?”
- 18** Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?”
- 19** And He said to him, “Stand up and go; your faith has made you well.”

John 6:60-66 (NASB)

- 60** On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”
- 61** Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you?”
- 62** Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before!
- 63** The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.
- 64** Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.
- 65** He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”
- 66** From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

Type 1: The Fan Base Followers

➤ **Matthew 4:25-8:18**

**The Problem with “Fan base followers” – Luke 17:11-19;
John 6:60-66**

➤ **Jesus was not looking for fans, but followers**

➤ **Fans drains unnecessary energy and resources that could be used to reach followers**

➤ **Fans draws a crowd and elevates personal pride in ministry**

Matthew 8:1-4 (NASB)

- 1** When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him.
- 2** And a man with leprosy came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”
- 3** Jesus reached out with His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.
- 4** And Jesus *said to him, “**See that you tell no one**; but go, show yourself to the priest and present the offering that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

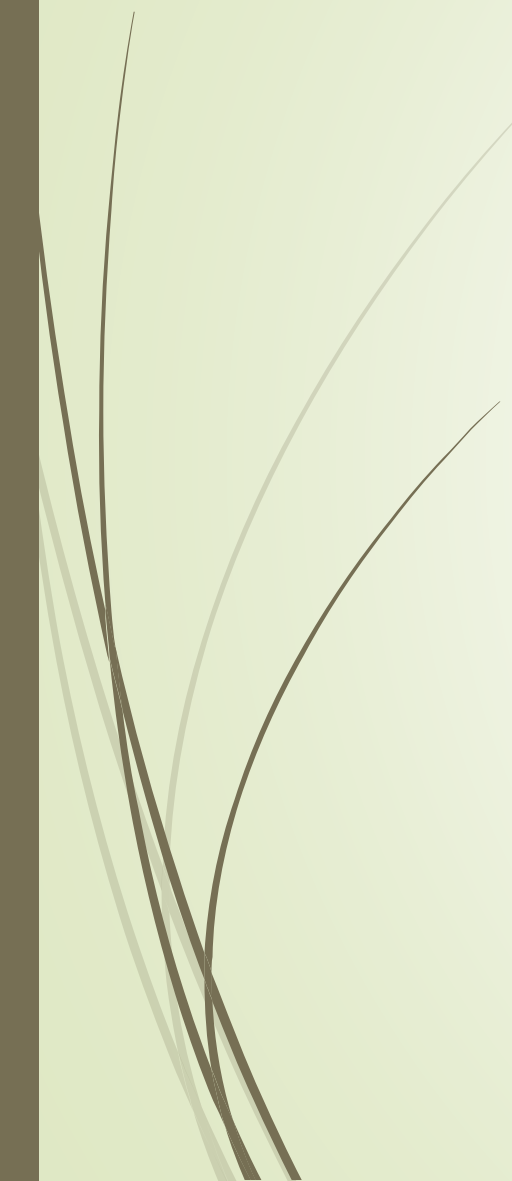
Matthew 8:18-27 (NASB)

- 18** Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, **He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea.**
- 19** Then a scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”
- 20** Jesus *said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”
- 21** Another of the disciples said to Him, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.”
- 22** But Jesus *said to him, “Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead.”



“Follow Me” Principles –

Following Jesus – as a disciple – is an exercise in pursuit of Christ, not an exercise in pursuit of what is famous or popular.





“Follow Me” Principles –

You might be a fan base follower if...

- You stop following when there's no crowd**
- You stop following because you don't like the message or the way it is presented**
- You stop following when you don't see how it benefits you in this world**

DISCUSSION!!

Type 2: The Scribes (The Educated)

➤ **Matthew 8:19-20**

Matthew 8:18-27 (NASB)

- 18** Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea.
- 19** Then a scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”
- 20** Jesus *said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”
- 21** Another of the disciples said to Him, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.”
- 22** But Jesus *said to him, “Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead.”

Type 2: The Scribe (The Educated)

- **Lifestyle of a Scribe / Teacher of the Law**
 - **Builds a “nest” for themselves and teach in the comfort of their “nest”**
 - **Rides the coattails of another to reap the benefits of another’s work**
 - **Ascribes to have a career with stable setting, safe in their own “hole”**

Matthew 8:18-27 (NASB)

- 18** Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea.
- 19** Then a scribe came and said to Him, **“Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”**
- 20** Jesus *said to him, **“The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”**
- 21** Another of the disciples said to Him, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.”
- 22** But Jesus *said to him, “Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead.”

Type 2: The Scribe (The Educated)

The Problem with Scribe Type Followers – Matt 8:20

“The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

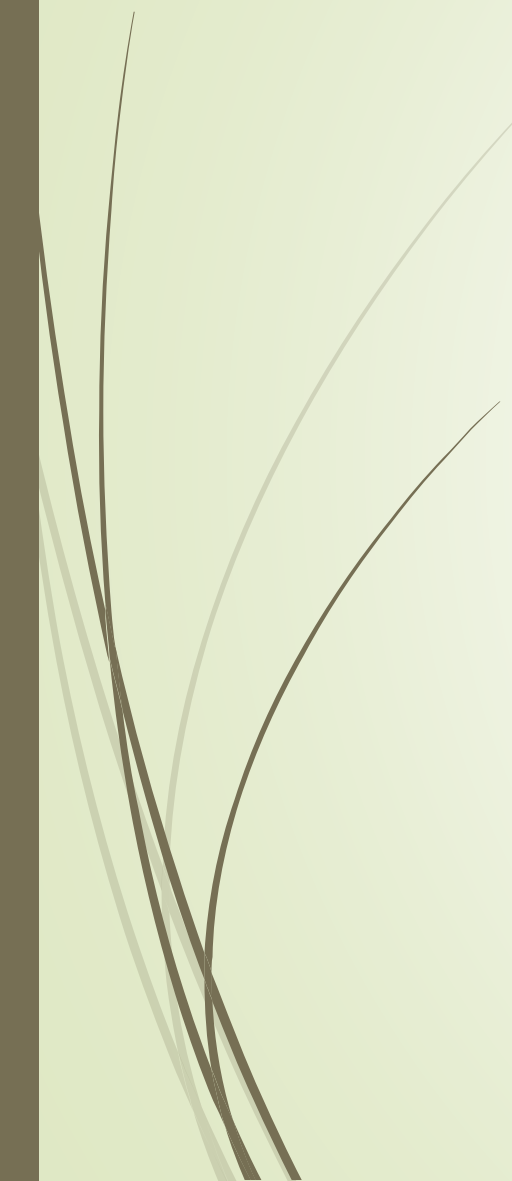
Jesus is not looking for apprentices; He wants followers

- Disciple-making is a hands-on exercise; not a classroom exercise (holes / nest)
- Following Jesus is not about head knowledge, but about living the Gospel Message in the world (not in a nest / hole).
- Following Jesus is not one of association to be practiced once a week in a fixed setting (ex: Sundays at church). It is a lifestyle that is lived everyday, everywhere (no place to lay His head)



“Follow Me” Principles –

Following Jesus – as a disciple – is to live our faith in Christ in the world, not to live by association to Christ sheltered from the world.





“Follow Me” Principles –


You might be an scribe-type follower if...

- The gospel is not your life, but your knowledge to join a church or a group**
- Ministry means that you teach others to do the work, but you yourself do not get out (this is your attitude / philosophy)**
- You want to be known, rather than to have Christ be known**

DISCUSSION!!

Type 3: The Undecided

➤ **Matthew 8:21-22; Luke 9:61-62**



Matthew 8:18-27 (NASB)

- 18** Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea.
- 19** Then a scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”
- 20** Jesus *said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”
- 21** Another of the disciples said to Him, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.”
- 22** But Jesus *said to him, “**Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead.**”

Luke 9:61-62 (NASB)

- 57** As they were going on the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.”
- 58** And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”
- 59** And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.”
- 60** But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.”
- 61** Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say goodbye to those at my home.”
- 62** But Jesus said to him, “**No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**”

Type 3: The Undecided

- **ANE Culture on Inheritance**
 - **“Bury my father” = caring for their aging father who is nearing the end of physical life (father not yet dead)**
 - **Tradition involves settling inheritance / family estate at time of death**

Type 3: The Undecided

The Problem with Undecided Followers – Matt 8:22; Lk 9:62

“Let the dead bury the dead” – Matt 8:22

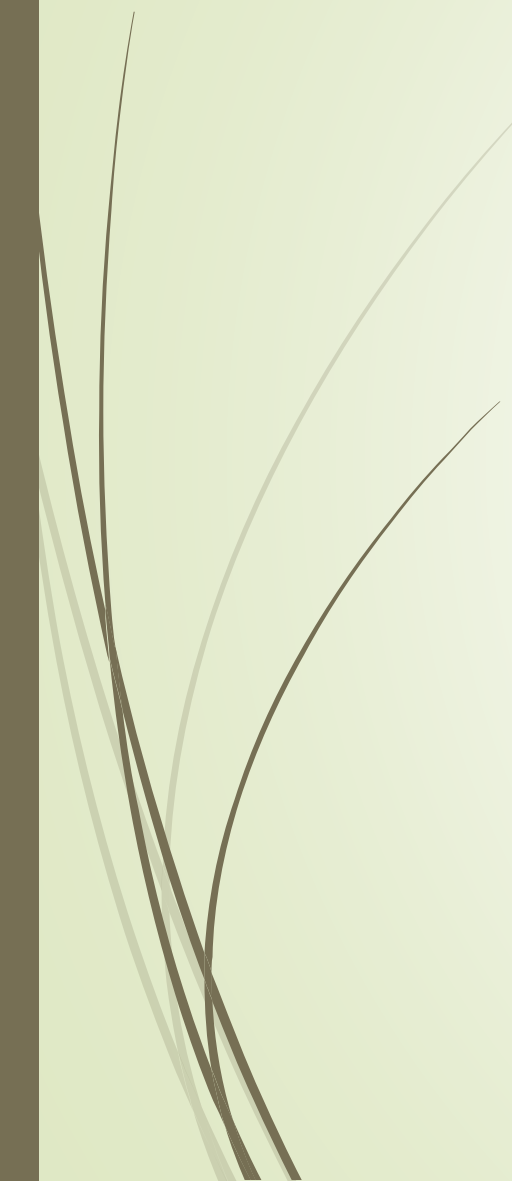
“No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” – Lk 9:62

- Jesus expects followers who prioritizes their salvation against life priorities, not with life priorities



“Follow Me” Principles –

Following Jesus – as a disciple – prioritizes life in Christ above all other life issues, rather than to manage discipleship among life’s other challenges.





“Follow Me” Principles –

You might be an undecided follower if...

- For every reason to follow Jesus now, you find 10 reasons to wait**
- Following Jesus is always pitted against life decisions**
- You see no rush to follow Jesus now and is willing to indefinitely postpone your commitment**

DISCUSSION!!

Type 4: The Trainees

➤ **Matthew 8:23-27**

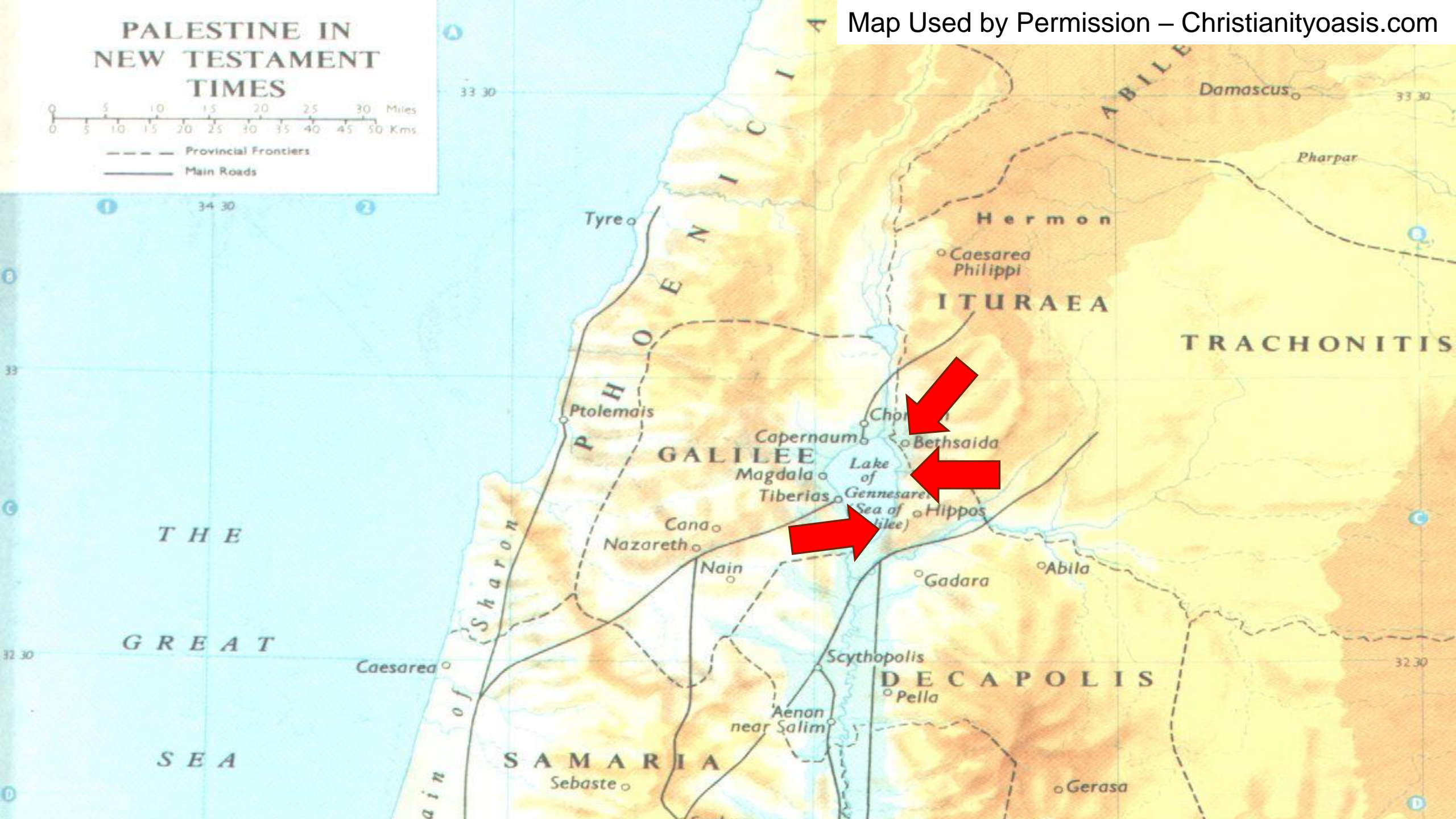
Matthew 8:18-27 (NASB)

- 23** When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him.
- 24** And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep.
- 25** And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing!"
- 26** He *said to them, "Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm.
- 27** The men were amazed, and said, "What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

PALESTINE IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES



--- Provincial Frontiers
— Main Roads





“Follow Me” Principles –



Following Jesus – as a disciple – is a faith in training exercise, experiencing Christ in the storms of our life



“Follow Me” Principles –

You might be a trainee type follower if...

- You’ve exercised faith without fully understanding who Jesus is yet**
- You’ve experienced God personally in some form of life-impacting situation**
- You occasionally (or frequently) stumbled – and acknowledged your foolishness – when you trusted in your own abilities rather than to trust in Jesus.**

DISCUSSION!!



Application Principles



Being a Follower is more than just being with Followers

Too many people today equate being part of a church to be the same as being followers of Christ. They come to church and participate in activities with other believers either because they like the pastors' message, or they like the fellowship group. But they are unwilling to commit and unwilling to accept Jesus. They are not the type of followers Jesus expects, and not considered part of His Body.



Being a Follower is more than just knowledge of Scripture

Scripture knowledge is an important part of discipleship. But Scripture knowledge of itself is not discipleship. Discipleship's emphasis is on living out the Gospel as the goal, not knowledge of Scripture. This is what the scribes and the educated failed to understand and is also a fallacy for many of today's discipleship training programs. Jesus expects His followers to get out of their "holes" and "nest" and be Christians in the world, not in the church and only on Sundays.



Being a Follower is more important than managing priorities in life

Too many people today make excuses to delay their commitment to follow Jesus believing that this key decision that impacts their eternity can wait. They prioritize the need to have a stable career, stable income, start a family, or other life necessities before they are willing to follow Jesus. What they fail to understand is that tomorrow may never come for them to achieve those worldly necessities. They may never get that opportunity to commit later. This is Jesus' message to the undecided.



Being a Follower is more than just believing in Christ

Many Christians today have a wrong understanding that once they accepted Christ and have salvation secured, they can thus live out their life as if nothing has changed. This fallacy is debunked by Paul in Romans chapters 6-8. Jesus Himself demonstrated with His disciples that following Him is a faith journey that will intensify until their journey is complete



Questions